



The Silver Lining

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

December 2003

Sermon by Brother Wes Moser, Lester, IA
Psalm 146 & St. Luke 1:26-35,46-56

We think of how it was with Mary. The Bible tells us that there is none righteous, no not one. (Romans 3:10) We don't know anything about Mary's life, up until this point in time where we read that she was spoken to by the angel. (St. Luke 1:27) The Bible does tell us that she had found favor with God. (St. Luke 1:30)

I don't think it would be exactly correct to say that Mary was any better than any of us here. I think according to the scripture, Mary, like all of us, perhaps was a sinner. But no doubt, Mary, like all of us, came to a time in her life when she recognized an accountability unto God. Even in the day and time in which she lived, in that dispensation of the Old Testament law, I think we can believe that no doubt Mary sought to please God and did what was required and in that way, found favor with God.

So sometimes we kind of read the scripture, at least I do, and I think of Mary being somewhat above or set apart from myself or any one of us. But the wonderful thing we can talk about this morning, on Christmas Day, is that this favor that Mary found with God, we can all find. It can be said of all of us. It won't be said of us by anything that we can do of our own, by our own power, our own strength. Our own intelligence or intellect won't allow us to find favor, as Mary did, with God. But there are some things, and we read them together, of what God looks for in a man. (St. Luke 1:50-55)

I had to think, as Mary visited there with Elizabeth - and we did not read all those verses, but 'Mary said' is where we took up reading in verse 46 - we think of those things that Mary said. Then we go back and we think in the Old Testament of what we read. Of what, we can believe - it doesn't say here it is a Psalm

of David - but we can attribute it perhaps to David. That it was very similar to what the man David recognized. We read there together, it said, "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help..." Psalm 146:5.

We come here today and we consider this story and we really have to, in faith, believe it. I think we've - in the past months, we think of what happened on September 11th in our nation - we kind of were newly awakened to other religions, I think we could term it, thinking of other peoples.

We think of Christianity. We consider our self in a way to be a Christian nation. I believe there are many peoples today, many denominations today who have gathered together and think to commemorate the birth of Christ. Yet as we understand it, that perhaps within this world, we are certainly not a majority, but perhaps even a minority in that we believe this Bible. So it kind of makes us stop and think, at least it does me. How do we know this is true? How do we know this is right?

I remember when I was convicted of my sin, called by God, I believed that there was a Higher Power. I don't think we can deny that. It takes faith to believe in what the Bible all says.

Just this week as we were working, we were listening to a program on the National Public Radio and it talked about a person there who was into astronomy and was telling about the age of the universe - at fourteen some billion years or fifteen. When the question finally was posed to him though, if he believed in a Higher Power, he said yes, just about everyone who has studied the universe has to conclude in a Higher Power.

He went on and talked about the big bang theory of how the world

was created. I thought to myself, well we don't believe that. We believe what the Bible tells us. But after giving it some thought, it almost

Sermon continued on page 44

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches. Please collect in:

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Suggested Donation: \$11/subscription

Next correspondence due:
For January Issue
(16 Nov. News - 15 Dec. News)
Due: 20 December 2003

The Silver Lining (Vol. 58, #12)

1389 County Road 1600 N

Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
 Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Ervin Knecht, Ron Schambach

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

cleman@lonewillow.com

(e-mail is preferred)

The Silver Lining

1389 County Road 1600 N

Roanoke, IL, 61561

309-923-7513 (phone) 775-923-9987 (fax #1)

309-923-7359 (fax #2)

Periodical non-profit - postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining
 1389 County Road 1600 N
 Roanoke, IL 61561

*"The entrance of thy words
giveth light; it giveth under-
standing unto the simple."
(Ps. 119:130)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

December 2003

Men Pleasers

God's people often feel pressure from mankind as they face a variety of decisions. This pressure to be men pleasers has been felt throughout most of human history. The scripture gives us many examples of pressure to be men pleasers. Sometimes the results are good. Often the results are very sad.

As young men, Daniel and his three friends faced pressure to eat of the king's meat and drink his wine. They could very easily have convinced themselves to go along with the king's order to eat forbidden foods because it seemed to be a small thing. They could have followed the king's orders to avoid a conflict. Later, if a "larger" issue came up, they could have asked the king to allow them to keep their faith because they had cooperated with the king on "little" issues.

They realized that this would not work. They knew that if they compromised in any area of right and wrong, it would be more difficult for them to stand firm later. By the grace of God, they consistently tried to do what was right regardless of how important the issue seemed to be. They knew that disobedience to God is never a small issue.

Blind Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus to have mercy on him. Many who were there told him to be quiet, but he continued to cry out "Thou son of David, have mercy on me" (Mk. 10:48). Jesus called for him to come to Him. Because of his refusal to listen to a group that pressured him to make a bad decision, Bartimaeus "...immediately received his sight" (Mk. 10:52).

Although there are times when pressure brings good results, it seems that there are so many examples which resulted in poor decisions and made men pleasers rather than God pleasers.

Saul was to go to battle with the Philistines and the men of Israel were afraid. Samuel had promised to go to Saul within seven days to offer sacrifices before the children of Israel went to battle. When Samuel did not arrive at the appointed time, Saul feared what the people would do so he offered a sacrifice. When approached by Samuel, Saul said he did

not want to go to battle without making supplication to the Lord first. He blamed Samuel for not keeping his promise and said, "I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering" (I Sam. 13:12). Saul's desire to be a people pleaser cost him his kingdom.

When Peter and several other apostles were commanded to stop teaching the people about Jesus, they did not allow threats of physical harm to keep them quiet. They continued to spread the gospel because "...We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

At the time of Jesus' crucifixion, in spite of their promise to the contrary, "...all the disciples forsook him, and fled" (Mt. 26:56). Not one of the twelve was able to resist the pressure of the situation and turned away from Jesus.

The chief rulers knew Jesus was not guilty of the charges brought against Him, but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess Him. They knew it would have caused them to be put out of the synagogue, and "...they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (Jn. 13:42).

Jesus wanted desperately to escape the cruel pain of the death He faced. Everyone turned against Him. He faced death alone. He could have tried to be a people pleaser by leading a revolution against Roman oppression. There was support from the people to do this. However, He knew that it was not right. He pleaded for strength to do His Father's will and overcame the temptation to avoid the cross.

King Herod killed James, "And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also" (Acts 12:3). King Herod was more concerned about retaining favor with the Jews than he was to do the right thing. To displease the Jews may have cost him his position. Festus made a similar mistake when he was "...willing to do the Jews a pleasure," (Acts 24:27). He wanted to send Paul to Jerusalem to be judged even though he knew Paul would not receive a fair trial in Jerusalem.

Even Peter, after his conversion, al-

lowed the pressure of the Jews to cause him to err. He understood that God had removed the barrier between Jews and Gentiles but "...withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision" (Ga. 2:12). This caused dissimulation among other Christians, so Paul found it necessary to withstand Peter to restore order.

We would do well in our time to learn from examples of the past. It is not always popular to do the right thing. However, if we want our faith to be preserved for those who come after us, we must be willing to go up against our nature, to resist the pressures of the world, and to follow the teachings of our Lord and Savior. "...choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

We see the impact of people pleasers in our day. Government officials often make decisions based on the results of polls that are taken to see what the people want. It would be much better if decisions were made because it is the right thing to do rather than because it is popular.

We are not spared of this problem in the household of faith. When we are gathered together in the house of God, surrounded by faithful brothers and sisters and an atmosphere of holiness, it is relatively easy to make good decisions. It can be quite different when we are among co-workers or in other situations where the impact of the world can be quite strong.

Do we have the God-given courage to stand up for what is right when the prevailing opinions seems to encourage us to do differently? Do we carefully follow God's Word, even in small things, when we are away from brethren? Do we compromise in small things and resolve to do better if a bigger issue is at stake?

It is never right to do wrong and it is never wrong to do right. To be a people pleaser at the expense of serving God will bring us to harm. We must dare to be a Daniel and we know by the grace of God we never need to stand alone.

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times. Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to: Silver Lining Editorials, 1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. MATTHEW 9:37-38

One Soweth and Another Reapeth

"And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth." (John 4:37) Nearly nine years have passed since the church in Ixtlan became involved in missionary activity in Mexico. In January of 1995 Bro. Wendell Gudeman gave a farewell message at Washington, Illinois, in which he spoke on Paul's vision of the Macedonian man saying, *"Come over into Macedonia and help us."* (Acts 16:9) He exhorted the Washington church to uphold us in prayer and this is to testify that they have been faithful to do that.

This was one of many similarities in the Biblical account that has been experienced in those beginning years. Bro. Dave Wiegand closed with the thought, "Without Him we would be alone. With Him we have all we need."

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35) While much of the daily activities revolve around agricultural work and involve a physical harvest, there is a continual effort to bring in a spiritual harvest. This is carried out in a number of ways. For the most part, Mexicans consider it an honor to have you visit them in their homes, so we do not need to wait for them to come to church. When we are on their "turf," they are more receptive to the truth of the Gospel. We thank the Lord for each opportunity that He provides when we are invited into someone's home.

Recently, we had the privilege of hearing the testimony of Roberto Sanchez from a nearby town and in whose home the brothers had been sharing the Word for a few years. "Faith cometh by hearing" and the

Lord opened his heart and understanding. Our church is blessed by Bro. Roberto's humble attitude.

"And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent." (Luke 4:43) The church in Ixtlan began with two believers and has now grown in both number and maturity, but some of our brethren are living in the city of Morelia which is more than a two-hour drive from Ixtlan. Bro. Rogelio Cervantes and his wife, Sis. Fernanda, and their little boy, Boaz, have opened their home to have services among the little group of believers there.

Morelia is the capital city of our state, Michoacan, and more than one-half of the adults in this city of 1,000,000 are students. Jesus said, *"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."* (Luke 10:2) When Jesus looked out and saw many people, He was moved with compassion because they were as sheep not having a shepherd. The Lord will provide.

"Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." (Acts 10:34,35) Whether the Word is spoken in an intellectual city like Morelia or in a small town like Ixtlan where idolatry and superstition are commonplace, the message of *"repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations."* (Luke 24:47) To see people bound by fear when they find a handful of salt or dirt from the cemetery on their door step or a wax effigy punctured with needles in their house seems an incredulous

thing to us. But these souls are precious in the Lord's eyes and His desire for all men is that they be freed from the bondage of sin and become reconciled to God.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:19,20) When we consider Jesus' instruction to His disciples, we realize the "sowing" has just begun. Mexico is a large country with many people living in spiritual darkness. By His grace, these brothers who are now being taught will become teachers of others even as Paul told Timothy to commit the things he learned to faithful men who will then be able to teach others also.

The "structure" that was provided by the churches back home has carried the new believers to this point in their spiritual walk where their desire now is to share the truth with their fellow man. They did not have to learn the language or the culture as we did and can be ready instruments in His hands. We thank the Lord for providing our first Mexican ministering brother, Bro. Eduardo Ugalde, who shares this vision for his people. *"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."* (Rev.7:9,10)

-- Submitted by Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold in Ixtlan, Mexico



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

Fruit of the Spirit

A team of 33 people from 15 churches in the US gathered on the border of Juarez, Mexico on September 17, 2003 for the 28th Medical-Dental Team. What happens to a team that works God's way? He brings gifts into our lives. Like fruit appearing in an orchard. Giving, giving and more giving.

The giving started months ago with our people back home providing supplies and making health kits. This allowed us to hand out over 6,500 health kits and over 2,000 bibles in Juarez. That means that over 5,000 people came in contact with the Word of God by either seeing the Fruit of the Spirit working in action or by personally receiving the Bible.

Thursday: Love

The topic shared in devotions was love. Bro. Randy Gasser gave the team the responsibility to share the fruit of the spirit all week. We set up at Una-de-Septembre and saw 831 patients (220 children, 200 adults and 411 dental patients). Many were the toothless grins and rotten teeth that were cleaned and many were the dirty hands that reached out for the medicines and treasures that we gave out.

Friday: Joy

Our devotions were on joy, from Colossians 1. We find joy in service, joy in patience, joy in giving. The joy of the Lord is our strength. Today we set up at Kilometer 20. We saw 1,118 patients (298 children, 246 adults, and 574 dental). The greatest joy was a kiss from a very small, fragile, wrinkled and toothless grinning lady who happened to be 100 years old. She gave a kiss of thankfulness. That is joy.

Saturday: Peace

Peace is found in the smallest things. Material wealth of the world offers none. Oh, how we wish others could see the children and adults root through our garbage at the end of our workday trying to find the right shaped box or barrel. What a grin they wear when they find the perfect "garbage." Maybe when our life is stripped down to nothing, a piece of garbage would be worth rejoicing over. Today we met the demands of two sites in one place Mesa-centro. We saw over 1,307 people (554 dental, 414 children and 339 adults). Our remaining supplies were stretched to the limit.

Sunday: Longsuffering, Gentleness and Goodness

A day of rest. We started the day with devotions on longsuffering. Bro. Randy Gasser had the Sunday service. We read from Ezra 6 and II Corinthians 11. He reminded us that God does not call the mighty or noble but calls the willing. If He calls us, He equips us. We are responsible for offering our time, treasures and talents. The evening ended with a singing and the fruit of gentleness and goodness.

Monday: Faith

We needed faith that our new supplies would show up at this clinic site. Medications and other items were down to a bare minimum. Hebrews 11 gave us many examples of faith. We set up at Kilometer 33. World Relief construction teams had built a school in this area. Most homes were made of cardboard and palettes. Our new supplies showed up here in the afternoon! Just in time. We were able to see a lot more people and give to an orphanage of 100 children. They are well stocked

with food, health kits, comforters, Bible storybooks, toys and many other things.

Cleaned smiles beamed back at us as they left the site with all their new treasures. What a privilege it is to be on the giving end. It makes you wonder how the disciples felt distributing the 5 loaves and fishes that kept multiplying and multiplying to fill the need. Today's total: 718 (276 dental, 176 adults, and 275 children).

Tuesday: Meekness and Temperance

Jesus displayed the ultimate example of meekness, a perfect blend of gentle strength and righteous anger. We set up at Col Antiquo Basudero (the dump)... a place where people live off the garbage brought in from the city. It proved to be the biggest day in the history of all medical-dental missions! We saw over 1,418 people (437 children, 306 adults, 675 dental).

One of the patients remembered us from a time before and thanked us for helping her daughter who is now healthy. Over 1,500 health kits were distributed! What child would get so excited over dental lessons back home?

Mexico is in need of so much love! Most of all they need our God. He sees the greatest heroes of faith different than how the world sees them. They are not the ones who achieve prosperity, success and power but the ones who treat life as a temporary job assignment. The job description requires the pouring out of His love, serving faithfully and to sincerely desire, above all else, an eternal reward for each and every person.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Thanksgiving is always a time of reflection on all the ways that God has blessed us. Many times we take our blessings for granted. These blessings are a result of the immense love that God has for each of us.

One of the many blessings our home has is our dedicated and caring staff. We appreciate each one who gives of their time and talents to serve. Volunteers also help us out in many ways and may God bless each one.

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name...”

Hebrews 6:10

With the weather being enjoyable lately, our residents have had the opportunity to be outdoors. They like to take walks, ride horses, and bask in the sun. Going out to eat is always a highlight along with swimming and library visits. The cheerful attitudes of our residents keep our spirits bright as we approach the holiday season.

JANUARY birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Nicole Delicath (1/6), Stephen Penn (1/8), Bruce Steffen (1/19), Jacqueline Willett (1/19), Franz Fischer (1/26), John Eddy (1/27), Thomas Sides (1/31).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Laverna Zobrist (1/25).

At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Mary Schramm (1/13), Karen Blunier (1/14).

At 650 Detroit Ave., Morton, IL 61550: Rhonda Gerst (1/12).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Bill Baumgartner

So where exactly is God in the problem which you are facing today (as though there is only one)? Is He the source of the problem, has He allowed it to come into your life, or is He asking you to work through it, for your own refinement, or for the “best possible outcome” to the problem itself? Like it or not, each of us go through our entire lives, one day at a time, with these very questions before us, as though they were filters on the lenses through which we see the world. Where really is God anyway, in this situation that I am facing?

God is both infinite and intimate, and as though that itself is not difficult enough to comprehend, He is both at exactly the very same time! Imagine that – He is both, to each of us, at the very same time, all the time. He gave us the ability to rationalize both of these seemingly contradictory, mutually exclusive terms, and then He in his revelation to us through His Word, describes to us that He is indeed, both, and at the same time! Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, yes, but also intimately involved all the way in-between.

Is He really intimate or has He created the heavens and the earth and is now just sort of sitting back in somewhat of a passive mode, observing what is going on? We may not dwell on this question too much in our daily lives, but it nevertheless is a huge theological question (with the answer provided) which can and should provide those filters for our lenses through which we see life before us.

God is indeed intimately involved

in our daily lives, in the provision of our wellbeing. Why would it be otherwise? He created us in His own image and He has been actively involved in the course of human history through grace and salvation to enable His active participation, His intimacy, now through the Holy Spirit, in our daily lives.

Regardless of the complexity of the problem before us, it is always easy to lose ourselves in the problem itself, and let it get out of God's focus of things. We do this all the time. We readily do it in the lives of these kids we are working with. And not only that, but also in the lives of our foster parents, who themselves are providing filters for the lenses of life to their foster children, and so on, and on, and on...

We need to just pause – recognize God, acknowledge God and confess that we know that His desire is to be intimately involved in our wellbeing.

Interestingly, scientists themselves have been for years grappling with the question of the big and the small, the near and the far, and the quest has been to find the “great unifying theory” - that which ties all of the physics of the universe together – from the smallest sub-atomic particles to the forces which guide the vastness of the universe itself. The quest is to find this single unifying force. One physicist recently wrote, “If we could find this it would be like we could know God's mind, like we would know one of his thoughts!” Now that's a no-brainer if I ever heard one.

We would like to welcome Andrew L. and Adam H. to our campus. We trust that God will work in their lives. At present, our residential campus is at full capacity.

We would like to welcome Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather Drayer

(Bluffton North, IN) to campus as our new Alternate Houseparents. We pray that God will bless them and their two children, James (4) and Dayla (1). We also bid farewell to Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister as they return to Bluffton.

Our Board and Staff enjoyed a nice planning retreat on November 21 and 22. We are planning and praying about how we can serve more hurting children and their families. Be looking for more information in future Gate Posts. We hope you enjoyed the fall/winter issue.

If you live in Indiana and are interested in Christian adoption, please call Sis. Jan Baumgartner at 888-443-4283. You may also check out information about our adoption program on our updated website at www.gatewaywoods.org.

We at Gateway Woods would like to wish all of you a blessed Christmas and New Year. 2003 has truly been a blessed year for us at Gateway Woods, as God has once again provided for our needs through your generosity and love! We also want to thank those who were involved in the raising of our barn. May God bless you all!

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Bethany Gerber**

Greetings of love from Alabama! This month has gone by so quickly that it seems like the month just started yesterday! We have been extremely busy with Thanksgiving preparations and the children are very excited to have our annual Thanksgiving feast. Each class is saying a poem and singing a song and then the fun part ... eating!

This month we have been working on the color brown and talking about nutrition and health and

teaching them about the first Thanksgiving. They are really growing and it is fun to watch them change and see them be able to do things that they could not do before.

The preschool board meeting was at the end of October. All of the board members were in attendance and it was a blessed weekend. We want to thank each one of the board members for their time and efforts. We appreciate all that you do!

We pray that each of you will have a safe Thanksgiving and please remember us in your prayers as well.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

“O Give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.”

Psalm 118:1

Our annual harvest festival at the church was this month. There was food, fun and games for all age groups and everyone had an enjoyable time.

We had several visiting ministers due to the preschool board meeting. They were: Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH). We would like to thank them for their time and service here.

Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) was here on a different Sunday to share the Word with us and we had some visitors from Akron, OH.

Currently there is a need for a member to reside at the Tennessee Fellowship Center and act as the caretakers of the facility and grounds. The center is located between Nashville, TN, and Athens, AL, just off of I-65. Anyone who

might be interested in the position should contact Bro. Mike Moore at (256) 729-0620 for details. This would be an excellent opportunity for a newly wed or newly retired couple.

In closing, I would like to include a poem that I thought was fitting for this month.

All in a Word

T – for time to be together, turkey, talk and tangy weather.
H – for harvest stored away, home and hearth and holiday.
A – for autumn’s frosty art, and abundance in the heart.
N – for neighbors, and November, nice things, new things to remember.
K – for kitchen, kettles’ croon, kith and kin expected soon.
S – for sizzles, sights and sounds, and something special that abounds.

That spells THANKS – for joy in living and a jolly good Thanksgiving.

—Aileen Fisher

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.”

Psalm 37:3

Our Sunday School Picnic was October 26. Everyone enjoyed the weather, food and fellowship. Thanks to everyone who helped make this so special.

God’s family met the last week in October to houseclean and do outdoor maintenance, His love was very much shared.

Our children love to sing. Fifteen minutes before the afternoon service, they and our song leaders, gather in front of the pulpit and sing

praises to our Lord. What a joy to everyone!

Elijah Baum is recovering from a broken leg. Bro. Todd and Sis. Erica Baum are his parents. Sis. Cindy Langhofer is in the hospital.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI), Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ), Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL). We thank them for their efforts and trust God will bless each one.

We had many visitors in the beginning of November and our winter residents are returning; we welcome all of you.

We Mountain View Villas residents are very grateful to reside so close to church — come by and visit us.

On a recent Wednesday night after church, folks gift wrapped the socks for World Relief and other donations for those in need. Thanks, Sis. Marie Kieser, for another way to serve our dear Father who is in Heaven.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

Our visiting ministers in the last month included Bros. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) and Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA). Retired Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona) also accompanied Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther to Arizona. We thank them for their love and support to our small congregation. May God richly bless them and their loved ones for their service to Him.

We had two fellowship dinners in the last month so we would have more time to get to know and enjoy our visitors.

Bro. Henry Volz is continuing to

have health problems and has been unable to attend worship services with us. We pray for God's grace and mercy for him.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

We had two visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Wes Moser (Lester) and his wife, Sis. Esther, were with us for mid-week services and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and his wife, Sis. Nancy, spent a Sunday with us. We want to thank both of these brothers for their willingness to serve on the pulpit; may God add His rich blessings.

Our Bro. Paul Knobloch was hospitalized for surgery recently. We are looking forward to his return so that he can worship with us again. He is reportedly recovering nicely and anxious to worship with us also. Our prayers are with you, Bro. Paul.

We are enjoying fall-like weather this week with the highs in the 50's and 60's and evening lows in the 30's. Today was cloudy, breezy and cool. This is cause for much excitement as we get a little bored with sunshine and warm weather. Heading into Thanksgiving week it's nice to have a little cool weather to help get us in the holiday mood. But we realize the real holiday mood to get into is to be extremely thankful for the sunshine, the warmth and all of the unbelievably good blessings God showers upon us every day. Most importantly, the gift of His Son dying on the cross for our sins. We send you all holiday greetings of love and wish you a heart full of joy and thanksgiving.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Robin Moser

"To everything there is a season,

and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Our congregation mourns with Sis. Letty Chavez over the untimely passing of her brother, Gabriel. We also grieve with Sis. Maria Cser (Bro. Laszlo) who said farewell to her brother, Vistavan Vidakovic, of Eastern Europe. Funerals are always a poignant reminder of how we are called to redeem our time.

We are grateful for the visiting ministers who shared the Word with us this month, including Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO). Bro. Roger also led us in a Saturday evening Bible study about what it means to be a peculiar people in God's sight.

We can thankfully report that Sis. Kay Hackenjos (Bro. Glenn) had a successful knee surgery this month. In addition, Sis. Jody Klotzle (Elder Bro. Tom) underwent surgery to repair a collapsed lung. We pray that both will be restored to full health soon.

Also this past month, Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) assumed oversight of the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India from our retired Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois). Bro. John served the Apostolic Church for many years in this capacity. May God continue to lead us in our responsibility to share the Gospel throughout all lands, and to support those who are less fortunate.

The power of God was clearly demonstrated when our area experienced widespread forest fires and a small hailstorm this month; we are grateful that the lives and homes of our brethren were spared.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**Peggy Jevremov**

Greetings to one and all. We have such a blessed fellowship and enjoy our visitors so much. We were thankful to have Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) assemble with us and bring forth God's Holy Word to us. May the Lord bless him for his willing service.

We truly felt all the prayers that were offered on our behalf in the recent wild fires we experienced here. The Lord was so merciful and spared the homes of those of our congregation that were threatened. The fires were burning ferociously, coming so fast, only two houses away from the home of one of our congregation, when suddenly the wind changed directions and the fire roared away on a different pathway. We thank the Lord for His intervention, but many other homes were burned. We're thankful for the World Relief funds that were sent here to help those in great need.

As Christmas approaches, may we keep our hearts tuned to the "Story that never grows old".

O list to the story that never grows old,

Its tidings of joy repeat.

The Saviour is come by the prophets foretold,

To Bethlehem's quiet street.

The miracle star shines in splendor above,

The stable so dingy and worn.

So humble a cradle for One who is Love,

And there Jesus Christ is born.

The swift beating wings of the angels bring fear.

And scurry the sheep in fright,

But glad of the honor are spirits who hear,

And seek for The Better Light.

The awe-stricken shepherds with

staff in their hands,
Kneel down by the manger so dim,
And worshipping kings from the orient lands,
Find wonder and rest in Him.
The world is so dull and the world is so dead,
With ribaldry pomp and gain,
And like the foul stable where cattle are fed,
So life has become profane.
Still travails the heart in the birth of the King,
More strange than the wandering star,
The Word becomes flesh, an incredible thing,
But truest of things that are.

Gospel Hymns #865

CANADA**KITCHENER, ONTARIO****Ingrid Fortenbacher**

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI). On October 31 we had a family night at church where we put school kits together. This was a wonderful opportunity for all to enjoy an evening of fellowship and to help those less fortunate.

In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, an armistice was signed. The "war to end all wars" was over. As the world seemed to be at peace, I often wonder if believers at that time thought that this was the peace that would come before sudden destruction. It seems every day we hear of wars and also calls for peace. As we look forward to the Christmas season, may we always remember that the only real peace comes from above.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

—By John McCrae

COLORADO, DENVER**Ann Gonglach**

As we celebrate the miracle of God becoming a man to live and die for our sins, I am reminded of those who, by the power of His Spirit, He has created anew in our small congregation this past year.

Glory be to God in heaven,
Praise to Christ, our Saviour great!

By the power of Thy Spirit
A new man Thou didst create.

Angels see in joyous rapture
God's own Word in deed fulfilled;
And amid our glad embraces
Is this child of God revealed.

Zion's Harp #34

On the weekend of October 25-26 we were able to witness the baptism of Joel Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb). Assisting Elder Bro. Mike with Joel's proving and baptism were Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and John Lehman (Bern, KS). It was wonderful to have many visiting ministers, who were

here for the Nursing Home Administrator's Conference, with us that weekend. Those who ministered to us were Bros. Ed Strahm (Bern, KS), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Richard Plattner (Fairbury, IL).

In addition, we appreciated Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) ministering to us this past month.

"God's almighty arms are round me, peace, peace is mine." (Gospel Hymns #342). Autumn Hohulin (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn) has found peace with God and we are looking forward to hearing what the Lord has done in her life also.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Reutter**

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High."

Psalms 92:1

As we approach Thanksgiving, it is good to be reminded to be thankful for all things we have been blessed with.

We were privileged to be able to hear the Memorandum this past month. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) was with us for this, and it was very encouraging to hear the instruction and admonishment that we all need to preserve our faith.

Jeff and Suzanne Schillinger were blessed with a baby girl, Emma Louise, who joins her siblings, Jared and Julia. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane Moser and Francis and Marilyn Schillinger. May God always grant them the strength and wisdom to raise her according to His will.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an helpmeet for him."

Genesis 2:18

This month, the engagement of our Sis. Sarah Lanz to Bro. Philip Wagenbach was announced to us. Bro. Philip is now attending the Philadelphia congregation, but is originally from Washington, IL. Parents are Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne and Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach. Also made known to us was the engagement of our Sis. Beth Virkler to Bro. Paul Wagenbach of Tremont, IL. Parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler and Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach. We wish them God's blessings as they plan a new life together in Him. We will miss Sis. Sarah and Sis. Beth very much and pray that God will grant them the needed strength as they take this step of faith, knowing that it means they will be moving away.

In addition to having Elder Bro. Ron Messner with us for the Memorandum, we were also blessed with many other visitors, including Elder Bros. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Bros. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH) and Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, Ontario). It was a blessing to have these brothers in our midst and pray that God will always bless them for their efforts and willingness to be used in His service.

Our thoughts are with our friend and convert, Heather Mangold (David), as her grandfather, Guy Monti, passed away this month. We hope she feels the love and support of the congregation on behalf of her for this loss and heartache.

**WASHINGTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Henrietta Meyer**

We will all of you a safe and blessed holiday season as many travel to be with family and loved ones during this time of the year as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

This month our visiting ministers were Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA).

Other visitors this month were from Congerville and Bloomington, IL and Ashburn and Fairfax, VA. We are always thankful for those who include us in their travel plans or come visit us when family is in town.

We have been blest as we listen to the tapes from the Brotherhood Conference.

With many of our congregation traveling for Christmas and Bro. Adam Hermann and Sis. Elizabeth Meister's wedding, we will not be holding services on December 28.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one-mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30; afternoon service begins at 12:15.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen Steffen (410) 569-3635 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that also. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

If you are in town on a Sunday that services are not scheduled, please call, too. We sometimes gather for a tape or other fellowship and would welcome you.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers with us this past month: Bros. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) and Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN). We pray for God's blessings on His servants.

We enjoyed our monthly all church potluck again, a time of good food and good fellowship. Of course, anytime anyone is visiting our church, they are welcome to attend the potluck.

We are thankful that the Lord has kept safe and in good health many of our winter residents. Welcome back to all those who are returning to Ft. Lauderdale for the winter months.

We would appreciate any ministers planning a trip to Ft. Lauderdale to contact Bro. Roger Sauder (954) 584-0947. We are on a visiting minister rotation and this would be helpful in our scheduling.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Mary Masters**

A potluck meal was enjoyed this month at the home of Bro. Vic and Sis. Dorothy Beer, followed by a time of singing of praises to God. Bro. Carroll Gerber and his wife, Sis. Louise, shared the day with us and we thank him for his ministering to us the Word.

Allen Furrer became our brother in faith on November 2 in West La-

fayette, IN. He and his wife, Connie, share their time between Lafayette and Fort Myers. A few of us from Florida were privileged to share in this blessed, special weekend.

This same Sunday, our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz was in Fort Myers to read the Memorandum. We want to thank Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni for their labors of love and for their willingness to be spent on our behalf.

Our dear brother in faith, John Furrer, was called to his Heavenly Home just two days after he was baptized on his hospital bed. We are so thankful that he could be relieved of his suffering and go home to his eternal reward with Jesus.

On November 16, we went to the retirement home where Bro. Rolland Keller resides and sang for the residents there. After that, we went to the home of Alice Myer and sang a few hymns for her. She is home from the hospital, but is still in bed recovering. Please continue to pray for her.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Carol Koehl**

Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Melissa Miller have been blessed with another son born on November 1. Stephen Jeremy joined his twin brothers, David and Jonathon. Grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo and George and Joanne Miller (Washington, IA).

Many of us viewed slides from the Holy Land in November. We wish to thank Bro. Les and Sis. Wilma Pulfer (Tremont, IL) for giving us this opportunity.

Recent hospital patients have been Bros. Orval Rocke, George Siladie, and Ernie Buser. I am sure they would request your continued prayers.

We appreciated the efforts of Bro.

Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), who shared the pulpit this past month with our local ministers.

Our Fellowship Hall addition is now complete, and we are looking forward to Dedication on Sunday, January 11. Once again, we want to thank everyone for all their generous support (physically or financially) on this project.

Our dear convert, Jeremy Calame, has found peace and awaits baptism in the near future. Jeremy moved to Sarasota from Rittman, OH, in June. He has been a welcome addition to our small church.

Every week we see more of our winter residents. We love you and welcome you back to Sarasota.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Carol Kaufman**

May the thankfulness we have in our hearts during November stay with us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. May we remember not only His birth, but the reason He came to this earth. Are we truly laying up treasures in heaven or are we gathering treasures here on earth?

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

#156 Hymns of Zion

God is richly blessing us with the presence of Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg and their children. They have been temporarily relocated with Caterpillar to Thomasville, GA (about four hours south of church). Our prayers are with them during this time.

We are so grateful for each

brother who is willing to minister the truth of God's Word week after week, at home or as he travels. May God richly bless Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN) for coming and preaching God's Word to us.

Bro. John Brewer hosted our annual wiener roast again this fall. We are so very thankful for Bro. John and pray that God will richly bless him for his love for our church. Times of fellowship for our youth and the adults are so special.

We so look forward to the fellowship of the brethren. If you have plans to go south this winter, remember to include us. Give us a call to help us plan for Sunday lunch and other activities. We encourage you to set aside time Saturday evening, Sunday evening or during the week for fellowship. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The church is located off I-85 south of the Atlanta airport at Exit 64 in Fairburn, GA. Once off the exit, go west four miles and the church will be on the left. For more information or to let us know of your plans, please call Bro. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554, Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8335 or Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy**

"That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works."

Psalm 26:7

Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), along with a vanload of brothers and sisters from Elgin, met some of the WI brothers and sisters in Milwau-

kee for a mid-week service. Although it takes some extra time and effort to get together, we were blessed in being together and reading the Lord's Word that tells us of His wondrous works.

"I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify him with thanksgiving."

Psalm 69:30

Our heartfelt thanks to the many visiting sisters that were in attendance to help us sing at the nursing home in the month of October. Sometimes one wonders if the residents know you are there, but when old familiar songs are sung they can sing right along and it brings a smile to their faces. Singing praises unto the Lord, oh what a joy it brings to the hearts of those who sing and blesses those who listen.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Col. 3:15

Gathering on Sunday, as one body of believers we were thankful for our visiting minister this month, Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) also held our recent Bible study in "Submissive and Assertive Behavior". How thankful we are for brothers who love the Lord, who share God's Word and love God's people.

"In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thess. 5:18

May we remember to thank the Lord every day for everything we

have. Not only on Thanksgiving Day, as every day should be a day of Thanksgiving.

"Be careful for nothing: but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Phil. 4:6

We gathered after church and blended our voices in song for a shower for Bro. Shannon Stahl and Sis. Jill Baurer. They shared their testimonies of faith with us and by prayer and their requests unto God; they will continue their walk of faith together in the Lord. We are looking forward to welcoming Sis. Jill and adding another dear soul to our small congregation.

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord."

Psalm 92:1

Bro. Thad and Sis. Elizabeth and big brother, Alex, are giving thanks to the Lord for the safe arrival of their precious new baby, Ashlyn Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher and Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold (Cissna Park, IL).

The joy of enjoying and the fullness of living
Are found in the heart that is filled with Thanksgiving.

—Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Kara Martin
Rebekah Kaufmann**

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

Psalm 100:4

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, may our hearts be renewed with a spirit of thankfulness and praise!

We are grateful to the following ministers for giving of their time to us this past month: Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Fred Funk (Morton, IL), and Nate Lehman (Denver, CO).

"...for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Matthew 9:13

We rejoice with Karmi Koehl (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lili), Charles Knapp (Jeanne), and Melinda Metz (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol, Roanoke) as they have begun a repentance.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

Psalm 31:24

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following in our congregation who have lost family members recently: Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Don Kaufmann (Sis. Gladys) whose father and brother, Bro. Bob Kaufmann (Morton), passed away on November 1; Bro. Derek Rabe (Sis. Julie) whose father, Donald Rabe (Fairbury), passed away on November 2; and Bro. Ed Feller, Jr. (Sis. Betty) who lost his sister, Sis. Helen Zimmerman (Roanoke), on November 3. Our sympathies are also extended to the family of Bro. Howard

Sauder (Roanoke) who passed away on October 21. His daughter, Sis. Carol Sauder (Roanoke), was an integral part of our church family for many years.

We are lifting up in prayer Stephen Kupferschmid (Larry and Sis. Sandy). He has spent time in the hospital.

Our congregation will miss fellowshiping with Bro. Russ and Sis. Beth Koehl. They are now attending the Tremont church.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress

On November 2, we enjoyed hosting brethren from the Eureka congregation for a Sunday evening singing. Bro. Trent Meiss spent the entire day with us and we really appreciate his willingness to be used in the ministry.

The following weekend was the provings and baptisms of Sandy and Chad Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny). We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) with us. We were reminded that, just as road crews remark lines, we need to renew those convictions of heart that seem to fade over time. Failure to be diligent in this will eventually result in us not being able to see where the old line was or remark it.

We also appreciated having Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) with us to share in the ministry of the Word during this month. May the Lord bless him.

On November 15, Rob Joos (Bro. Robert and Sis. Becky) wed Angie Eble of Bradford. Her parents are Ed and Dianne Hasbrook, also of Bradford. We wish them a happy and fruitful marriage.

Three of our sisters have spent

time in the hospital during the past month. Sis. Elizabeth Kimble is still recovering from a heart attack. Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bro. Jack) and Sis. Becky Piles (Bro. Dennis) have recovered and are back home. We are always thankful when our loved ones are restored in health. We are equally as thankful, though, when God reminds us through these experiences that we really have no control over the course of our lives. May we be reminded every day not only to obey the Lord, but also to submit to His will.

ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Karla Kieser

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another"

John 13:34

October was one of the four months of the year for our rotating potluck. We are small enough that we are all able to enjoy potluck with everyone at least once a year. It is a real blessing to get to know each other more intimately and share in God's love in each other's homes.

Sis. Carissa Schlipf (Gridley) has recently moved to the Champaign area and our congregation is more than delighted to welcome her. She is a recent college graduate and has taken a job as a teacher. She is living with her sister, Sis. Janelle.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers and their wives for this past month. We were privileged to hear God's Word through Bros. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke), and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Our nephew has reached the age where he finds bedtime and the dark to be somewhat scary. But my sister taught him to sing this song about God: "When I am afraid I will trust in You, I will trust in You, I will trust in You." This apparently is working and he is not as afraid anymore. The song took on a new meaning some time ago, however. They were out shopping and he misbehaved; therefore on the way home he was told a spanking would be in order when they got there. As they pulled into the driveway, my sister said she suddenly heard this small voice singing, "When I am afraid I will trust in You, I will trust in You, I will trust in You." It almost broke her heart, almost.

How many times do we feel afraid? Perhaps there is fear of present circumstances – we don't know how we are going to make it through. We fear for a loved one who is not converted. Maybe there is fear of failure, ridicule, persecution, or death. But God has provided the answer to our fears. He says, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isaiah 41:10). These words are like balm to a wound. They sink in and have a healing effect. Lastly, Jesus reminded us, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Westfall and their sons, Brant and Bryce, as they have relocated from Francesville, IN. We are thankful they have joined

our congregation and hope they feel welcome in Chicago.

As we welcome one couple, we say farewell to another. Our dear Bro. Tibor and Sis. Maggie Bozzay and their daughters, Abigail and Zoe, have relocated to San Diego, CA. We will miss them deeply and wish them God's richest blessings and safe-keeping. We are thankful God is with us wherever we go.

Loving thanks go out to the ministers who visited with us in the last month. Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL), Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) and Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan).

Finally, we extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Jeff Strunk on the passing of his grandparents just three weeks apart, Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie Kaufmann of Morton, IL. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psalm 116:15)

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Denise Walder Susan Waldbeser

Should I restrain the Spirit's
course
For fear of man so feeble?
Though Satan's hosts are raging
here,
Should I not be more faithful?
Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
Conceal the Word of God most
High?
*"The Ministers of the Gospel",
Zion's Harp #113*

We do appreciate our "Ministers of the Gospel" as they labor in our behalf to bring forth the teachings of the Bible to us. And we are most grateful to our God who gives them the words to speak. Our church has benefited from visits of Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Kent

Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), and Glen Braker (Princeville, IL). We want to uphold the ministering brothers often in prayer and encourage them to speak as the Spirit directs.

"Charity suffereth long ... and beareth all things."

I Cor. 13:4,7

We think of those who have had to bear the burdens of illness and the death of loved ones. We pray for them and wish them God's love and patience to bear their cross with longsuffering. Sis. Emily Eisenmann, Sis. Elsie Ehman, Sis. Gladys Knapp and Sis. Mary Knapp have all been either hospitalized or recuperating in a nursing home this past month and have been unable to assemble with us.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Bob Kaufmann. He attended church here in Cissna Park and raised his family here, but in recent years resided in Morton. It is because of the unfailing love of God that we can be comforted in times of sorrow.

We rejoice with Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher and Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold as a new granddaughter, Ashlyn Marie, was born to Bro. Thadd and Sis. Elizabeth Heinold (Belvidere, IL).

Note of Thanks:

We are very thankful for the many prayers that were uttered on behalf of our mother during her recent surgery and recovery. God's help and healing power have truly been felt. We deeply appreciate the phone calls, cards, flowers, visits and food brought in. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness. "Is any among you afflicted? Let him

pray..." (James 5:13)
Tillie Rudin and family

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Arlene Banwart

Joy of all Joys
 T'was long ago on a clear starry
 night,
 When shepherds heard from the
 angels so bright.
 A King is born who is King of all
 kings!
 Salvation's message He brings.
 Now with the passing of time 'til
 today,
 Each year all people do cherish
 this day.
 For 'tis a time to remember the
 love
 God sent to us from above.

Chorus:
 Joy of all joys for this wonderful
 day!
 Jesus our Saviour is born Christ-
 mas day!
 Day of rejoicing, let everyone sing!
 Praise to our Lord and our King!
 —written by a brother in faith

Encouraging us to walk faithful
 with God were visiting ministers: El-
 der Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL)
 and Bros. Ken Eisenmann and Ken
 Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), Glenn Dill
 (Tremont, IL), Dale Banwart
 (Wolcott, IN), Don Gudeman (La-
 Crosse, IN), Rick Plattner and John
 Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Dan
 Moser (Elgin, IL).

Belatedly we extend our sympa-
 thy to Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell
 Ott in the death of her father, Bro.
 Elmer Grusy. Our Sis. Lucille
 Blunier is presently hospitalized fol-
 lowing surgery for a broken hip. We
 are thankful she is improving and
 hopes to return soon to the Eureka
 Apostolic Christian Home.

Looking forward to giving their
 testimonies of faith are our converts:
 Benjamin and Jonathan Virkler
 (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle) and
 Allison Rapp (Sis. Sara and the late
 Bro. Phil). As we think of Christmas,
 we think what a difference God made
 in sending His Son into this world for
 our salvation! Let us ever be joyful!

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Amy Gasser

On November 1-2, the Elgin con-
 gregation gathered to hear the testi-
 monies and witness the baptisms of
 Bro. Brently Schambach (Bro. Don
 and Sis. Leann), Sis. Jenean
 Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Con-
 nie) and Sis. Jaclyn Kellenberger
 (Bro. Ken and Sis. Vicki). Elder Bro.
 Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) was here
 to assist Bro. Ron. Other visiting
 ministers this past month were
 Bros. Brad Eisenmann and Matthew
 Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Ken Dietz
 (Bradford, IL).

Lynwood and Jamie Schambach
 welcomed their first child, Braedon
 Lane, on October 21. Happy grand-
 parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Leann
 Schambach and Bro. Roger and Sis.
 Karen Weiss.

Arron Schifferer (Wayne
 Schifferer and Sis. Joyce Schifferer)
 was married to Jamie Long on Octo-
 ber 5.

Sis. Marge (Bro. Bill) Wewetzer
 spent some time in the hospital re-
 cently. We are thankful she is able to
 assemble with us again.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank all of our family
 members and our dear friends who
 remembered us with your lovely
 cards, gifts and calls for our 50th
 wedding anniversary. May God
 richly bless each of you for your love.

In Christian love,

*Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeannette
 Kilgus*

As with gladness men of old
 Did the guiding star behold;
 As with joy they hailed its light,
 Leading onward, beaming bright;
 So, most gracious Lord, may we
 Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
 To that lowly manger bed,
 There to bend the knee before
 Him whom heav'n and earth
 adore;
 So may we with willing feet
 Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts more rare,
 At that manger rude and bare,
 So may we with holy joy,
 Pure and free from sin's alloy,
 All our costliest treasures bring,
 Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day,
 Keep us in the narrow way,
 And, when earthly things are past,
 Bring our ransomed souls at last,
 Where they need no star to guide,
 Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

Hymns of Zion #14, vs. 1-4

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Janet Zimmerman

Five families have been blessed
 recently with a new baby. Olivia
 Rose Schumacher was born October
 4 to Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne.
 Happy to have a baby sister to love
 and help take care of are Seth,
 Brooke, Larae and Lane. Olivia's
 grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis.
 Rebecca Endress (Bradford, IL) and
 Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene
 Schumacher.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Teri Vierling
 were blessed with a baby girl,
 Kristen Renee, born October 28. Her
 big brothers are Brandon and David.

Kristen's grandparents are Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin and Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling, all of Eureka.

Ryan and Kandi Carr are first-time parents. Hailey Louise was born November 13. Her grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr and Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman, all of Eureka.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Becki Martin welcomed Amos Craig into their hearts and home on November 17. His big sisters are Hannah and Charity. Grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Martin and Roland and Sis. Deloris Martin, all of Eureka.

Steve and Tarla Gibbs became parents of a baby girl, Tara Ann, born November 18. She is welcomed home by her big sister, Taylor. Her grandparents are Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin and the late William and Barbara Gibbs. May God bless each of these parents as they seek His guidance in raising their children.

We are thankful that Kate Rocke has answered God's call to repentance and we wish her God's grace and help as she begins her new walk of life. Her parents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Jan.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Clara Huber on the death of her sister, Margaret Romersberger, of Morton. She died November 4.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Bill Wuthrich on the recent death of his father, Bro. Albert Wuthrich, of Pulaski, IA.

We were thankful that we could listen to the reading of the Memorandum on Saturday evening, November 1. Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) was here and helped Elder Bro. Ervin with this. We thank Elder Bro. Gerry and his wife, Sis. Ellen, for coming.

We were blessed with many visit-

ing ministers recently. Bros. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) were here in the last month and we appreciate all of their efforts and for sharing with us. May God richly bless them.

We wish God's richest blessings to Bro. Roy and Sis. Norma Hangartner as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary November 1.

Bro. Melvin Stoller (Sis. Marjorie) was hospitalized with pneumonia. We are thankful he was able to return home and is recovering.

Sis. Eileen Blunier (Bro. Duane) was hospitalized recently and is home recovering from chemotherapy treatments. Our thoughts and prayers are with her during this time.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Tammy Hinrichsen Joann Zehr

We had various ones from our congregation who either had surgery or spent time in the hospital due to illness and we certainly want to remember them in our prayers and wish them God's help, nearness, and healing mercies. They were Sis. Lavina Moser, Bro. Reuben Huber (Sis. Marie), Bro. Frank Schmidt (Pearl) and Duane Kafer (Pat).

On the weekend of November 15-16 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Natasha Knapp (Bro. Kirby and Sis. Gwen), Rachel Steidinger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Dixie) and Kristen Schmidgall (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna). Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) was with

us for the weekend, as well as Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) on Saturday evening. We thank these brothers for their willingness to help in this most important work and we wish these three sisters the grace and love of God as they begin their new life. We are so thankful for each one who can come and we pray for many more.

Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) also visited us and brought us the Word of Life and we thank them for their love and efforts.

As we commemorate Thanksgiving Day, we are again thankful for so many blessings from God and that we still have freedom of worship. May we always remember to pray for the leaders of our nation in these latter times.

ILLINOIS, FORREST Linda Anliker Lori Dotterer

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

October 26 was the wedding day of our Bro. Jacob Kuntz and Sis. Brooke Gutwein. Their parents are Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda Kuntz and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein. We pray that God will bless their marriage and provide for their every need.

We welcome to our congregation Bro. Andy and Sis. Valarie Dotterer as they have recently moved from Smithville, OH. We pray that they feel welcome and that God will continue to provide for them as they trust Him for each step.

We also welcome little Lily

Mae-Louise Eisenmann, new daughter of Dan and Abby Eisenmann, born on October 30. Older siblings, Gaige and Grace, also welcome her into their hearts and lives. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann, Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb Nussbaum and Robert Livingston.

We are thankful that there are still souls who are heeding the call to repentance, and we wish Myra Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly) and Beth Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary) God's abundant grace as they seek to walk the straight and narrow way. We pray that many more will yet answer the call while there is still grace.

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers this month. They are Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bros. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL), Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN), Dennis Rassi and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL). May God bless them for their labors.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Neola (Bro. Byron) Nussbaum in the passing of her sister, Sis. Loretta Mosher, of Bay City. May God be near her and comfort her in the days ahead.

Those spending time in the hospital have been Bro. Paul Wiegand (Sis. Edna), Blake Hall (Bro. Don and Barb), Sis. Bethany Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee), Sis. Rebecca Dotterer (Bro. Clint), and Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna). We pray that God will continue to grant His healing powers and that they can all reassemble with us soon.

As we look forward to Christmas, let us remember the real reason for our Saviour's birth and continue to

thank Him for giving His life that we might live.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to sincerely thank our wonderful church family and friends for your loving support, prayers, deeds of love and the beautiful, uplifting cards sent to us after Carolyn's death. These expressions of love helped carry us through these very difficult days. May God richly reward and bless you.

Allen Zimmerman

Ray and Shelly Steidinger and family

Ivan and Cinda Fehr and family

Glen and Holly Steidinger and family

Kent and Paulette Zimmerman and family

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Rita Bauman

Heather Hohulin

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Barb Wiegand (Bro. Ron) and Dean Zimmerman (Sis. Inge) during their illness. Only God can give peace and comfort at a time like this and this is what our hearts wish is for them. We hope they can feel our love, prayers, and support.

Our heartfelt prayers are also with Bro. Dan and Sis. Jane Plattner. Sis. Jane lost her father, Bro. Bob Kauffman, and her mother, Sis. Marie Kauffman, within three weeks. May God provide comfort and strength. We also pray for them during this difficult time.

Starting their lives together are Bro. Ben and Sis. Lexi Ginzel. Their parents are Bro. Daryl and Sis. Lucy Blunier and Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzel. May God bless their marriage with His ever present hand of love.

Sis. Lindsay Wiegand (Bro.

Kevin) and Sis. Dawn Maloney (Randy) spent time in the hospital this month. May God be with them.

We have three babies to report. Bro. Scott, Sis. Heidi and Simeon Rinkenberger welcomed home Isabel Diane. Grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp and Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg Rinkenberger.

Also welcoming a girl, Rachel Ann, is Bro. Roger, Sis. Becky, Rhoda, Reuben and Russell Roberts. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Gloria Wettstein and Lester and Spatsie Roberts.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Marge, Luke, Anna, Bethany, Abigail and Mary welcomed home a boy, Joseph Benjamin. Grandparents are Sis. Nathalia Wenger (late Bro. Albert) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman. May God bless these families.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer, Bro. Tim Funk and Bro. Ken Hoerr. We thank them for their service to us.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for all of the love, cards, food, gifts, and especially the prayers sent our way since my surgery. We have been overwhelmed by the love and care from our church family and hope you will continue to remember us in prayer during the next several months of chemotherapy and radiation.

Our love through Him,
Ron and Barb Wiegand and family

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

I saw a sign that read, "Exercise your faith — walk with God." That's good advice. The Apostle Paul also exhorted believers to "exercise thy-

self unto godliness." (I Timothy 4:7).

In an activity-prone life the believer is wise to draw nigh to God, and thence walk according to His ways. Our faith should motivate us to follow after the Lord's ways.

An engagement was announced on November 16. Sis. Amber Criss (Peoria, IL) will be married to Bro. Andy Zimmerman. Sis. Linda Criss is her mother. His parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda Zimmerman. A May wedding is being planned. We wish them well in their upcoming union of hearts. May God lead them.

On November 16, four souls were baptized. They are Bro. Nathan Hodel, and Sisters Emily, LeaAnn and Jennifer Ringger. We wish them the continued grace of God. Here to help with this work was Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

We benefited from a blessed evening on Wednesday, November 13, when Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) made a teaching presentation on "Parenting and Grandparenting." May God bless him for his efforts. Children today are being raised in a perilous culture, and Bro. Glenn gave much helpful insight on being a positive influence on youth.

Sis. Marie Stoller is now in the Eureka home. Sis. Heidi Kiefer had gall bladder surgery. Willis Aupperle was hospitalized. Bro. Mike Butikofer had back surgery, and is thankful his pain has been relieved.

The passing of Sis. Laura L. Martin saddened our congregation. She died on November 17, at age 86. She is survived by three sons: Stan Martin, Omaha, Nebraska; Sidney Martin, Crystal Lake, IL; and Byron Martin, Gridley; and a sister, Sis. Lulu Schlipf, Gridley. Also, she is survived by nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Sister Laura had a kindly and gracious disposition. She always had a

ready and inviting smile. The church will miss her presence. In 1936 she was married to Harold Martin, who died in 1951.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Julie Bahr Christie Zeller

A new little blessing, Tyson William Hart, was born October 14. His parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Ann Hart. He also was welcomed home by big brother, Cameron, and big sister, Lindsey. May God bless this little family.

Visiting Sunday Schools, Princeville and Tremont, were here October 19. A blessed day was had by all the students and teachers.

Ring the bells of Heaven ... four more dear souls have repented and were announced for baptism. They are: Jeremiah Psinas, Seth Webb, Dane Zeller, and Leah Zimmerman. May God's grace and mercy be with these dear loved ones.

Bro. Dave Zehr (Sis Vicki, Gridley, IL) brought us our Family Worship on November 5. His topic was "Forgiveness". May we all have the heart of the Father, which is unconditional love and forgiveness.

The Morton Benefit Dinner was held on November 15 and 16. Many enjoyed food, fellowship, and worship through song. The monies will benefit needy families, Haiti, Restmor, and the Bible Class trip to Rio Bravo, Mexico. May God bless all those who took part in this blessed weekend.

Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Bob) Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) passed away. She is a sister to Howard (Sis. Gloria) Leman.

Sis. Verna Rocke (Oakville, IA) passed away October 19. She is a sister to our Sis. Wilma (Bro. Al) Wiedman and Sis. Marie Kaufman.

Bro. Howard Sauder (Roanoke, IL) passed away. He is the father to our Bro. Andy (Sis. Jayne) Sauder.

Bro. Bob Kaufman (Sis. Marie) passed away. He is the father to our Sis. Joyce (Bro. Gene) Strunk and a grandfather to our Bro. Brad (Sis. Tonya) Kaufman.

Margaret Romersberger passed away November 4. She is a sister to our Bro. Eli (Sis. Pearl) Rassi and Bro. Sol (Sis. Sharilyn) Rassi, Robert (Janet) Rassi, Marie Pfaffman, and Leah Warren.

May God comfort these dear families.

Other visiting ministers for the month were Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL). May our Heavenly Father bless these dear brothers for all their labors on our behalf.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for all the food, cards, gifts, and the love and prayers offered during our mother's passing.

In His love,

The Family of Caroline Grimm

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

II Timothy 2:15

Visiting ministers:

Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley) - Family Night service, Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford), Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington), and Bro. David Zehr (Gridley).

"Then said Jesus unto his disci-

ples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself..."

Matthew 16:24

Michael Jones and Sarah Sceggel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy) are seeking the Lord in repentance.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him..."

I Corinthians 2:14

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind..."

I Corinthians 13:4

Bro. Ben Ginzl and Sis. Lexy Blunier (Goodfield) were united in Holy Matrimony on November 2 in Goodfield.

"Abide in me..."

John 15:4

"Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness."

Psalms 150:1,2

The Mortonaires sang praises to God at our hymn sing on November 2. "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalms 150:6

"I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations."

Psalms 89:1

Noelle Marie was born on November 4 to Kari and Mike Bates. Happy grandparents are Bro. Paul II (Spark) and Sis. Rhonda Meister and Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane Bates (Roanoke). Great grandparents are:

Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister.

Dear Jesus is the children's Friend;

He held them on his knee;
He took them in His arms and said,

Let children come to Me.

"Jesus, Our Friend" -

Praises We Sing Hymnal

Little Nia Lynne was born on November 6 to Shane and Renee Robison. Grandparents are Leon and Ellen Robison and Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Waibel. Great-grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie Meister and Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

John 5:24

Bro. Dave Teubel passed from this life on October 27. We express sincere sympathy to Sis. Pauline and the family circle.

Sis. Lydia Hoerr passed from this life on October 22 and her funeral was held on October 25. We express sincere sympathy to her sisters: Sis. Anna and Sis. Rachel Hoerr and to all the family circle.

"...to him that overcometh..."

Revelation 2:7

"Be still, and know that I am God..."

Psalms 46:10

Many prayers are being offered up on behalf of Sis. Bonnie Waibel (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen). Sis. Bonnie injured her back in an acci-

dent. "Cast your burden on the Lord." *Psalms 55:22*

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you..."

John 14:27

A heartfelt thank you to all for helping make my 100th birthday a very happy time with gifts, flowers, candy, and cards. The personal visits were very special. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely, Anna Schneider

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

Matthew 1:23

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Phyllis Knobloch Crystal Streitmatter

"I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations."

Psalms 57:9

We are a privileged people to be able to praise our God without persecution. It is even hard to imagine what it would be like to live in a country that doesn't allow this kind of worship. May we continue to pray for our servicemen who are risking their lives so that we may continue our freedom!

We have two new babies to report. On September 25, Hunter Neil Stahl became part of a loving family, Bro. Darwin and Sis. Robin, and siblings, Reid and Chloe. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner and great-grandfather is Bro. Dave Kieser. Paternal grandparents are Sis. Charlotte Stahl and

Dean Stahl of Bradford and great-grandmother is Sis. Violet Elsasser of Bradford.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann have a new little girl, Elise Renee, born October 27. She is very special to her siblings, Sis. Kim, Greg, Grant, Scott, Laura and Todd. Maternal grandparents re Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford, IL) and Sis. Lucille Kieser (Bradford, IL) is great-grandmother. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Evelyn Herrmann. It is so precious to see these little ones, pure and unspotted by the world! We pray the Lord will be with these dear parents as they raise them in Godly homes.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) on September 19. Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was with us on September 26 and Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) on November 9. Thank you for sharing God's message with us. The Bible class students sang for us after morning services on the 9th. How beautiful to listen to our youth sing praises to our Lord!

Sis. Joan Berchtold (Bro. Vernie) had surgery and is gaining strength each day. May we continue to keep them in our prayers as she begins treatments. We are thankful that God is in control.

"Forsake me not, O Lord: O my God, be not far from me."

Psalms 38:21

Tonight, November 15, we plan to listen to the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) plans to assist our Elder Bro. Jim Plattner with this important work. We are thankful for all of the opportunities we have to listen to God's

Word. Thank you to all of the Elders that spend so much time in our behalf. We are grateful!

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jenell Hodel
Joan Leman

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

We welcome five dear souls into the family of God. We were blessed to hear their testimonies and to witness their baptisms on October 18 and 19. They are Bro. Glen and Sis. Carol Martin, Bro. Jason and Sis. Ali Knepp, and Bro. Mike Pfister (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila). May they ever feel God's presence in their lives as they continue to serve Him.

Blessed hope that in Jesus is given,
In our sorrow to cheer and sustain,
That soon in the mansions of Heaven,
We shall meet with our loved ones again.

Gospel Hymns #135

We extend our heartfelt prayers and sympathy to the families and loved ones of three dear souls who were called home to their eternal rest. May God grant comfort and peace to those left behind.

Sis. Carolyn (Meiss) Aeschleman passed away on October 20. Surviving are her husband, Ray, and two sons, Roger (Robyn) Aeschleman, and Stanley (Ellen) Aeschleman, four grandchildren, two sisters and one brother.

Bro. Howard Sauder (the late Sis. Edith) was relieved of his suffering here on earth and went home to be with the Lord on October 21. Surviving are three sons, Bro. Bob (Sis. Jan), Bro. Harold (Sis. Judy), Bro. Andy (Sis. Jayne); four daughters, Sis. Marge (Bro. Jim) Braker, Sis. Carol Sauder, Sis. JoAnn (Bro. Roger) Beutel, Sis. Rachel (Bro. Duane) Schroeder, 24 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Also surviving from our congregation are two brothers, retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder and Bro. Gerald Sauder, and one sister, Sis. Mary Schwind (Bro. Walt).

Sis. Helen (Feller) Zimmerman passed from this life into eternity on November 3. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Richard; four daughters, Susan (Michael) Aberle, Sis. Patsy (Bro. Bill) Kaeb, Jan (Jared) Rogers, Sis. Peggy (Bro. Tim) Stoller; and one son, Rick (Diana); 18 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are four sisters and two brothers.

The home of Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg has been blessed with the arrival of Rachel Grace, born October 17. Welcoming her are siblings, Bro. Matthew, Bro. Mark, Bro. Joshua, Jacob, Caleb, Benjamin, Lydia, Hannah and Joel, and grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Jane Schumacher and Jeanette Lindberg.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Megan Hodel, as they have been blessed with a little boy. Dexter Jon was born November 4. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Linda Hodel and Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Zimmerman (Morton).

We rejoice with Bro. Jay Braker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge) and Sis. Jackie Heimer (Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan) as they were united as one in the Lord on Sunday, November 9,

at Taylor. We wish them God's rich blessings as they walk hand in hand through this life.

We appreciate and thank our visiting ministers who labored on our behalf this past month. They include Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) who assisted our Elder Bro. Tom with testimonies and baptisms, Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield), Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield), Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield), Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Princeville), Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville), and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville) who spoke at our monthly Bible study. May God richly bless these brothers and their families for their willingness to be used in His service.

On Saturday, October 25, our high school students and their parents hosted a Harvest dinner at the Fellowship Hall to raise funds for the 2004 work trip to Jamaica. We enjoyed a delicious meal and the students' beautiful singing. May God bless all those who supported this effort.

Our nursing home benefit was held on Saturday, November 8. Thank you to those who gave of themselves in so many ways to make the benefit a success.

We welcome Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy, Josiah and Kelsy Kaeb to our congregation as they have moved to Roanoke from Belvidere. We are thankful to have them as part of our church family and pray they can feel our love and support.

Several loved ones from our congregation have spent time in the hospital this past month. We lift them up in prayer. May the Lord grant them comfort and healing. They include Jan Rassi (Bill), Bro. Rich

Zimmerman, Sis. Cindy Leman, Sis. Ann Leman, Sis. Pearl Leman, Sis. Anna Bradle, Sis. Elsie Zimmerman, Sis. Marie Hohulin and Sis. Karen Leman.

Note of Thanks

We wish to thank our family, church family, neighbors, and friends far and near for all the love, gifts, visits, and especially your prayers during our hospital stay and since returning to Eureka Apostolic Christian Home where we are taking therapy. May God bless each one.

In Christian love,

Sis. Ann and Sis. Leona Pfister

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Heather Rassi

LaVonne Wagenbach

We want to thank Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) for visiting Tremont this month and laboring from the pulpit.

We rejoice with our newest Sister in the Apostolic Christian Faith. Sis. Eunice Rowell gave her testimony of faith and was baptized before our congregation on a Wednesday evening. May the Lord continue to bless her walk with Him.

Bro. Paul Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) was announced to Sis. Beth Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) of Rockville, CT. May this couple feel God's blessings on their engagement.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Dale Kaufmann (Sis. Jane) on the passing of his father, Bro. Bob Kaufmann (Morton, IL). Our thoughts and prayers are also with Bro. Chris Woerner on the passing of his wife, Sis. Wilmina. May their children feel the nearness of the Holy Spirit. They include Richard

(Deirdre) Woerner of Wellesley, MA; Sis. Helen Woerner of Washington, IL; and Sis. Mary (Bro. Steve) Sauder of Tremont. Sis. Edna Getz has likewise passed from this life to one that is eternal. May God grant comfort to her siblings, Bro. Merle (Sis. Iva) Getz of Tremont; Sis. Bernice (Bro. Jake) Plattner of Morton; Glenna Pfister of Lexington, NE; Marian Lutz of Stow, OH; and Gail Love of Marquette Heights, IL. Bro. Arnold Rassi (Sis. Lydia) has also experienced the loss of a loved one on the passing of his sister, Margaret Romersberger of Morton, IL.

Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Koch have been blessed with a third child. Rachel Ann was born on October 18. Her siblings are Micah and Abigail. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch as well as Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch (Lester, IA). Rejoicing at the arrival of their first child, Leah Marie, are Bro. Rob and Sis. Marcia Dennis. Her grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel and Nancy Birkmeier. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Tammy Schaefer are thankful for the arrival of their fourth child. Katie Lynn was welcomed home by her siblings, Mary, Emily and Andrew. Grandparents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marge Schaefer and Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce Strunk (Morton, IL). May each parent feel the guidance of God in raising their children for Him.

Hospitalizations this month included Sis. Francie (Bro. Dave) Koch and Bro. Pete (Sis. Debbie) Aberle. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Melba Hangartner are thankful their son, Jon, is now home from the hospital after a long stay. May we continue to keep praying for God's continued healing for each one.

We want to welcome Bro. Russ and Sis. Beth Koehl as well as Sis.

Dawn Massner to our congregation. All three are currently making Tremont their home congregation.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Dianne Wyss
Marcia Koch

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

James 1:1-3

We were thankful to be recently exhorted and encouraged by Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL) as he addressed the Bible topic “The Tests and Trials of Life”. Through the examples of many Bible characters, we were reminded of the purposes and plans God has as He tests and tries our hearts and motives.

We were also thankful for the teachings this month from the topical studies “Growing Godly Men” presented by Bro. Kent Kloter and Gateway Woods.

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

Hymns of Zion #99

We were blessed to hear the testimonies of Bro. Mark Schurter and Bro. Drew Fehr (Dave and Sis. Linda). Having received the imputed righteousness of Jesus, they made their vows and were baptized. We pray that they can continue to build their hope on Jesus Christ alone and be a blessing to others. Sharing in the weekend were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL),

Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL).

We want to extend our sympathies to Sis. Helen Woerner at the death of her mother, Sis. Wilmina Woerner (Bro. Chris, Tremont). In the midst of such difficult times, we rejoice that “death is swallowed up in victory.” (I Cor. 15:54)

Bro. Paul Streitmatter (Sis. Jean) was hospitalized this month. We pray that the Lord's healing hand will be upon him.

We wish God's blessings of healing for our friend, Richard Goldsmith, who was recently released from the hospital.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Tiffany Aschliman
Elizabeth Frauhiger

Our congregation has been blessed with several bundles of joy this month and we rejoice with all of the following families.

Bro. Cameron and Sis. Jenni Fry (Bluffton North) welcomed their second son to their family on October 13. Corbyn was also excited to welcome his new little brother, Simon William. His grateful grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Deb Fry and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger (Bluffton North).

Bro. Corey and Sis. Erika Gerber (Lafayette, IN) are the parents of a son, Caden Kent, born on October 13. Bro. Russell and Sis. Susie Gerber are glad to welcome another grandson into their family circle.

Canyon Adam Tucker was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Tricia on October 17. He joins his three sisters: Timber, Meadow and Juniper. The joyful grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth Baumgartner.

Another little bundle of joy was

welcomed into this world on October 26 in the form of Benjamin D. Kaehr. His parents are Bro. Brent and Sis. Allison and his excited siblings are a brother, Brandon, and a sister, Whitney. Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger are the thankful grandparents.

Trey Steven Craighead is the name of Bro. Eric and Sis. Annie Craighead's second son. Trey joins Dylan at home. His grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard and Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay Craighead (Bluffton North).

Bro. Rex and Sis. Lavon Gerber welcomed their first grandchild on November 9. Dan and Audra Claghorn are the first-time parents of Ashlyn Noelle.

Jadon DeWayne Agler is the newest addition to Bro. Jim and Sis. Pam Agler's family. Welcoming their adopted brother is James, Zachery, Leah, and Lucas. His grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger.

Luke Duane Gerber was born on October 5 to Bro. Rod and Sis. Rochelle Gerber (Bluffton North). Sadly, little Luke was taken Home to the Lord on October 29. Mourning his death are his parents, his brother, Jonathan, his grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber and Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geisel (Bluffton North), and his extended family. Our thoughts and prayers are with this family.

Bro. Ervin Aeschliman slipped from this life into eternity on October 16. He left behind three sons, Dave, Sam and Ervin Jr.; and two daughters, Cami Biale (Thomas) and Ella Sonnenberg (Arno). Also grieving his death are his brothers, Bill and Bro. Walter (Sis. Imogene, Bluffton North), and his sister, Sis. Violet Ringger (Bro. Sylvan,

Bluffton North). Our thoughts and prayers are with these dear ones as they deal with the loss of a loved one.

Sis. Clara Tonner passed away on November 5. She leaves behind her husband, Bro. Harry. Also missing her are her sons: Bro. Eric (Sis. Rhonda), Arlan and Leon; and her daughters, Harriet Thompson, Sis. Carol Stucky (Bro. Steve) and Rose Dalio. Her one brother, Donald Frauhiger, also grieves her death. We will be thinking of them and praying for them in the coming days and months.

Sis. Becky Bertsch (Bluffton North) passed on to her eternal reward after a long battle with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Bro. Lonnie, and sons, Bro. Nathan and Philip. Sis. Becky also leaves behind her parents, Bro. Kenny and Sis. Marie Gilliom, and one brother, Bro. Kent Gilliom (Sis. Mary). We pray also for Bro. Lonnie's parents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian Bertsch, and their family. We pray God's nearness to all of these families as they deal with their losses.

We are thankful for four visiting ministers this month. We pray a special blessing on Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI), Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North), Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL).

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 10:13

We rejoice with two new converts this month. Grace Gerber (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby) and Lydia Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli) have humbled themselves and asked the Saviour into their lives. We pray that

God will give them the grace and strength to follow His perfect will for their lives.

October 26 was an exciting day for Bro. Klint Fiechter and Sis. Sarah Gerber as they exchanged vows and were pronounced husband and wife. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny Fiechter and Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber. Our prayers are with this new couple as they begin their life together bound by Christ.

We are prayerful for a few dear ones who have recently spent time in the hospital. They are Sis. Gladys Maller and Sis. Martha Gerber. We pray God's healing hand will be upon them as they continue to recover.

We also rejoice with Bro. Joey Kline as he is engaged to Sis. Holly Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) from Gridley, IL. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their life together.

We will miss Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller as they begin their new journey in the mission fields in Rio Bravo, Mexico. We will miss them in our congregation but know they are needed in this outreach. Our thoughts and prayers will go with them.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Ann Meyer
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

Our Sis. Becky Bertsch was fi-

nally healed of her cancer by the Great Physician when He took her Home to Heaven this month. We grieve with her husband, Bro. Lonnie, and two sons, Bro. Nathan and Philip. Sis. Becky is also survived by her parents, Bro. Kenny and Sis. Marie Gilliom (Bluffton, IN), brother, Bro. Kent (Sis. Mary, Bluffton, IN), and in-laws, Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian Bertsch. We pray that they will all find comfort in knowing that Sis. Becky is now in a place where she is feeling no pain or sorrow.

We also mourn with Bro. Rod and Sis. Rochelle in the difficult loss of their infant son, Luke Duane. Our prayers are with Luke's brother, Jonathan, and grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber and Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geisel. They were only able to hold him for a short time on this earth, but praying they will find rest in knowing that Jesus is now the one holding little Luke Duane.

Finally, Bro. Jim Geisel went Home to be with our Heavenly Father this month. We are prayerful for his daughters, Sis. Debbie (Bro. Alan) Aeschliman, Sis. Kathy (Randy, Bluffton, IN) Schriver, Linda (John) Mill, and son, Steve. Bro. Jim also had two brothers, Robert and Harry, and two sisters, Sis. Lucille (Bro. Dwight, Bluffton, IN) Gerber and Jayne (Gary) Gibson.

We did have reason to rejoice this month, as Bro. Chris and Sis. Kim Jutte welcomed a new little one into their family, Gracie Josephine. Gracie joins a brother, Reid, and a sister, Maggie. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber.

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers with us this month. They were Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott, IN), EL-

der Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). We were thankful for their willingness to be used by the Lord.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather Drayer along with their children, James and Dayla, accepted the position as alternate house parents at Gateway Woods. Their presence in our congregation will be greatly missed, but we know that they will make it down here when they can. We send our love and prayers with them as they do the Lord's work at Gateway Woods.

We were thankful to have Bro. Dale Reinhard back in church with us. We are prayerful that Bro. Bill (Sis. Betty) Frauhiger will be back with us soon too, after spending some time in the hospital.

As we get into the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, let it be our prayer that we will not get so wrapped up in the busyness of it all, but instead we will take time to really reflect on Jesus' life and what He has done for us. We have so much to be thankful for.

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke 2:14

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Barbara Huber

Another harvest season is upon us bringing us again the completion of the promise of the Lord to provide "fruit in due season". We look forward with thankful and, yes, expectant hearts that He will again carry us through this season of our year. We also seek His mercy for safety through the busy time.

The Lord willed that harvest time had come for Bro. Robert

Kaufmann, who is the grandfather of our Sis. Christine (Bro. Les) Kaeb. His life is an example to all of us to live our allotted time so that we can leave our human existence with no regrets. We extend our sympathies to all of his large family.

Our beloved friend, Ron Osburn, has undergone heart surgery recently. We are thankful that although he had complications he is now recovering nicely. The Lord has certainly heard and answered the many prayers of our congregation in Ron's behalf. We praise God for His faithfulness which is "new every morning"!

While Ron has been recovering from his surgery, his mother, Dorothy Osburn, passed away on November 11 in the Monticello Nursing Home. We pray that Ron and his brother who survive will feel the tender comforts of our loving Saviour in their loss.

Also suffering the loss of a loved one were Doug and Mary Lou Gutwein with the passing of Clarence Gutwein, Doug's father. Many of our congregation knew and esteemed Clarence and we hold this family up in our thoughts and prayers.

Sisters Emilie Anliker and Eldora Bongess have had to tell their sister, Alma (Schini) Bahler farewell as it was harvest time for her also. She passed away on November 14 and had been faithfully cared for by Sis. Eldora for the last several years. Again, as a congregation we extend our prayers for God's comfort to all the family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Gail Gutwein as she has returned to Argentina. We are so very thankful that the Lord has blessed her with recovery so that she can go forth in His labors and trust that God will keep her in peace, grace and

health. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:15

Our news for this month has been mostly sobering as we can see. But our God is faithful and will not place more on us that we can bear. Also, as a congregation we can unite in love, service and sympathy for the member or friend who is experiencing loss and illness.

In thinking of the upcoming Christmas season and even in consideration of the harvest season just past, I found this writing which illustrates how we can keep Christmas in our hearts even though sadness is often intermingled with our Christian joy. May it bless your season!

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day, And that is "keeping" Christmas. Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world?

Stronger than hate? Stronger than death?

And that the blessed Life which began in Bethlehem two thousand years ago

Is the image and brightness of eternal love?

THEN YOU CAN "KEEP" CHRISTMAS!

—Henry Van Dyke

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Gail Bradford Sandy Lichtle

"And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh."

Mark 10:8

On October 19, Bro. Stan Katanic (Maria Katanic, Akron, OH) and Sis. Melissa Cannone (Dan and Jean, Ak-

ron, OH) were united in marriage at Akron, OH. May God be the center of their marriage as they walk the path of life together and establish their home here.

On November 15, Rob Witzig (Bro. Bill and Sis. Conni) and Anna Umbaugh (Daniel and Barbara) exchanged their wedding vows. We rejoice with them and pray God's grace be with them as they build their lives together as one in the Lord.

On October 25-26, we enjoyed a blessed weekend of planned activities and fellowship with a group of Sunday School students from Belvidere, IL.

On November 1-2, we had "Outreach Weekend". Many young people joyfully gave of their time and efforts to help those in need in our community. What a true example of Jesus' words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40)

Our love, thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Nathan Bertsch on the passing of his mother, Sis. Becky Bertsch (Bro. Lonnie, Bluffton North). May the family be comforted by God's love and faithfulness.

We sincerely welcome Bro. Barry and Sis. Myra Beer to our congregation. Bro. Barry has accepted employment here.

We appreciate the labors of love of our visiting minister this month, Bro. Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi, Belvidere, IL). Thank you for sharing God's Word with us.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

Thank ye the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord!
For He is gracious,
His mercy, It endureth evermore.

Hymns of Zion #245

As we approach Thanksgiving, it is such a wonderful time to thank God for His work in each of our lives. We all have so much to be thankful for! Happy Thanksgiving!

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

We appreciated retired Bro. John Stoller's willingness to assist Bro. Brace Wieland on the pulpit one Sunday when both Elder Bro. Lynn and Bro. Steve Stieglitz visited in Detroit, MI.

Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) visited us on October 19. He read from II Samuel 24; some of his exhortation "Choice that is self-centered will bring consequence, God is intimately concerned about small details ... that we serve Him with our whole heart." The second reading from Acts 25:1-26 continued the same thought pattern. "Live in obedience to God ... Consider how God has dealt with us in the past. How God was faithful... when a person lives dependent on God there is nothing Satan can do." We appreciated his willingness to let the Lord speak through him.

On October 25, we listened to the testimonies of Elizabeth Schrenk (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) and Bethany Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne). Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Lynn in interviewing them. On Sunday they were baptized into the death of Jesus and arose to a new life as God's adopted daughters and our sisters. We rejoice with them. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna) and Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN) ministered on Sunday. We appreciated their service. Bro. Steve mentioned that one

of the girls told how Isaiah 55 was an encouragement to her, so he read that chapter. "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters (we know Who that living water is) ... Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near ... For ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace..." (Isaiah 55:1,6,12)

On November 2, Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI) visited us and we were blessed with Bro. Howard's ministry.

Saturday, November 8, Leo hosted the World Relief Eastern Review Meeting. We learned so much and were encouraged how the Lord is working through us. We enjoyed the fellowship of those that attended and appreciated those that stayed for Sunday, including Bros. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) who served us from the Word. We are thankful for the Lord's blessings.

Wednesday evening, November 12, Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) presented our topical Bible study on "The Life of Gideon - Strength from Weakness". He made application to our own lives. Decline and depression came to Israel because of lack of complete obedience and lack of faith. Gideon in his weakness trusted God's strength to deliver in a mighty victory.

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) was with us Saturday evening, November 15. Elder Bro. Curt assisted our Elder Bro. Lynn in serving the Lord's Supper. "Can we find our full salvation, The salvation in His blood." He took bread and breaking it, gave thanks "...drink this wine, as a token of my blood divine". We worship the Lord Jesus Christ for His mercy, grace and love. We rejoice in the communion we

share with one another.

We express our sympathy to Bro. Dana Plattner (Sis. Kim) in the passing of his grandfather, Bro. Bob Kaufmann, of Morton, IL. Also to the Stieglitz family as he was their cousin. May the Lord comfort weary hearts.

Our prayers for recovery are with Susanna Boyer who had surgery and Bro. Gene Stoller who fell at Covington Manor.

May the Lord bless you as you remember Jesus' birth with family and friends.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carlton Beer
Paula Haab**

We were so vividly reminded once again that there is a God when the green leaves turned so bright orange and red. Only He can make a tree and all its beauty.

Our Sunday School classes sang Thanksgiving praises to God and told us the history of Thanksgiving Day. They reminded us of the many illnesses, and lack of food, clothing and shelter the Pilgrims endured to insure themselves the right to worship God in the true and living way. Through it all, they did not forget to give thanks. We have lack of nothing; let's not forget to be thankful. The Bible says over and over that we should give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. It is our reasonable service to Him.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL) came to visit cousins and the Milford congregation. He gave us much spiritual food for thought. Also willing to come help fill our pulpit and rightly divide the Word was Bro. Jeff Neihouser and Sis. Sue (Francesville, IN). The young group spent an evening together with our Elder Bro. Bill

Schlatter leading their Bible Study. We so appreciate the custom of the Apostolic ministers visiting other churches. It is a blessing for all of us.

Bro. Glenn Price is able to assemble with us again. It was a special birthday for him when one Sunday his three sons and a son-in-law could sit with him. Even though Bro. Glenn Jr. (Sarasota) has retired from the ministry, it was so nice to have him and Sis. Sandy with us.

Sis. Edna Lehman is also able to be in church after having some surgery. She will need some kind of treatment. She feels our prayers and her faith and trust in God have given her such a positive attitude. She's a special Sister. Not having a family of her own, she has taught so many children in Sunday School and many nieces and nephews about the love of God.

Bro. Arthur Haab has had many falls lately and at this time, he is at Lakeland Rehabilitation Care Center. The many dedicated workers there say he is one of the few always smiling residents. May God richly bless the caregivers throughout the world.

With all the preparations for Christmas, I want to remind myself and everyone to not take Christ out of Christmas. May it be a blessed holy season as we teach our children and grandchildren about the birth of Christ.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Rochelle Ward
Beth Virkler**

Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) exhorted us so timely during our annual Memorandum on November 15. Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) also shared this Sunday worship with us.

Much of the current news wants to grip our hearts in fear. This holiday season, let us ponder the similarity of our nation's spiritual and political temperature to the climate that Jesus was born into.

SOME THOUGHTS ON CHRISTMAS

A Square, Honest Look

The people were being heavily taxed, and faced every prospect of a sharp increase to cover expanding military expenses.

The threat of world domination by a cruel, ungodly, power-intoxicated band of men was ever just below the threshold of consciousness.

Moral deterioration had corrupted the upper levels of society and was moving rapidly into the broad base of the populace.

Peace propaganda was heard everywhere in the midst of preparations for war.

The latest rulers were covering the landscape with their statues and images, invoking a subtle form of state-worship.

Intense nationalistic feeling was clashing openly with new and sinister forms of imperialism.

Conformity was the spirit of the age.

Government handouts were being used with increasing lavishness to keep the population from rising up and throwing out the leaders.

Interest rates were spiraling upward in the midst of an inflated economy.

External religious observance was considered a political asset.

An abnormal emphasis was being placed upon sports and athletic competitions.

Social life centered around the banquet and the pool.

Racial tension was at the breaking point.

In such a time and amid such a people, a child was born to a migrant couple who had just signed up for a fresh round of taxation, and who were soon to become political exiles.

The child was called, among other things, Prince of Peace.

When He had grown up and had entered upon His ministry, He said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Let us continue to claim II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Samantha Gramm
Kara Beebe**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL) share the Word with us this past month.

How blessed we are to have a Saviour that came to us as the perfect Gift. May the peace and joy of Jesus Christ shine through us at this season.

Oh, glorious Name the angels
praise,
And ransomed saints adore,
The Name above all other names,
Our Refuge evermore.
The Wonderful! The Counsellor!
The great and mighty Lord!
The everlasting Prince of Peace!
The King, the Son of God!

Hymns of Christmas #24

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Edward Lester

Greetings of love and joy to all our brothers and sisters in Christ. Once again this harvest season of Thanksgiving is upon us. We pray that everyone would have the spirit of thankfulness in their hearts, not just during a certain time of the year, but continually as the Spirit guides you during your daily routine. Along with that thankfulness comes an open mind for giving and unselfishness. True qualities that Christ is working in your life. Harvest time is equated with reaping what you sow. Jesus did not feed all the people all the time though. He only gave some of the food to some of the people. Of course I'm talking about spiritual food. That is why Jesus talked in parables. The true harvest that we as Christians look forward to is not in a field. It is being allowed entry into the Kingdom of Heaven. Of course, today you don't have to decipher parables anymore to gain access to God. Just read His word and pray that He could enter your life.

If you are feeling like a mustard seed, don't worry, the mustard seed is one of the greatest herbs.

Valparaiso had our annual Harvest Supper this month along with our church potluck. We would like to thank visiting ministering Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) and the singing group that also attended from South Bend. We all had a wonderful fellowship and meal.

We would like to thank all who worshipped with us and may God guide you safely on your way until we meet again.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Diana Houston
Nettie Haab**

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Acts 22:16

"Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him."

Psalms 33:8

We stand in awe of the miraculous power of God's saving grace as we heard the testimony of Allen Furrer (Connie). We are so thankful that God's invitation is still being acknowledged, and that repentance, conversion and baptism is still a miracle we can witness yet today. We rejoice with Bro. Allen and his family.

Bro. Allen's father, John Furrer, also was able to give his testimony while in the hospital at Ft. Myers, FL, this past November. Bro. John then passed away a few days later. We extend our sympathy to the Furrer family, but also we are so thankful for his salvation.

We had a blessed Sunday with a visit from the Goodfield, IL, choir, blessing us with songs such as "Do you know my Jesus" and "Someone is Praying for You", along with great fellowship and a meal.

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton, IL), Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, La-

Crosse, IN), Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN).

It's been a blessing to have topics for the Purdue Group Bible Study (Defending the Faith). Recent topics have been: Creationism (Bro. Ron Kipfer, Bluffton North, IN), Absolute Truth (Bro. Kent Kloter, Goodfield, IL) and Worldviews (Bro. Fred Witzig, Indy, IN).

Note of Thanks:

Words are inadequate to express my deepest thanks to my family, church family and friends for showing me with cards, gifts and phone calls on my 90th birthday. A special thank you also to all who traveled from near and far to surprise me at the open house held in my honor. May God richly bless each of you for your deeds of love and kindness.

Bro. Les Meister

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Heidi Bahler
Luann Gerber

Ring the bells of Heaven!
There is joy today!

Our hearts are rejoicing since we heard that Stephanie Schwab (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari) started repenting! May God be ever near her as she turns her back on Satan and the world and turns her eyes upon Jesus. May we all be here holding her up in prayer and giving her the love and support of the church!

The Lord is as a King exalted
With wondrous might, and in the
sky
Has set His rainbow as a token
That grace and mercy now is nigh.
Therefore, ye nations, heed the

counsel,
His might and power recognize;
He'll change His wrath to grace
and favor
Give rest and peace in Paradise.
Zion's Harp #67, vs. 4

On Sunday, November 2, our friend John (Jack) Furrer was rejoicing from his hospital bed in Florida as his son, Allen, was baptized at our Lafayette, IN, church. Many from our congregation were there as Allen grew up in our Wolcott church. What a blessed weekend! That Thursday, November 6, John himself was baptized in a hospital near Ft. Myers, FL. Since John also grew up going to our church here in Wolcott, a couple brothers from our congregation were there for his baptism and were deeply touched when they walked out of the hospital and saw a rainbow. This song immediately came to their minds and they wept as they were reminded that God had kept His promise and another soul belonged to Him after many years of struggles. On Saturday, 1 ½ days later, God extended His grace and mercy to our dear Bro. John and he went Home to live eternally with His Saviour. His funeral was held here the following Monday. Our congregation weeps and rejoices with his family, Bro. Allen (Connie), Sis. Nancy Scott (Mike) and Rex (Jill) and several grandchildren. May they be comforted by the knowledge that they have more to go to Heaven for and God is always merciful!

We recently had our topical Bible Study with the Remington congregation and Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North) was here to share on the topic "God Never Sleeps". Bro. Bob had a lot of thought-provoking words and we thank him for the time he took to travel here and be with us.

Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, La-

fayette, IN) shared the pulpit here a couple of times this past month and we thank him. Bro. Neal grew up here and is always welcome to come "home".

On Sunday, November 16, the Conference report was shared with our congregation. Along with our own Bro. Alfred, we had Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). We thank these dear brothers from the bottom of our hearts for all of the time they give to lead their flocks. May God bless them and their families.

Note of Thanks:

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all who held our family up in prayer to God during the time of our daughter's heart surgery. Takara's surgery was successful and her recovery was extremely quick. Your expressions of love and encouragement lightened the load.

Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Brenda Schulz

Greetings! We were thankful to have two visiting ministers with us this past month: Bros. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). May God bless them and their wives accordingly.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

Wonderful story of love
Tell it to me again.

May we look beyond all the decorations of Santa Claus, flying reindeer, little elves, and Christmas

trees, and be truly thankful that we have been taught and do know the true Christmas story and the meaning of this wonderful story of love. So sad, it is, that many children are being raised today never hearing the true Christmas story. May we not grow weary of hearing, and sharing this good news.

We are thankful little Joshua Fehr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Leona) is doing well following major surgery soon after his birth.

Our hearts are saddened as we bid farewell to Bro. Scott and Sis. Leona and family as they move from here to the West Bend church area. They will be greatly missed, as they both have made Elgin their home for many years. We trust they will return often to visit.

We'll catch the broken threads
again,
And finish what we here began;
Heaven will the mysteries explain,
And then, ah then, we'll understand.

We have two young men, from here, in the service of our country. May we remember them in our prayers and with mail at this Christmas season. They are: Jack Hanson (Albert and Trudy) and Aaron Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy).

Jack Hanson
PSC 824 Box 468
FPO, AE 09623-0468

SPC, Butikofer, Aaron, M.I.
South Camp (COA) TF 1-133 IN
Unit 3153 APO AE 09833

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

Strains of Christmas carols float
on the crisp December evening,

while inside the family gathers round the fireplace. This might be considered the perfect Christmas scene, but without the birth of the Christ Child, there would be no Christmas celebrations. This holiday season, remember to celebrate our salvation, the most important gift of all.

We received a spiritual gift when a group from Cissna Park, IL, visited us and ministered in songs of praise and worship. It is a precious blessing when brothers and sisters are willing to use their God-given talents to bring music to the hearts of others.

Brothers who have shared God's Word and Christian fellowship with us the past month include Bros. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). We are so thankful for their support and labors of love.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

We rejoice with our new Sis. Erica Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa, West Bend, IA) as she was baptized and welcomed into the fold of God's family.

We want to thank Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) for helping Bro. Joe on a recent Sunday. We appreciate his willingness to give of himself on our behalf.

We want to remember Sis. Eunice Feller in our prayers. She is home again after a short hospital stay.

Congratulations to Heidi Landherr (Ron and Audrey) and Mendi Sauder (Bro. Andy and Sis. Jayne, Morton, IL) on graduating from college. We wish you both God's blessings and wisdom as you seek and begin new jobs.

God's plan fulfilled as He had
willed,
Then came the Christ on earth.
What glorious sight in that dark
night
The wise men came to see.

This story sweet I would repeat
And praise Him with my voice.
For he who finds Christ's peace of
mind,
He cannot but rejoice.

Let's keep in mind the joy and
peace of the season as we celebrate
our Lord's birth.

IOWA, LESTER Dawn Knobloch Dawn Metzger

We were blessed to have Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) with us to share God's Word. We thank him and pray God's grace will continue to be with him.

Spending time in the hospital this past month were Sis. Iola Knobloch, Sis. Mariann Metzger (Bro. Elmer), Sis. Emily Leuthold (Bro. Arthur) and Sis. Sheryl Knobloch (Bro. Larry). We are thankful each one is feeling better and is back home.

We were saddened to hear of Bro. Dave Teubel's sudden illness and death. Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline and their boys lived among us and worshipped with us for many years before moving to the Peoria, IL area. We share our sympathy with his family at this time. Grieving his loss in our congregation is his mother-in-law, Sis. Emma Gerber, along with Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Gerber, Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma Gerber, Bro. John and Sis. Donna Gerber and Jim and Marlene Gerber.

Kendon Martin was welcomed into the lives of Bro. Marty and Sis. Martha Knobloch on November 1.

Riley and Kary Ann are his excited siblings. Kendon's grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger and Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Sis. Zelma Knoblock is his great-grandmother.

We've had three engagements shared with us this past month. Our prayer is God's blessings and direction will be with each couple as they plan for their married lives. On November 9 the betrothal of Bro. Micah Gherian and Sis. Marcy Van Wyhe was announced. Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe and Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian (Junction, OH) are their parents. Ethan Metzger and Trixie Moser are engaged to be married. Parents of this couple are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary Metzger and Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser. Paula Bosch and Joe Johnson have also shared their engagement. Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam Bosch are Paula's parents.

Brian Reuter, formerly from Morris, MN, has begun employment in our area. We welcome him and look forward to have him amongst us.

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14

Note of Thanks:

We sincerely wish to thank you all for the beautiful cards, gifts and good wishes we received for our 50th anniversary. We appreciate them all. God bless you.

Bro. John and Sis. Donna Gerber

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Rosalie Wiegand
Sharla Wiegand

Our congregation has felt the loss of two dear sisters in faith. Sis. Verna Rocke, 87, will be deeply missed as she passed from this life and was relieved of her earthly suffering on October 19. Our sympathy goes out to the families of her daughters, Doris Kuntz (Jerry) and Annette Massner (Harold) of Burlington, IA; Carol Miller (Terry) of Mount Union, IA; her son-in-law, Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth Metzger of West Bend, IA; and her sisters, Sis. Hilda Gerst, Oakville, IA, Sis. Marie Kaufman and Sis. Wilma Wiedman; and her brothers, Bro. Melvin Steiner and Ivan Steiner, all of Morton, IL.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Tillie Gerst, 90, who spent her last years at Prairie Ridge Care Center in Mediapolis, IA, before leaving this life for her Heavenly Home on November 11. She will be missed by her sisters-in-law, Sis. Hilda Gerst and Sis. Elva Gerst, Oakville, IA, and many nieces and nephews.

Our prayers are with Bro. John and Sis. Ursel Barth as they mourn the loss of their daughter, Carol Ditmars, 56, of Muscatine, having lost a long battle with cancer.

Bro. Clyde and Frances Grimm recently moved into an assisted living complex in Centerville, IA, to be near their daughters. May they feel the prayers of those they love as they adjust to their new home.

A precious son, Lucas Matthew, was born to Matt and Sis. Aimee Wagenbach on November 12. Excited older sisters are Lydia and Elise along with grandparents, Bro. Jerry Sr. and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Craig and Ruth Shafer (Mediapolis) and Jeff and Becky Wrage (Gladbrook), and great-grandparents, Bro. Clem and Sis. Kate Heiniger.

The Oakville and Burlington single groups recently hosted company from Eureka and Chicago, IL, Winthrop and Minneapolis, MN, and Bay City, MI, for a very uplifting and blessed weekend.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN). We thank them for being willing to lend themselves in the service of the Lord.

We are very thankful for the safe return of our Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall after two weeks in Romania and the Ukraine to oversee self-help projects in place there.

IOWA, PULASKI **Katrina Knobloch**

How happy when relieved we'll be
 From toils and cares of mind
 And in that holy land so free
 Eternal rest we'll find.

The Holy Land,
Hymns of Zion #224

Bro. Albert Wuthrich, age 103, was called Home on October 26. He leaves behind four sons, Bro. Robert, Bro. Russell (Sis. Karoline) and Bro. Joel (Sis. Shirley), all of Pulaski, and Bro. Bill (Eureka, IL); three daughters, Sis. Lois Sutter (Bro. James, Taylor, MO), Sis. Delores Kiefer (Oakville, IA) and Sis. Mary Gramm (Bro. John, Gridley, IL) and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. We extend our sympathy as they adjust to his absence, but we know that they are thankful that he could go Home.

Our prayers go out to our loved ones who have had surgery in the past days, Joe Dean Wells (Georgia) and Roy Metzger (Sis. Evelyn). May He watch over them in the days

ahead.

Once again we are thankful for visiting ministers who have come to share God's Word with us. A special thanks to Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) and to Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL).

IOWA, WEST BEND
Berniece Banwart
Lori Skoglund

Blessings were abundant on the last weekend in October when Erica Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa) and Charles (Sis. Trela) Wirtz became our sister and brother in faith. We especially appreciated Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) traveling to share in the responsibilities of baptism and for the words of truth he spoke. Also sharing ministering duties that weekend were Bros. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA), Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), and Mike Rinckenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL). The heartfelt experiences the converts shared in their testimonies are evidence that God continues to give grace to those who humbly seek Him.

Other visiting ministers have been Bros. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA), Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diane, Iowa City, IA) and Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville, IA). Surely God will bless them for their willingness to serve.

Bro. Denton and Sis. Rose Knobloch welcomed Dawson Marvin into their family circle on October 23. Siblings, Calla, Dalton and Dexter, along with grandparents, Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Lester, IA), will give him much love.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lonnie Fehr, Taylor, Adam and Leah are excited

about the arrival of Benson Silas on October 31. His loving grandparents, Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Glenagene Fehr, live nearby and can lend a helpful hand when needed. May God grant these parents wisdom to teach these little ones in His ways.

Sis. Francis Zaugg was hospitalized several days and then spent some time in the Care Center following an injury to her leg. She is now recuperating at home. Sis. Edna I. Banwart, Sis. Joyce Banwart and Sis. Clara Anliker were overnight hospital patients and are thankful to be home again.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Leona Fehr and their four children have recently moved to our area from Elgin, IA. We hope they feel our support and the love of like-minded brethren as they make the many adjustments that come with such a change.

*If There Had Never
 Been A Christmas*

If there had never been a Christmas
 Or the Holy Christ Child's birth,
 Or the angels singing in the sky
 Of promised "Peace on Earth".
 What would the world be like today
 With no Eternal Goal?
 What would the temporal body be
 Without a living soul?
 Just what would give us courage
 To push on when hope is dead
 Except the Christmas message
 And the words our Father said,
 "In love I send My only Son
 To live and die for you,
 And through His resurrection
 You will gain a new life, too."

-Helen Steiner Rice

JAPAN, SHIODA
Eiko Nozawa

Our annual Fall Fellowship meeting (Shuyokai we call it) was held on November 3. Tokyo church willingly opened the door for the meeting. We were so grateful for their kindness. Since Shioda Church was in charge, we took lunch and snacks with us. It was such a blessing to spend a day again with brothers and sisters and friends in faith. The theme was "Benefits of being a Christian".

This "one heart in the Lord" is obviously one of the many benefits.

Trees and bushes in the church yard are being pruned. It's always a big project in the late fall, hiring someone professional or even semipro. When this is done, winter begins or is already here.

May God bless you.

JAPAN, TOKYO
Jana Klaus

Greetings of love from Tokyo. After a fairly long absence, I am back to writing again. I sure appreciated Sis. Marie's willingness to fill in for me. Our family is very thankful to God for safe traveling and for a very blessed and refreshing stay in America.

Thank you to all prayed for us and showed such kindness, especially after baby Charity was born and when our older children attended our little church school, Heartland Private School, near Bradford.

We just praise God for how He provides for us. Sis. Melody Klaus (Bro. Andrew's sister from Washington, IL) traveled back with us to lend her much needed help and was also able to worship and fellowship with the dear ones at Tokyo church.

Sunday, October 26, was an extra blessed day as we shared Holy Communion and were once again vividly reminded of our precious Lord's suffering for all people. Elder Bro. Willis

and Sis. Lois Ehnle from the Shioda church joined us to lend their service and support. They soon returned again, this time with a carload, as on November 3, (a national holiday, Culture Day) Shioda church hosted our fall fellowship meeting at our Tokyo church — since Tokyo now has a beautiful and spacious facility and because of traffic reasons, we did it this way.

The theme was “What kind of blessings and joys does God bestow upon you because you are a Christian.” It was encouraging to hear various testimonies of how the Lord works in each one’s heart. And, as always, we enjoyed an uplifting time of singing and fellowship. A special thank you to our Shioda brethren for a delicious and beautifully arranged lunch.

Believed to be another provision from the Lord, a friend of an acquaintance has come to help out the Bro. Andrew Klaus family for 5 weeks. Paige Leabee from Pennsylvania is 19 years old, the fourth child in a family of 11, 5 of whom were adopted. She is one of the 5, born in Seoul, Korea, and adopted as a baby. Paige has been a real blessing, truly showing a servant heart and expressing thanks for the opportunity to visit an Asian country.

Recently, I received the prayer/poem below in an e-mail and thought it was well worth sharing. (The author’s name was not given.)

What shall I do today, Lord?
Where am I needed, Dear Father today?
What loving words does Thou want me to say?
What kindly deeds would Thou have me to do?
What lives will I touch, before the day is through?
Show me Thy perfect will -

Teach me Thy way -
What is Thy plan for my life,
Lord, today?

KANSAS, BERN
Lori Baumgartner
Sally Strahm

As the Christmas season is quickly approaching, our thoughts turn back to that old, old story of our Lord’s humble birth. I am always touched when I picture Joseph and Mary, riding into the crowded city of Bethlehem, and finding no room at the inn. Unbeknownst to those around, she was actually carrying the Son of God inside of her. Soon the Saviour of all mankind was about to be born, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. Because of Christ’s humble birth, because He lived on this earth, and because He shed His blood on the cross, we have access to the “gift of eternal life”. If we have taken advantage of this free gift, we, like Mary, can walk through the hustle and bustle of life carrying the peace of our Lord inside of us. We cannot carry Him around in the flesh as Mary did, but we can have His Holy Spirit with us at all times. What a beautiful haven our Father has provided for us. Let us give thanks for Jesus Christ, our Christmas gift.

We rejoice with those who have recently taken advantage of the gift of Christ’s cleansing blood. Bethany Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona) and Derek Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane) gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of November 15-16. May we each do our part to encourage them as they begin their walk in the body of Christ.

The visiting ministers worshipping with us during the past month were Bros. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky,

Lester, IA), Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS), Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS). We thank each brother for their willing service on our behalf.

Spending time in the hospital during the past month were Sis. Gerty Esslinger (Bro. Dennis) and Bro. Harlan Stoller. We are thankful that they are out and worshipping with us again.

On October 19, our congregation held its annual fall picnic and singing. It is always so heartwarming to see the young and old alike gathered around a warm fire singing songs of worship to our Lord. We thank those who took the time to organize this enjoyable event.

We wish God’s blessings and guidance to Sis. Leann Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie) who will be graduating from Kansas University this semester.

On December 3, our mid-week services with the Sabetha congregation are scheduled to begin. This will replace our Sunday evening song services. We welcome any visitors in the area to stop and worship with us.

As the year 2003 draws to a close, we can look back and be thankful for so many things. God has brought us safely through another year, His door of grace remains wide open and the true Word of God is still heard from our pulpit. We wish to thank our home ministers who through the Holy Spirit continue to preach the gospel of God’s saving grace Sunday after Sunday. We wish to thank each faithful brother and sister who continues to pray and serve wherever there is a need. And we wish to thank each friend who has chosen to assemble with us. May each one of us strive to lift up, help, and encourage each

other as we continue to work toward our heavenly goal.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Ruth Bahr

Two were hospitalized this past month. Megan Byler (Tom and Sis. Janet) is home again doing well. Sis. Aleta Banwart (Bro. Don) is also home. We are thankful for their healing. Sis. Aleta expressed that she felt her good physical recovery was due to the many prayers in her behalf.

The Conference letter was read and expounded on by Elder Bros. Dennis Warner and John Lehman. The Elder body pleads for our support as they consider God's Word.

Other ministers who brought many good teachings were Bros. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN).

KANSAS, KIOWA
Laura Wagenbach
Jennifer Stewart

On November 28, the family of Bro. Elmer Tanner celebrated his 100th birthday with an open house extended to family and friends.

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice Bahr as their daughter, Chelsea, has made the choice to turn her life over to God. Our prayers are with her as she begins her walk with God.

Our prayers have been with Bethany Hamilton (Sis. Sandra Hamilton) as she begins new treatments for a medical disorder.

Our congratulations goes to Sis. Mildred Farney in the recent wed-

ding of her granddaughter, Megan Farney, to Craig Rucker. Megan is the daughter of Sheryl Farney and the late John Farney.

Our recent hospital patients have been Sis. Mildred Farney and prayers go with Sis. Marie Tucker as she contemplates back surgery.

We here in the Kiowa congregation would like to extend wishes for a blessed holiday season.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr

Bro. Lloyd Luthi had surgery October 27 for a melanoma on his back. We are thankful it was not aggressive.

Visiting ministering Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) came "home" for the first time as a minister with Sis. Jodi, Harrison and new baby Landon's first visit at his grandparents, Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene. What a blessing to have seen baby Cory grow up, help us on the farm, go on to college, establish a Christian family and now share the Lord's messages.

We appreciate and thank Elder Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Sandra Luthi and family (Lamar, MO) for coming to help Bro. Tim this past Sunday. He touched a bit on "comparison". I recall years ago hearing a young sister remarking they were the only ones in their church that didn't have carpet in their upstairs. Media advertising is everywhere telling us we need new cars, better homes, name brand clothing, etc. Would that the emphasis be on needing time for our families and Jesus.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Jeanelle Plattner

We would like to find the owner of a ladies coat that has been left in our church. It is a 10P, double breasted, long black coat by Valerie Stevens Petites. If it is your coat, please contact one of our ministers and they will see that it is forwarded to you.

Sis. Leona Grimm passed away on October 22. Our sympathy is extended to her family including her brother, Bro. Carl Strahm and wife, Sis. Sharon, and family.

We welcome Sis. Erika Szabo from Budapest, Hungary who is living in the home of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm for a year while she studies our English language. We hope she'll find it a blessing to be with us and take back many precious memories.

Sis. Brooke Huber (Bro. Gordan and Sis. Sharlyn) is currently traveling with Sis. Tamra Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan, Bern) in Germany and Hungary visiting some of our churches. They are receiving college learning credit over a six week period. May God continue to protect and safely guide them home on December 18.

The November potluck committee hosted a Thanksgiving supper for the entire church on November 14. We are thankful for the work put forth for this feast.

Faith is the victory ... no matter the season of the year, trials and tribulations don't go on vacation just because it may seem like they should. For those who find themselves in this circumstance, may they take strength in the promise, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28). God knows our needs better than we know them ourselves.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

By the time this article is published, Thanksgiving Day will be past and preparing for the Christmas season will be foremost in our thoughts. Last Sunday, November 9, Bro. Max Reimschisel closed our afternoon service by reading our first president's Thanksgiving Proclamation. Thanksgiving proclamations started with Governor William Bradford's decree in 1623 when he declared that a three day feast be held and set aside a day for the special purpose of prayer as well as celebration. Gradually, the custom of Thanksgiving Day spread from Plymouth to the other New England colonies. President George Washington issued a general proclamation that November 26, 1789, should be set aside as a day of thanks. Still there was no regular National Thanksgiving Day in the United States until 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln formally proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a "day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father".

A sister-in-faith asked me if I had read his prayer. I had not, so I researched the subject and found that on March 30, 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation appointing a national day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer. He urged citizens to confess their sins and transgressions in hopes that genuine repentance would lead to mercy and pardon. He noted that "we had been recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven ... wealth and power ... but we have forgotten God. Because of our past successes, we have become too self sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then, to

humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness." The president's hope was that "the united cry of the Nation would be heard on high, and answered with the blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering country."

My conclusion is that these words are appropriate for 2003 as well.

(quoted material is taken from Encyclopedia Britannica, 2003)

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Claudia Gonzalez

As we see God's power in everything He has created, we can just be thankful. Even though we are in the fall, trees are still green but the fields are ready for the harvest. The landscape is wonderful.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Adela Chavez whose son, Gabriel Chavez from Los Angeles, California, passed away. Our prayers are with her and her family that the Lord will strengthen them in this time of sorrow.

"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."

Acts 6:3

Gratitude is an indication of spiritual growth and the brothers from the Ixtlan church wanted to show their thankfulness to the Lord for all His benefits by assuming more responsibility for the physical aspects of the church. We had our first election of trustees and Bro. Mario Cabrera, Bro. Javier Gonzalez, and Bro. Efrain Cabrera are serving as a committee. We are so appreciative

for their willingness to serve the Lord in this way.

Meet Sis. Ana and Bro. Efrain Cabrera:

Ana's parents are Sis. Leticia and Marcelino Campos. Efrain's parents are Sis. Guadalupe and Salvador Cabrera. Ana started coming to church for VBS when she was 12 years old as her mother was a member of the little church at that time. She didn't have much interest in God's work, but VBS teachings would help her to believe and give her life to Christ later. In March of 1999, Ana married Efrain Cabrera who had also heard of God's work through his sister (Sis. Rosa Cabrera) but he refused to come to church. To submit to her husband, Ana quit coming to church. The time came when they were first time parents. Little David was born in February of 2001. They were encouraged to come to church many times by their family and friends. Finally Efrain decided to come to church and see what people in there did and what they talked about. With God's grace, Ana and Efrain started to attend church together and the Holy Spirit began His good work in their lives. They were convinced that they were wrong and that they had to change their lives to be a good example for little David.

In May of 2002, Ana and Efrain started repenting. "At the beginning it was hard to leave our old life-style," they said. After giving their testimonies, Ana and Efrain were baptized on October 27, 2002. Their wish now is that their son learns to fear and love God from his childhood.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Rose Watson

Terri Huber

God is good. Our small congregation is uplifted once again as two souls expressed their desire to repent. Megan Pardo (Jack and Sis. Laura) and Xieanne Koehl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Kim) have turned their hearts and lives to serve our Lord.

Home and recovering are Loren Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne), hospitalized after falling off a grain bin ladder, and Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen) after surgery. Also at home after hospitalization for heart troubles is Sis. Christine Wingeier. Our prayers have been fervently and often submitted for healing and comfort for her and Sis. Margaret as their mortal bodies begin to fail.

We appreciated having Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) preach on a Wednesday evening when they came to visit Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian Feldman last month.

There have been several World Relief work projects lately. Young group and family work nights have produced nativity scenes for sick children, school bags for Haitian children, and Christmas gift boxes for children all around the world. We are so glad to have these opportunities to share of our bounty and to help others.

On November 15, all of the women in our Alto congregation that attended the Secret Pals holiday luncheon enjoyed the surprises and fellowship, and all agreed that we appreciate the thoughts and encouragement received throughout the year from our unknown partners.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

In sorrow and pain
 Thy trust do retain
 In Jesus the merciful Saviour.

When burdened with care,
 When thou wouldst despair,
 Then call on thy loving Redeemer.

He'll lighten the load,
 And level the road
 And bear thee on hands of compassion.

Zion's Harp #46

Again this month we have many dear ones who have been sick or hospitalized. Bro. Norman (Sis. Leanore) Knochel, Gerald (Sis. Edie) Meier, Bro. Earl Ramseyer, Bro. Andrew (Sis. Maxine) Virkler and Clyde Wackerle have each spent time under physician's care. We pray that the Chief Physician will be with each one and that His will would be accomplished in their lives.

Our dear Sis. Loretta Mosher went to be with the Lord on November 14. We pray that God's comforting hand will be with her surviving family. We especially want to remember her husband of 69 years, Bro. Windsor, and her children, Ken (Shirley, Auburn, MI), Sis. Marlene Mosher, and Bro. Neil (Sis. Ginger). She had four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. We also want to remember her sister, Sis. Neola (Bro. Byron) Nussbaum of Fairbury, IL, during this time.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Wieland are great-grandparents once again. Alayna Jane was born to Jerry and Tiffany Kondracuik on October 10. Tiffany is the daughter of Mark and Joy Wieland of Livonia. Also in October, Aiden Charles was born to Max and Jennifer Westphal. Max is the son of Chuck and Marilyn (Wieland) Westphal of Bay City. May each of these little ones grow in the nurture

and admonition of the Lord.

As we enter the Christmas season, we pray that everyone would take the time to remember the true reason why we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May we all strive to continue to serve Him with all of our hearts.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Jamie Bahr

Krista Wieland

We would like to welcome Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi Strassheim and their son, Tatton, from California as they have moved here. We are glad to have you!

People who have been hospitalized earlier this month are Sis. Mary Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell) and Bro. Willard Bahr (Sis. Eloise, Bern, KS). We are thankful both of them have returned home. Currently hospitalized is Sis. Ella Schlatter; let us remember her in our prayers.

November 1-2 we had a nice weekend with several visiting young groups along with visiting ministering Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). We would like to thank all of you for coming. May God bless you!

We want to acknowledge and thank God for His presence felt during the choir cd/tape recording this past weekend.

This past Sunday was the annual Thanksgiving dinner for the residents and their families at Woodhaven and Woodpointe. There was a good attendance of family members. We are again reminded that God has blessed this facility and those who live and work there, and we are thankful.

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Diane Stewart

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA) and Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), sharing "God deals with us in mercy". Retired Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL) graced us with timely visits, sharing "Teach us not, Lord, to ask for more but to be thankful for what we have; be still and know that I am God; we are not held accountable for more than we are given; be honest with ourselves; as far as the east is from the west, God will remove our iniquities."

Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN) and Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) spent a weekend exhorting us from the Memorandum. God bless each of these brothers.

Bro. Doug Bergstrom (Sis. Connie) underwent a balloon angioplasty. We're thankful to have him on the mend again. Sis. Millie Schmidgall spent some time in the hospital and nursing care home. Our prayers are with her.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Clarence Messner who passed away recently. Clarence has three children, Scott, Van and Kathy; two sisters, Sis. Mabel Schmidgall and Florence Gutnecht; and one brother, Earl.

In closing come the beautiful words Proverbs 20:27, brought to us recently by our local ministers, "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord."

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Rachael Kent wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, support and acts of kindness and love during her illness and death.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Cheryl Messner
Katie Koehl**

We are thankful that Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) ministered God's Word to us. We trust God will bless Him for his many labors of love.

How gentle God's command!
How kind His precepts are!
Come, cast your burden on the
Lord,
And trust His constant care.

Hymns of Zion #9

We are so thankful Blaine Koehl has found grace to repent. We trust that through God's Spirit and grace, he will feel His presence as he takes this most important step in his life. Parents are Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl.

Dave and Alison Schmidgall are happy first-time parents on October 25 to Faith Maree. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Bev Minke and Doug and Pat Schmidgall.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Marilyn Messner
Ginny Stoll**

Ailyna Elizabeth arrived October 25 making Nicole and Allan Fettig first-time parents. Thankful grandparents are Tom and Maggie Miller and Bob and Vicky Fettig (Fargo, ND).

The Bible classes worked diligently to prepare and serve the annual 55 and over supper, making it a joyous success. May their hearts remain open to serving others.

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) assembled with us to assist Elder Bro. Leroy Messner in reading the Memorandum. The same weekend Bro. Paul Dimiter (Martha, West Bend, IA) shared a slide presentation of the recent Eastern Europe trip to dedi-

cate a church there. We thank them for their willingness to share with us. We are so thankful we live in a country where we can gather freely with like mind and heart.

We wish to extend sympathy and prayer for the family of Sis. Rachael Kent (Darcy). Parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt and David and Jean Kent. May God bless and comfort them in this difficult time.

Our medical and hospital patients were Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce), Sis. Julia Messner and Marlin Braulich (Sis. Becky). May God watch over them and grant them healing.

**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey**

We are so thankful for those who labor in the vineyard, proclaiming God's Word. Recent visiting ministers were Bros. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan) and Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara) of Lamont-Gridley, KS.

Recently, most of the congregation gathered together for the annual wiener roast at Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger's home. As always, it was a time of good fellowship, eating and hymn singing—a little foretaste of Heaven. Our thanks to the Kellenberger family for hosting this event.

"...suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for such is the kingdom of God."

Mark 10:1

We welcome the newest addition to our church family, Kaeley Raegan, daughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Stephanie Young. Besides big sisters, Bethany and Sierra, thankful grandparents are Sis. Kate Young (Cissna Park, IL), Harvey

Young, Carmen Butte (Dunlap) and Tom Challacombe (Dunlap). May God bless this family.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Wendy Braker
Becky Marti**

On October 19, Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) was here to assist in reading the Memorandum. Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) also visited this month. We appreciate their willingness to be used in the Lord's service. May He bless them.

Bro. Leonard (Sis. Bonnie) Braker spent a short time in the hospital. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Betsy Schrenk
Krista Banwart**

Visiting ministers were Bros. Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marge, Taylor, MO), Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie, Morton, IL), Gary Tonner (Sis. Diann, Bluffton, IN) and John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA). We thank the ministers for being willing servants, and each visitor who made the effort to worship with us. We were richly blessed.

We were privileged to have brothers and sisters from Bluffton and Bluffton North with us the weekend of November 15-16 to help with a roofing project. Mary, a local woman on a fixed income whom we have assisted in times past, was especially grateful they came to meet her need for a new roof. The old roof was removed on Friday and the crew began early on Saturday morning putting on the new one. They worked until about 8:00 p.m., using lights, to get the job done. A tired crew enjoyed a late dinner at the church that night.

The weekend was a good reminder to our small group, that though we are individuals, working together as the body of Christ, Christ can use us to accomplish seemingly big tasks for Him.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Susan Haerr

Our sincere sympathy and prayers are with the family of Bro. James and Sis. Lois Sutter at the passing of Sis. Lois' dad, Bro. Albert Wuthrich, of Pulaski, IA. May God continue to bless and comfort you as you remember him.

Among those receiving medical attention in the last month are Bro. Louis Hoerr (Sis. Ruthie) and Sis. Ellen Gehring (Bro. Brad). We hope that God completely heals you according to His will.

On November 9, we were blessed to be a part of the wedding of Sis. Jackie Heimer (Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan) to Bro. Jay Braker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge, Roanoke, IL). Serving us for the Saturday evening devotion and prayer was Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL). Blessing us from the pulpit on Sunday were Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Sis. Beverly, Detroit, MI) and Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) and our own Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan). Also joining us for the day was Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Bros. Steve Baner (Sis. Donna, Gridley, IL), Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) and Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL). Bro. Jay and Sis. Jackie, we wish you many years of blessings as you serve God together. We love you and hope to see you at home often!

God bless each of you during this special Christmas season. May the miracle of Christ's birth continue to be the reason for awe and joy as you celebrate.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) with us on the weekend of November 15-16. We are thankful to the Lord each time we have visitors among us and enjoyed blending our voices together in song on Saturday evening. May the Lord richly bless Bro. Duane for bringing forth the Living Word to us.

We were again reminded how important prayer is as our dear Sis. Polly Farney underwent surgery on November 11. We are thankful that she had a good report and is now home recovering. Our prayers continue to be with Polly Peebles who is now home on hospice and Bro. Kenny Farney who is now a resident of the Extended Care at Lowville Hospital. May they both feel the Lord's presence with them at this time and throughout the days ahead.

Our thoughts and prayers traveled out to the Regional Conference with the Elder brethren as they met together in Sardis, OH. We are thankful that the Lord is ever faithful and did return Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney safely home.

The Lord, He is my shepherd true,
Who leadeth me securely.
On pleasant pastures to and fro
With joys and blessings surely.
He leads me to the fount of life,
My soul to comfort and revive.

Zion's Harp #116

Our sympathy goes out to Sis.

Polly Farney and family in the loss of her twin brother, Peter Hawk. May they feel the comfort of the Lord upon them at this time.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

The wedding of Sis. Melissa Cannone and Bro. Stanley Katanic was October 19. Parents of the newlyweds are Dan and Jean Cannone and Maria Katanic. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn) gave us inspiring messages. Bro. Stanley has been working in Indianapolis and they will be making their home there at this time. We wish them God's blessings always.

Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) blessed us with visiting us the weekend of October 25-26 and Bro. Don assisted in sharing with us the Memorandum.

Bro. John Palitto passed away November 2. His wife, Sis. Martha, survives, along with all their children: ministering Bro. Ronald (Lynell), Bro. Mark (Deborah), Sis. Carolyn (Randall) Miller, and Patricia (David) Kutcher; 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Bro. John reached the fourscore years, had his family all near, was one of our oldest brothers and was the first to be laid to rest in our new cemetery by our church building.

Sis. Barbara Graf (Bro. David) and Sis. Evelyn Baumgartner (Bro. Richard) are home from being hospitalized. We wish for each a speedy recovery.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks

We sincerely thank our visiting ministers who shared God's precious Word with us this month. Will-

ing servants were Bros. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH).

Members and friends working hand-in-hand helping others was evident as World Relief night and our annual fall clean-up took place. So much can be accomplished when we work together with willing spirits and loving hearts.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter

Our Bro. Doug Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila) and Sis. Heidi Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie) of Mansfield became one in the Lord on October 19. We wish them God's richest blessing as they begin their pathway of life together. We want to welcome Sis. Heidi to our congregation!

November 9 was the wedding day for Bro. Chad Manz (Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Loral Schlatter (Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine). May God be with this dear couple as they begin their lives together. We appreciated the many visitors that gathered with us and extend a special thank you to the visiting ministers, Bro. Larry Wenninger, Bro. Dwight Stoller and Bro. Todd Stoller from Latty, OH.

Sis. Gwen Manz (Bro. Ken) had surgery and spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful God's healing hand has touched her and she is back assembling with us again. What an amazing God it is that we serve and daily strive to live for.

We rejoice with Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian as their son, Bro. Micah (Lester, IA), was announced to Sis. Marcy Van Wyhe (Bro. Peter and Sis. Susan), also of Lester, IA.

We trust God will be with them in their planning.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Steffen
Bonny Wenninger

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

As you are reading this article, we are between holidays. Let us praise God with thanksgiving for sending us His Son!

We were blessed to host the Mortonaires here the weekend of October 25-26. A special thank you to the group for coming to sing and for visiting us. Visiting ministers that same weekend were Bros. Bob Pfloderer (Sis. Eleanor, Morton, IL) and Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA).

The weekend of November 1-2 was Memorandum for our congregation. This was our Elder Bro. John Laukhuf's first time doing this and he had the help of Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN). How good it was to hear encouragement and also areas to improve.

Jeremy and Mandy Whitman became the thankful parents of a son, Landyn Curtis, born on October 15. His big sister, Lydia, welcomes him at home. His grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman of Latty and Dave and MaryLou Pitney of Continental, OH. Also, Mark and Laura Spangler had their fourth child, a son, born on November 4. Welcoming Clint Jacob at home are Alisha, Luke and Grace. Clint's

grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor of Latty and Roger and Marie Spangler of Oakwood, OH.

Bro. Darl Stoller (Sis. Iva) and Sis. Dolores Grant (Bro. Tom) have been our surgical and hospital patients this past month. May God continue to heal them physically and grant them His grace.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

On October 19, many were gathered to witness the marriage of Sis. Heidi Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie) and Bro. Doug Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila, Junction, OH). We were thankful to have Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) share God's Word with us on this special day.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as another soul has turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray that God will continue to encourage Bethany Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda) as she seeks to do His will.

Our annual Fall Outing at the Richland Rural Life Center was on October 26. Thanks to our Sunday School teachers for organizing this time of fellowship and fine food.

We were blessed by the visit of many brethren during "Invite a Friend Weekend" on November 1-2. Among the visitors were Bros. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS).

Also visiting us during this month was Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA). Bro. Wayne assisted our Elder Bro. Mark Masters in the reading of the Conference Memorandum. Thank you, Bro. Wayne, for ministering unto us.

Our medical patients were Bro.

Dave Eyerly (Sis. Edna), Sis. Henrietta Baumann (Bro. Adam) and Sis. Alice Graszl (Bro. Frank).

In this short time then patient be!
Tho' cares around thee throng,
Though cross and suffering cumber thee,
Though cross and suffering cumber thee,
Know this, 'twill not be long!
Hymns of Zion #260

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone both near and far who remembered me on my recent birthday and also during my illness. What a loving church family we have and how grateful we should be to have not only a faith to live by, but one to die by, when the Lord calls us Home. May the Lord richly bless all of you for your love and kindness.

Humbly, your least sister in Christ,
Lucille Groh

OHIO, RITTMAN

Anna Schar

Laurel Indermuhle

How shall it be when we at last returning
From weary wand'rings and from
toil and strife,
Shall reach the home for which
our heart is yearning
And enter into everlasting life?
When from our feet the dust of
earth has vanished,
The last sweat from our brow is
wiped away,
Our eyes behold what oft earth's
care has banished
And gave to us new courage on our
way.
Zion's Harp #146

On October 23, Sis. Ella Miller

(Glen) went from this earth to go to that eternal rest. Our prayers are with Glen and the family as they go through this time.

Those who have been in the hospital due to surgery or sickness have been Bro. Ralph Christian (Sis. Mid), Bro. Ernest Howell (Sis. Rowene) and Bro. Dave Steiner (Sis. Carol). Sis. Martha Dotterer (retired Elder Bro. Henry) is also still recovering in the hospital. We continue to keep each one in our prayers as they recover.

October 17 was the marriage of Myra Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat) to Mike Pierce (Dave and Peg). Corbin Beery (Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen) and Melissa Bowlby (Ken and Ginny) were united in marriage on October 18. May God be the center and guiding Light in each of these marriages.

Sabrina Ann was born on November 13 to Bro. Brad and Sis. Jody Widmer. Welcoming her as grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Carol Widmer and Randy and Sis. Bev Moore.

We want to extend our thanks to the visiting ministers that were with us this past month. Those who were with us were Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). May God bless them for their willingness to preach His Word.

OHIO, SARDIS

Terry Zollinger

Tearful sowing brings glad harvest
Where our Master's will is done,
When for Him, the Lord of harvest,
Through His Spirit fruits are
grown.
Love, humility and meekness,
Faith and patience, purity
Righteousness, although in weak-

ness,
Are here found in unity.
Zion's Harp #36

The annual fall fellowship with making of apple cider, cooking pork on a large grill, children's artistic projects and most of all, enjoying the loved ones coming to spend the day, even though it was cool, was on October 18. Appreciation is extended to all that labored and may the Lord bless each one for a wonderful day.

In sorrow and pain Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.
Zion's Harp #46

Sympathy and prayers go to Bro. Dennis Miller (Sis. Doris) and his family for the loss of his mother, Sis. Ella Miller (Glenn, Rittman, OH). May the Lord comfort each loved one as they sorrow and grieve.

Though merit and strength
We do not possess,
And honor and wealth
Our souls would distress;
In Thy name, Lord Jesus,
We'll ever abide,
And thus we say:
"Amen, The Lord will provide!"
Zion's Harp #86

Sis. Almeda Brake (John) had surgery and spent time in the hospital. She is currently in the New Martinsville Health Care Center for several weeks for rehabilitation. We are thankful she is doing well and hope she continues.

Thy Word, O Lord, forever is
The mirror where we see
Our faults and duties as they are,
Our likeness unto Thee.
His Word obey and warning take;
His wisdom will prevail
For if we know, and heed it not,

It is of no avail.
Zion's Harp #142

The regional Elders' meeting was held in Sardis on November 15. The Elders felt the prayers and the meeting went well. Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) was willing to stay Saturday evening to help our dear Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle read the Memorandum. May we take the chastisements with humble hearts and may the Lord bless Bro. Duane for his service of the reading of the Memorandum and the teaching of the Word on the Sabbath.

Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) were recent visitors who willingly did their part in working for the Lord from the pulpit. We are grateful for our visiting ministers.

Behold, O Jesus, we implore Thee,
Thy flock assemble now before
Thee,
That we may, Lord, Thy blessings find!
O raise Thy hand in heavenly blessing,
Thy Spirit true our hearts possessing;
Which makes us humble, meek and kind.
Thy peace shall flow upon our meeting;
The kiss of faith shall be our greeting,
When we are gathered by Thy side!
Should only two or three assemble
In Jesus' name, yet meek and humble,
His peace and love in us abide.
Zion's Harp #219

We would like to welcome Bro. Seth, Sis. Faith and their two precious daughters, Olivia and Greta Beard, to our congregation as they

have felt led to move from the Toledo area to Sardis. Surely, Toledo will miss them but we are thankful for the increase. May the Beards feel our love as they settle in their new home.

Why should ye all be weeping
and break my very heart?
We're in the Saviour's keeping
and shall not therefore part.
No time nor place can sever
the bond which us have bound;
In Christ abide forever,
who once in Him were found.
Zion's Harp #155

As another year ends and a new year begins, may we be faithful in prayer and our walk of life. May the Lord abide with each beloved in the year 2004 if it's His will to tarry.

Reminder: January is the month for the Silver Lining collection. May each one that feels moved to make the \$11 suggested donation, do so in the marked box in the lobby. If you have any changes, please inform Bro. Dana Indermuhle.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Alyssa Miller
Ruth Gasser

Oh wondrous Name, by prophets
heard long years before His
birth;
They saw Him coming from afar,
the Prince of Peace on earth.
Oh, precious Name, exalted high,
to Him all power is given,
Through Him we triumph over
sin, by Him we enter heaven.
The Wonderful! The Counsellor!
The Great and Mighty Lord!
The everlasting Prince of Peace!
The King, the Son of God!
Gospel Hymns #878

At this time of year, may our focus be on the Prince of Peace, as our Lord and Saviour, making Him the real reason for the season.

We are encouraged that souls have sought the Lord and have felt the peace of God as they surrendered to His leading. We wish God's grace to Tim Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky) and Jenna Older as they await the time when they give their testimonies. May they continue to grow in the Lord and feel His nearness.

Bro. Charles Nieman (Sis. Delphine) and Bro. Elmer Blough (Sis. Lorene) have felt the infirmities of the flesh and were hospitalized. Our prayers shall continue for them and for others who experience distress, some of which is known, and some unknown to us.

We extend our prayers of sympathy to the family of Bro. Larry Miller (Sis. Edith), whose mother, Sis. Ella Miller (Glenn, Rittman, OH), went to be with the Lord on October 23. May our Heavenly Father comfort and help to fill the void in her family.

We were sad to bid farewell to Bro. Andy and Sis. Valerie Dotterer as they have moved, making Forrest, IL, their home church. We wish them God's continued guidance, and His peace and blessing in their home.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Dee Beard

The blessed story of the Christ,
 The Babe of Bethlehem,
 Is worthy of our song and
 praise,
 And stirs the hearts of men.
 The fullness of God's love di-
 vine,
 Surrounds the Christ so mild
 Alas how many only know

The Saviour as a child.

Hymns of Zion #36, vs. 1

As we approach the holiday season and reflect upon the birth of Christ the child, may we also remember that He gave us His life for us.

On November 7 our congregation gathered for a farewell singing. We bid farewell to Bro. Seth and Sis. Faith Beard and Olivia and Greta who moved to Sardis this month. We also bid farewell to Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard. They will be moving to Sardis in December. As we say our farewells, may we find comfort in the Lord's will.

Blest be the tie that binds
 Our hearts in Christian love;
 The fellowship of kindred minds
 Is like to that above.

Hymns of Zion #156, vs. 1

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Colette Harmon (Bro. Howard). Our love and prayers go out to her and her family.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman). We appreciate his willingness to serve our congregation.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup

Our congregation recently held our annual Communion service. We appreciate the opportunity to be able to do so unhindered and in freedom. Our sincere gratitude to Elder Bros. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) and Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) for their efforts on our behalf and their support. May the Lord bless them for their willingness to give of themselves. It was a blessed day for all and we thank our visitors as well.

Visiting ministering brethren

this past month were Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer) from Silverton, OR. We thank them for bringing us the Word.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Kelsey Walder

On Saturday, October 18, our congregation was blessed to share the Lord's Supper together. How humbling it is to remember the Lord's suffering for our sins as we shared the bread and wine. Our thanks to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), for assisting our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) in the duties of the evening, and then for serving us also on the Lord's day.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them..."

Psalms 127: 3-5

Our congregation has been blessed by the arrival of three more infants. Harrison James was born on October 25 to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sarah Kuenzi. Also welcoming Harrison is his older brother, Remington. Grandparents are Stuart and Phyllis Martin and Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi. Little Rebekah Ruth was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Rick and Sis. Miriam Hoach on November 11. Big sister Victoria is happy to have a little sister. Grandparents are Raymond and Eileen Kuenzi and Jeff and Joyce Jensen. Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky Kuenzi welcomed Luke Aden on November 14. Excited to have a baby brother are older sisters, Kaitlin and Holly. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich and Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi.

Our prayers are with Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky and family as Luke was hospitalized extra days for respiratory difficulties. We are thankful he is home now. We desire the Lord's rich blessings and wisdom for each of these couples as they seek to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

We rejoice with our friend, Tim Hansen (Carol), as he confesses he has found peace with God and man. He has our loving prayers and support as he prepares for baptism.

We were thankful to have two additional visiting Elder brethren this month in Silverton: Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA).

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

**Nathan and
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

We were pleased to have the opportunity to do a World Relief work project in our congregation this month. Giving of our time and energy to help those in need is a blessing, and also affords us an opportunity to thank God for the abundance with which He has blessed us. May we continue to seek occasion to share this abundance with others, whether in our neighborhood or around the world.

We were blessed with many visitors again this month, and we especially thank Bro. Len Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) for sharing the Word with us.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder and the extended Sauder family, at

the passing of Bro. Don's sister, Sis. Peg Grasso (Bro. Frank, Mansfield, OH).

We rejoice that the Lord brought willing ministering brothers into our midst this past month to share His Word to us: Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL), and Bros. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO), Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA), and Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL). We have also been blessed by the fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Chicago, Congerville, Elgin, Fairbury, Forrest and Tremont, IL; Burlington, IA; Lamar, MO; and Junction and Columbus, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Sardis, OH (1/11); Gridley, IL (1/18); Rockville, CT (1/25); and Wolcott, IN (2/1). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for the three Sundays around Christmas and New Year's (12/21, 12/28, and 1/4). If you are planning to worship with us, even when there is no minister scheduled, please call ahead to confirm our schedule, as some of us may be here listening to a taped service. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933, and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

TEXAS DALLAS/FORT WORTH Carrie Beyer

After the shepherds saw the infant King Jesus, they "returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them" (Luke

2.20). Christmas is such a beautiful time of celebration! Beyond the warmth of being with family and friends, the season holds the awesome hope of salvation. The shepherds in Luke's gospel must have felt that same hope: Christ has come in the flesh to save us from sin and death! Praise God!

It has been a great blessing to host visitors from Gridley, Indianapolis, San Marcos, Phoenix, Rittman, and Smithville this month! We especially appreciated the willingness of Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy; Elgin, IL) to preach God's Word. Our congregation appreciates all guests and extends a warm invitation to anyone living near or traveling through the area to visit.

We will not be holding services December 28 or January 4, but look forward to more fellowship after the holidays. For worship times or driving directions, please contact Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson (817.431.0832) or Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer (817.989.0868). We currently meet at the Holiday Inn Express immediately northwest of the D/FW airport. The hotel is located in Grapevine, TX, near the intersection of Highways 121 and 114.

TEXAS, SAN MARCOS Amy Ringger

Many thanks to our ministers this month: Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville), Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke), Brad Eisenmann, (Chicago), Dennis Rassi, (Sis. Diane, Fairbury), Dale Moore, (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) and Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) and Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville). We were also blessed with visitors from Peoria, Rockville, Forrest, Alto, and Chicago.

We look forward to hosting visit-

ing ministers from the following churches in January, the start of our New Year: Rockville (4), Lester (11), Fairbury (18) and Kansas City (25).

We extend a hearty welcome to anyone else who may be in the area to worship with us. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. If you are available for fellowship on Saturday evening, Sunday evening, or during the week, we'd be happy to plan something then as well. See the ministers' book for contact information.

Our congregation continues to meet for services at the Quality Inn in San Marcos, TX. San Marcos is located on IH-35, approximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Take Exit #206; the hotel is on the southbound frontage road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Mary Plattner

Our winter congregation is returning and we appreciate having ministering Bro. Tom Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Joan, return for the winter season. Communion services were held in October in Zapata with Bro. Leland Plattner serving Communion to the congregation.

Services are planned for Thanksgiving day. While others gather with their families, the

Zapata congregation will gather together for a Thanksgiving meal as most everyone does not have immediate family in the area. We are looking forward to having visiting brethren from the Northern states here to worship with us on the holiday.

We welcome winter visitors to travel to South Texas. We will be having services in the Valley area but no definite schedule has been made. Bro. Lloyd Nohl and Bro. Leland Plattner can be contacted if you have questions regarding that schedule or if you are making plans for travel to the McAllen area this winter.

VERMONT, NORWICH

Church services in Norwich, Vermont were held on October 12 and November 9 and a number of visitors again made for a nice worship group on each of these Sundays. The weekend in October was very well attended with visitors coming from Rockville, Fort Lauderdale, Denver, Latty, Eureka, Forrest, and Princeville. Many visitors were in the area to enjoy the fall colors of the northeast. For those who have not been to the northeast during the fall, it is a popular time to visit. "Leaf peepers" come from all over to see

the truly beautiful display of red, orange, and yellow leaves on the millions of deciduous trees that populate the hills and mountains of Vermont and New Hampshire. Those who came this weekend to enjoy this demonstration of beauty and order in God's creation were not disappointed as the days leading up to this Sunday were the peak of the season. We were thankful for each visitor that came to be with us and especially glad to have Bro. Tom Leman from Denver and Bro. Everett Gerber from Rockville to share God's Word from the pulpit.

In November, a smaller group was on hand, including ministering Bros. Warren Zahner and Dan Goric from Rockville. The thirty-eight people who attended included mostly visitors from Rockville whose support allows our church services to continue. As we are dependent mostly upon visitors to fill up our small building, we are thankful for each one who comes to be with us and invite any who have travel plans in the northeast to come to worship with us on the second Sunday of each month. We begin our services with Sunday School singing shortly after 10:00 am. For information or directions, please contact Bro. Doug Mangers at (720) 979-7912 or Morey Weiss at (802) 295-5981.



Sermon continued from page 2

made sense. Because we believe that God created this earth in a short period of time. Science would like to be able to determine and prove one way or the other. It can't be done and it just makes us think that as we come here today, we can spend our life in trying to prove to our self one thing or another. But that's not what our life comes down to. It comes down to that we are expected to live lives of faith. We are expected to believe in this. God has not shown us really in any visual way what is right.

But how do we know that this story is right, that this story is true? I guess I'm very, very convinced in my heart, like many of you here today are convinced that this is true. This is the reason why.

Because there was a time in our life when we were under the control of a different master. We led lives of sin and there was very little we could do about it. We came to recognize that. But we had no power to overcome sin in our lives. We, through the preaching of the Word, felt that separation from God. We came under conviction. Finally, in faith we yielded our self to God. That was my experience. I'm sure that was many of yours.

Then, however, as a young convert, it was difficult for me to almost grasp salvation. I could believe in a Higher Power, but to believe in Jesus Christ; how it all worked that He was sent here, what the purpose was, what the necessity was, and that now He is the One that allows us to have that power of God, that peace of God and that daily help from God. But our belief comes from the power that we have found in God. Whereof we ourselves could not overcome sin, when we humbled ourself, prayed to God for help, God was willing to help us and He was able to use us.

Then we found a power from

above and we emptied our heart by confession of our sin. By willingness to turn from the same. To make a restitution. Once that heart was emptied, there was room to let the Savior Jesus in.

When Jesus came into our heart, took control of our lives, control of our minds, our thoughts, our speech, we became changed beings. We were transformed. We had a new nature. We had new desires. So there was this miraculous thing.

Now we have many friends today among us who perhaps don't have that faith. Perhaps don't understand what we talk about. Perhaps cannot comprehend that word 'peace' that is so hard to define, that can come into our hearts where we can have that absence of fear. We can have that anticipation of the Lord's return, of His coming again. But we have souls that lack that faith today. But many of them have seen, in the lives of family and friends, that transformation.

So in that way we can believe, we of all people, that God's Word is true. That there is a Savior. That this Lord Jesus intercedes for us, understands us. The Spirit of God indwells us. So we believe.

But we read in the Psalm there, "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help." Psalm 146:3. I think Jesus is referred to in the Bible as the Son of man in that He was born of the flesh through Mary His mother, conceived by the Holy Spirit, by God His father. But trust not in the son of man in whom there is no help. We found that to be true, many of us, in our lives. We trusted in self. We maybe even looked to others. We looked to what the world has to offer in terms of worldly knowledge. We found no help.

We think, and we could have read in the Old Testament in various places, where the birth of the Lord and Savior Jesus was foretold. We

can look back and it all fits together so well. We can understand that. But we think of those people and it just didn't make any real sense to them at the time. How this could happen that the baby was born in Bethlehem. How He came up out of Egypt and such things. Yet we know the story, how everything unfolded.

We think of the second coming of Jesus. We can't fully comprehend how that will be. We, at least I, don't know for sure the sequence of events that will take place before the Lord's coming. The Bible spells out some things that will happen upon this earth. On the other hand, the Bible says that Jesus will come as a thief in the night. (I Thessalonians 5:2) And that mankind will not be prepared. So for us to sit here today and think we know, we don't. The Bible says the angels of God know not the time nor the hour when Jesus will again return. (St. Matthew 24:36) So we don't know that. We must look to God in faith.

Here, again we go back to verse five, "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help..." Psalm 146:5. We think today, we wish one another a merry Christmas or a blessed Christmas. People that we met today, we give this greeting with those we know around us in this world. A blessed time. But we think here of happiness.

As Brother Art mentioned, for a young child there is that anticipation of Christmas time being a time when we will receive a gift that will bring us pleasure. I don't know about yourself, but the older we get, the more we recognize that the earthly gifts bring, if any pleasure, a very fleeting pleasure. It is nothing that is lasting for us.

So we have to ask ourselves, today as we come together, are we happy in the God of Jacob? Do we believe in this God? Have we partaken of this way, this gift of salvation whereby we can be truly happy in this God?

The God who made heaven and the earth and the sea. (Psalm 146:6) The unchanging God.

"Which executeth judgment for the oppressed..." Psalm 146:7. Do we have that faith in this day and time that we can be content in how God has dealt with us in this life? We can look back over time and things haven't always gone the way in our lives that we expected them to. Some of us have been called upon to bear crosses and sorrows that we would rather not. But yet, we need to have our faith and our trust in God. God's ways are perfect. God's ways are right.

In this life we really don't have to try to get even. We don't have to try to have judgment come upon those who might oppress us. But we believe as the Word says, "...Vengeance is mine; I will repay..." Romans 12:19. That is really a wonderful thought we can have, that in the final end, God will judge the world and judge all souls.

But He "...giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners:" Psalm 146:7.

We can all relate to that, can't we? We were all prisoners of the enemy. Some of us have experienced this, where we could have been freed from the enemy. Some of us today are prisoners. But we have this opportunity to be free.

"The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind..." Psalm 146:8. We were all blind, were we not? We didn't understand or comprehend God's ways. We followed in our own willful way. Then our eyes were opened unto God, many of us. Yet there are some today who are blind among us.

"...the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down..." Psalm 146:8. We look at it as man would look at it. We think of the disciples. They walked and talked with Jesus. They saw the miracles that Jesus performed. Finally after a time, Jesus started to

speak to them of what was going to transpire. How He was going to be taken, how He was going to be crucified. They did not understand that. They really expected that Jesus was going to establish an earthly kingdom and that perhaps they would have a part in that earthly kingdom. So we think of those men who were so close to Jesus and yet didn't comprehend it.

So we think of us today and our nature. We don't always understand the ways of God until we've experienced them. But the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down and so that is a necessity. We must humble ourself before God. We must actually be cast down and broken before we can be picked up.

"...the Lord loveth the righteous:" Psalm 146:8. Who is righteous among us? None of our own selves. So the Lord can only love us if we have taken on that imputed righteousness.

"The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down." Psalm 146:9. The wicked walk in that blindness, not understanding where they are going. So it will come somewhat as a surprise to them, unfortunately, in the end when their way is turned upside down. When they think, perhaps, they have a hope. They think perhaps they will not face destruction. But in their wickedness that will come to pass.

It seems like it just continues in what Mary said there. "And his mercy is on them that fear him..." St. Luke 1:50. The beginning of wisdom, the Bible tells us in several places, is the fear of God. (Psalm 111:10) So we have to recognize the greatness of God and fear Him.

"He hath shewed strength with his arm..." St. Luke 1:51. We read in one place, I always think of this, where Jesus was speaking and He

said, "But if I with the finger of God cast out devils..." St. Luke 11:20. I often say to myself, the finger of God has far more strength than the arm of flesh. We sing in the hymn, "...The arm of flesh will fail you..." (Stand Up For Jesus, #219 Hymns of Zion). As mankind, we trust our own strength, our own judgment, and that will fail us. We need to reach forth to the outstretched arm of God whereby we can be overcomers.

"...he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts." St. Luke 1:51. We think of imagination versus God's true way. We have been given as mankind, an ability to have an imagination and to think on things within our mind and make perception.

Heard the other day that, I think it was talking about a dog, but if they look in the mirror, they can't comprehend that they are seeing themselves. How mankind knows this, I don't know. But we think how different it is for us. The mind that we have been given how quickly thoughts can go through it.

"He hath put down the mighty from their seats ...filled the hungry, and the rich he hath sent empty away." St. Luke 1:52,53. So may it be that we consider this day. We consider the Christ that was sent from God. We consider the way of salvation. The Bible tells us God has not made known His ways to the wise and the prudent. (St. Matthew 11:25) But the way of salvation is very simple. It is very plain. It is the way - and it will always be throughout our life - a way of faith, and a life of faith.



Tennessee Fellowship Singing (and Auction)

Memorial Day Weekend 2004
May 29-30, 2004

Singing and Auction located at the
Apostolic Christian Tennessee
Fellowship Area in Southern Tennessee

Sunday Worship Services in Athens, AL

Look for more details in subsequent
issues of The Silver Lining
and in your local congregation.

*Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved,
bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meek-
ness, longsuffering;*

*Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if
any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ for-
gave you, so also do ye.*

*And above all these things put on charity, which is the
bond of perfectness.*

*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the
which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wis-
dom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms
and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in
your hearts to the Lord.*

*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Fa-
ther by him.*

Col 3:12-17

U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

For area work projects, please contact the following Disas-
ter Work Project Committee Representative:

Kansas: Paul Kaeb
Phone: 785-284-3261
Cell: 785-547-5269
E-mail: paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com

Iowa: Martin Zaugg
Phone/Fax: 515-379-1693
Cell: 515-320-2404

Illinois: Marvin Sauder
Phone: 309-925-4171
Fax: 309-925-2409
Cell: 309-241-8171
E-mail: mmksblf@dpc.net

Indiana: Gerry Waibel
Phone/Fax: 219-279-2582
E-mail: glwaibel@hotmail.com

Ohio: Ken Zollinger
Phone: 330-925-6370
Fax: 330-927-6370
Cell: 330-466-2247

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF NURSING

Apostolic Christian Timber Ridge is the original facility of the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handi-
capped. We serve 96 people with developmental disabilities and have 185 employees.

The Director of Nursing (DON) is retiring and we are looking for a committed, caring registered nurse
(RN) to take this position. The DON is responsible for overseeing the nursing staff and the nursing services of
our residents. We have an involved population with a wide variety of needs. This makes the job interesting and
challenging. There are opportunities for learning and creativity.

Experience with people having disabilities and with supervision is preferred. More importantly this posi-
tion requires a Christian commitment and a desire to serve. The position provides excellent benefits and a
competitive salary.

We ask that each of you pray that God would raise up a qualified person. If you are qualified, we encourage
you to consider this in prayer. If you are interested in the position or would just like to get more information,
please contact Bro. Ron Messner at the above address or phone. We would like to know of all interested candi-
dates as soon as possible but no later than January 1, 2004.

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2004

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Tom Hitz, Ph. 734-454-9229, Fax 1-734-454-9259 or E-mail thitzhome@juno.com. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail ksss@dpc.net.

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
AWA-T	Jan. 22-30, '04	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5
AWA-FRW	Jan. 22-30, '04	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-B	Jan. 22-30, '04	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
MEBSH	Feb. 5-13, '04	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	9
Palm Grove	Feb. 20-28, '04	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11
MEBSH	Mar. 4-12, '04	Les Cayes	Rich Bertschi	Grade School	9
MEBSH	Mar. 11-19, '04	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9
SEED	Mar. 18-26, '04	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9
Palm Grove	Mar. 19-27, '04	Puit Sales	Mike Reinhard	Grade School	11
AWA-FRW	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-T	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
JAMAICA					
CCCD	January 1-10, '04	Montego Bay	Greg Herman	Deaf School	40
CCCD	January 9-17, '04	Kingston	TBA	Deaf School	40
CCCD	March 13-20, '04	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40
CCCD	April 8 - April 16, '04	Kingston	Roanoke BC - Kevin Fischer	Deaf School	50
CCCD	May 21-29, '04	Deaf Village	TBA	Work Place	40
CCCD	June 4 - June 12, '04	Deaf Village	Taylor/Princeville	Work Place	50
CCCD	June 26 - July 3, '04	Knockpatrick	Mansfield - Pete Webel	Deaf School	40

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		gzeller@mtco.com
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502		Sauder_Derek_A@cat.com
Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		jmmaibach@valkyrie.net
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	rbeebe@surfpure.com
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Greg (Beth) Herman	309-243-5610		gberman@juno.com
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	IL Phone: 309-696-7804	FL Phone & Fax: 941-485-4302	none
Dean Pashak	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Pete (Linda) Webel	419-756-2587		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	ksss@dpc.net
Rich Bertschi	309-467-6110		lemangm@mtco.com
Ted Habegger	260-694-6765		th@parlorcity.com
Mike Reinhard	248-477-2287	248-427-0396	mlreinhard@msn.com

CCCD = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service
TBA = To Be Announced
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton
A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott
A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont
(*) = Changes or additions since last issue
()** = Spring Break Timeframe

- NOTICE -

**Repair and Distribution of
Worn Bibles,
Bible Story Books,
Hymns of Zion,
Tabernacle or
Gospel Hymn Books**

We have so many requests for Sunday School material. Please send us your children's used VBS workbooks except grades 1 & 2 as they do not have Bible stories included.

Please get your books to us or the Goodfield World Relief Center.

Books are mainly distributed to India, Philippines, and Africa.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
307 First St
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

**Haiti Coordinator
Position**

The Caribbean Board of the National World Relief Committee is taking applications for a couple/s to serve as full time coordinators in Haiti.

The job would consist of helping work teams in construction, well drilling, trade schools and assisting the MEBSH construction department with sea containers and lumber shipments. This position would also require some oversight of fund allocation and accounting of funds.

For information contact Roger Sauder, Chairman, 954-584-0947 or e-mail at rjsauder@juno.com.

**Apostolic Christian
Counseling Services**

73 East Queenwood Rd,
Morton, IL 61550
309-263-5536 (local#)
309-263-6841 (fax)

877-370-9988 (toll free)

Counseling for depression, anxiety, relationship problems, etc...

- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
- Referrals to qualified mental health professionals in your area
- Telephone consultations with a counselor
- Staffed by professional counselors and registered nurses
- All calls are strictly confidential

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

The Bible Distribution Center which was formerly in Leo, IN has been moved to Bluffton, IN.

All books, including Bibles, in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books which have been approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

To order, contact,

Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution
PO Box 30
1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 260/824-5587
E-mail: babledist@parlorcity.com

Mexico Work Teams 2004

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone & (e-mail)</u>
Imuris	January 3-10, 2004	Construction	Joel Virkler	765-743-4947 jvirkler@purdue.edu
			Jeff Moser	765-743-2243 jmmoser@purdue.edu
Juarez	January 17-24, 2004	Construction	Mike Fiechter	260-597-7330 mfiechter@parlorcity.com
Juarez	March 6-13, 2004	Construction	Kurt Ifer	206-824-2829 k.ifer@mchsi.com
Agua Prieta	March 6-13, 2004	Construction	Wayne Lehman	574-773-4373 socks@bnin.net
Agua Prieta	March 13-20, 2004	Construction	Wayne Lehman	574-773-4373 socks@bnin.net
Rio Bravo	March 13-20, 2004	Construction	Jim Barth	309-367-2098 Barthlings6@juno.com
Juarez	March 20-27, 2004	Construction	Bruce Aschliman	260-824-5160 aschlimanb@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta	March 20-27, 2004	Construction	Denis Fry	260-824-3055 fry.d@mchsi.com
Rio Bravo	March 20-27, 2004	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Rio Bravo	April 10-17, 2004	Construction	Jim Rieker	309-693-1721 JRieker@SBCGlobal.net
Juarez	April 14-21, 2004	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrman	309-385-1082 cherylh@mtco.com
Rio Bravo	June 19-26, 2004	Construction	Joe Zimmerman	309-263-0254
Rio Bravo	July 3-10, 2004	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Rio Bravo	July 10-17, 2004	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Juarez	September 1-8, 2004	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrman	309-385-1082 cherylh@mtco.com

*If anyone would desire to go to Mexico at a time not listed on the schedule, please contact
Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or e-mail: mfiechter@parlorcity.com*



History Update

In 1984, *Marching To Zion* was published. The project began in 1980 with full support of the Elder Body. Data for the book covered the time from the establishment of the Froehlich churches in Europe to our era today. 1982 was the approximate time the information flow was closed. The book took two years to revise and proofread the various drafts. The result was a 653-page book with a name and topical index including almost 1,900 items.

By 2004 the book will be 20 years old. It included all our congregations — both the active ones and those no longer in existence. Approximately 100 local churches were referenced together with data on World Relief and related mission-type pursuits. The church's Statement of Faith, adopted at Wolcott, Indiana in 1982, was included too.

The book also covered events leading up to our church coming to America. The Froehlich Movement, together with historical data (and influences) related to the Anabaptists of the early 1500s, were included. The intent was to provide a historical context to our denomination's development — particularly as parts of our operational mode and brotherhood structure, while Biblical, find an influential force from the Radical Reformation (the historical name of the Anabaptist Movement, which began in 1525, eight years after the beginning of the Reformation).

Experience has taught us that the further back we look, the further ahead we can see. Human nature, even in its best sense, often does not change — and mistakes of the past can be avoided if we are familiar with them. Likewise, successes of the past can help to more clearly and effectively guide us in the fu-

ture.

In the gospel of Luke, exhortation was given for believers to know the certainty of "those things" wherein we have been instructed (Luke 1:4). In a sense our Biblical/historical pathways constitute "those things" which are "certain" and worthy of preservation as we serve God in our era today.

We are the beneficiaries of a rich, closely-knit Christian heritage. Familiarity with the past serves to enrich our understanding — and to heighten the prospects for our faith's continuance so long as the Lord tarries His coming. The struggles and devotion, along with an unwavering quest to model the Bible's teachings in everyday life, can serve as an inspiration to this generation to "keep the faith" of our fathers. Such is a noble pursuit.

Researching and seeking out the early days of our church points to an ongoing resolve to have faith in Christ; and also to "follow" Christ and His apostles. In Europe, our people were known as *Evangelisch Taufgesinnte* (Evangelical Baptists). On coming to America, there was no official name. At the time of World War I, however, it became necessary to register a name so our young brothers and friends could serve in the military as noncombatants (i.e., without weapons). At a national Elder meeting, attended by the existing 12 or so Elders, a conclusion was reached to not use the name Baptist, since they did not want to be identified with that outlook here in America because of doctrinal differences, especially in eternal security, individual autonomy and faith "alone." So the name Apostolic Christian was chosen because they proposed to follow Christ and the Apostles. The New York churches kept the old name until 1992

(because their Elder was absent at that meeting).

History has shown us that one of the bedrock principles regarding our faith (and practice) is the strong link we recognize between doctrine (belief) and order (practice) — that is, we see the order (our holiness distinctives and narrow pathways) as a reflection of our beliefs. Essentially, as we apply the doctrine the resultant order thence buttresses/upholds the doctrine. If the order weakens, becomes pluralistic, and/or diversified, it can serve to weaken various aspects of our doctrine.

Other denominations, in part, have suffered loss as the doctrine/order link weakened — because a "faith alone" mentality tended to circumvent the doctrine/order connection. As the order weakened so did the doctrine.

Our history reveals a strong view of adhering to the Scriptures, and applying them in a common way. In the past, and now, the Bible has remained as the only rule of faith and life. The closely-knit manner of our fellowship can be traced to keeping the same spiritual judgments, and applying the Word with a common order. The diversity of the times would want to affect us, but as we hold to our historical pattern of keeping a common order, it serves to bind us in an enriching fellowship.

Bro. Samuel Froehlich, having been led astray by his seminary teachings, fled to the Word and Spirit as his chief mentors. He exclaimed that his theological lectures became "an abomination to me." Partly because of this, we as a people have looked to Scriptures, and not to theologians and books, to find the truth and how to best apply the truth. It has proven to be one of our great bless-

...continued on page 51

REMEMBERING

...continued from page 50

ings — and efforts to walk in truth (as led by Word and Spirit) have remained as our highest ideal.

The updating of *Marching To Zion* will not be a major revision. It will include all the new happenings re each local congregation pertaining to new Elders, new church buildings, and other noteworthy news that has taken place during the past 20 years. It is hoped that each congregation can provide a local history correspondent (similar to the pattern used in the first edition) to forward pertinent information to the author.

Also, data will be recorded to reflect the increased activity in good works projects since 1982.

The name and topical index will be updated as well. New insertions on most of the pages will require that it be completely redone. This will require a lot of painstaking work, but the final result will be helpful to anyone trying to find names and specific events.

This is a labor of love. Our heritage is a rich one. There are many positives and much to be thankful for. Our forefathers endured privation, struggle and persecution — and they remained true. Their motive was to “contend” for the faith once delivered to the saints. Their pathways were uphill due to a lack of material plenty. But their hearts were full, and burned with obedience, and a humble sincere quest to please God; and to please their brother for his good to edification. In our time, we exist in plenty and ease. If the Lord tarries, we will leave a legacy too. Let us pray it will be the same one left by our forebearers.

There is no time limit on completion of this project. But work will begin in earnest on January 1, 2004, with the hope of providing a suitable history that many will be able to enjoy. May God bless this undertaking!

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue: **Misc. data**

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光

“A Star and A Sceptre”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

When Christ was born in Bethlehem, a STAR was born and a SCEPTRE was born. In Numbers 24-17 we read, “There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel.” These are names for Christ and indicate something about His character.

The sun is a star about which we know the most. It is a ball of hot gases and is located a mean distance, the middle distance of its two extremes, of 93 million miles from the earth. So far as we are concerned, it gives us heat and it gives us light. Without the sun, we could not live on earth; there would be no plants or animals, either.

The word sceptre, or “scepter” in American English, is a staff which indicates sovereignty, or supreme authority and power. In the book of Esther we read, “The king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand.” (Esther 5:2). This meant that he would listen to her request.

When we think of the birth of Christ, we should think about the Son of the true and living God, the Creator, visiting us. Christ’s Spirit lived in that baby. It’s the Person who lived in that little body which is so important. After that baby became a grown man, He gave us warmth and light, both of which are very important to us. To be out in the cold on a winter night is not very comfortable. We want some heat and warmth. When separated from

God we are out in the cold, but Christ beckons us to come in and warm up, and be cozy. It takes some humbling and repentance to follow the invitation but the comfort which Christ gives is worth it all. He is our Star, the spiritual Sun of the universe.

In addition to giving us warmth and comfort, Christ gives us light. By this light we can see what we should accept and what we should refuse. Psalm 119:105 reads, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Christ speaks to us through His Word. We really need that light so we have some absolutes on which to stand. Truth does not change with circumstances.

When we think of the birth of Christ, we should think of the sovereignty of Christ. As the Son of the living God, He has supreme power and authority, delegated to Him by God the Father. He said, “I and my Father are one.” (John 10:30). That power and authority is not intimidating, it is reassuring and strengthening, if we belong to Christ. In all things, do the best you can and then leave it with Him. “Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.” (I Peter 5:7)

Where there is no authority there is chaos. Someone must give directions and set us on the right path. Christ is our Star and our Sceptre, our light and our strength.



Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, 'Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

THE SILVER LINING
1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561



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MRS. CHARLES WALDER
533 N 3RD ST
CISSNA PARK IL 60924-9782