

The Silver Lining



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

December 2004

Sermon by the late Bro. Roy Luginbuhl, Rockville, CT (December 25th, 1983)

Isaiah 7:10-18 and St. Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-21

Six hundred years, approximately, before the coming of Christ, the Prophet Isaiah told that He would come to a virgin of the house of David. We are the benefactors. We that are gathered here in this morning hour, as well as those that have gathered all over the world, are the benefactors of Christ's coming. The invitation is still going forth.

I am sure that this story, that this account of the angel coming to Mary, that the account of the early prophecy from Isaiah, from this reading about this child's birth in Bethlehem is not new. Let each of us pray that this same account will be read, can be read, will be listened to for many, many years to come. Until our heavenly Father decides that He can no longer accept the conditions of the world.

In this day, although the day is nearly ended in Israel and in Bethlehem and in Jerusalem, in this day, many, many people have had thoughts about the birth of our Saviour. About this individual who brought joy to the world.

What is this joy? Let's think a moment about joy. What is joy? Joy is something that is different in the hearts of each of us. I can remember so well when we moved into the cellar of what was to be our future home from an apartment that had no bathroom. That was joy. There was joy in that move. Helen and I felt as if we were moving into a palace. We were going to have our own bathroom and not have to share it with someone else in the same building.

In this day there are people that are standing in line waiting for food. Getting a cup of hot soup is going to be joy for those people.

Recently in a national media, I think it was Time magazine, it was pointed out that in the United States there are two million homeless people. Two million. Now when Helen and I and our family went to India in 1963, we saw lots of people living on the streets. Born, living and dying on

the streets of Bombay and Calcutta. There was poverty there. But to think that in the United States that there are two million people that do not have homes! Either by choice or by circumstance. What do you imagine would be joy for them?

Joy is a relative situation. Joy for us in this morning hour was an opportunity to come and to hear in this congregation and meet with you beloved souls. To feel the warmth and the love flow from heart to heart. That was joy for us in this morning. Joy for us on Thursday was to greet our grandchildren at the airport, even though we were two hours late. There they were. Their cheerful faces were beaming. I think what I am trying to point out is that joy is very relative. A glass of water when we are very thirsty is a joyful event.

But now let us think about this joy that we should be thinking about in this morning hour. The joy that God offered the world when He offered His only begotten Son. That event that Isaiah prophesied and that event that occurred about two thousand years ago. That birth that occurred in Bethlehem and what joy that could bring to mankind. That joy is peace and contentment within one's mind and within one's heart. That joy is believing that Jesus was born there in Bethlehem and that He was the Son of God. That joy is believing that He then went to Calvary's cross and allowed Himself to be crucified. He allowed His side to be pierced so that His blood would flow for our sins. That joy that He brought was offered to all of mankind.

We live in a time of Christianity when we have to be very, very careful. There are lots and lots of people that call themselves Christians. But let's not worry about them. Let's just worry about ourselves. Let's just worry about our congregation, our loved ones. Most of all, we have a selfish streak. So we should be concerned about that joy that Christ brought here upon earth for me. For you. For

the individual. Because God sent Him here to suffer and to die so that you and I and anyone that wanted, could have the joy of spending eternity with Him. That joy is a joy that defies de-

Sermon continued on page 47

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*"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 2004

Stumbling Blocks

Satan has many devices to cause confusion and heartache for God's people. One of the tools he uses so successfully is to cause stumbling blocks to be placed in our paths.

A stumbling block is something which causes us to err or to stray from the truth. Casting a stumbling block in one's way is the opposite of being our brother's keeper.

The seriousness of casting a stumbling block in one's way was made very clear by Jesus when He said "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in" (Mt. 23:13). The very ones who should have been helpful were guilty of making it more difficult for God's people to do what was right.

The problem of causing others to err has been evident since long before Christ. Isaiah wrote "...Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumbling block out of the way of my people" (Is. 57:14). Malachi also wrote of the problem when he chastised the messengers of the Lord who "...are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the Lord of hosts" (Mal. 2:7).

Ezekiel wrote at length about the shepherds who were more concerned about their selfish interests than they were about feeding the flocks. In Ez. Chap. 34 he wrote of those who neither cared for the diseased nor sought those who were scattered. The sheep wandered upon the face of the earth and no one searched for them. The stumbling block was acts of selfishness and neglect.

From this example and other scriptures, we can understand that there are many ways we can cast a stumbling

block in the way of God's people. Perhaps the most serious stumbling block of all was committed when the Savior was put to death. This was done to discourage others from following Him. The Jewish leaders at that time were willing to go to any extreme to silence the message of salvation and to prevent anyone from following Jesus.

Persecution against Christians has been a tool that Satan has used ever since Christ arose from the dead. "...And at that time there was great persecution against the church..." (Acts 8:1). Throughout history and continuing to our time, persecution has made it difficult for those who want to worship God.

The preceding examples have been quite blatant and easy to recognize. We must also understand that there are more subtle, but very effective, stumbling blocks that cause men to fail. We must be careful that we do not allow ourselves to be guilty of them.

"Christian liberty" has often been used as justification to engage in activities that, at best, are borderline sin. It is true that Christ came to earth to liberate us from Satan. It is also true that we "...shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption unto the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Ro. 8:21) and "...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II. Cor. 3:17).

The Apostle Paul wrote much about liberty. In Romans 14 he encourages us to have forbearance with a weak brother who may not have faith to do as we do. However, he also wrote of the need to "...take heed lest by any means this liberty of your's become a stumbling block to them that are weak" (I Cor. 8:9) and to "...use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Ga. 5:13). Peter wrote that we must not use "...your liberty as a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God" (I Pe. 2:16).

How, then, can we be sure we do not put a stumbling block in our brother's way? God is faithful. In His Word He pro-

vides instruction that helps us in this matter. "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him" (I Jn. 2:10).

Jesus said "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you" (Jn. 15:12). If we love our brother as Christ loved us, there will be no sacrifice which is too great. If Christ was willing to die for us, we ought to be willing to go to great lengths to see that we do not cause another to fall.

Paul helps us understand that we should be willing not only to avoid sin to help our brother, but that we should be willing to go much further. If there is something that we see as harmless that might offend one with a weak conscience "...for whom Christ died" (I Cor. 8:11) we really must be willing to do what we can to be helpful to others.

Clearly, Paul saw no harm in eating meat, even if it was sacrificed to idols because he knew "...an idol was nothing in the world, and there is none other God but one" (I Cor. 8:4). Even though he knew idols were nothing and eating meat was harmless "...if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend" (I Cor. 8:13).

Jesus Christ came into the world that we all could have the opportunity to be saved. He came to save us from eternal separation from God. He makes it clear that we are to love and help one another. He also made it clear that there are two destinations for the souls of man. One is eternal bliss with God. The other is "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mt. 5:12). If we follow the teachings of Jesus we will help one another reach our goal of eternal rest. If we do not follow His instructions we could cast a stumbling block in the path of our brother.



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

Prison Ministry

Jesus said: *"I was in prison and you came unto me"* Matthew 25:36 There are a number of brethren and friends of the Apostolic Christian Church serving in prison ministry in several states. One such organization is called the Berean Prison Ministry, and is located in Peoria, IL.

The Berean Prison Ministry is supported almost entirely by the Apostolic Christian Church. It has six programs to help those that are in need both spiritually and physically. The programs are: Bible Distribution, Bible Study Course, Russian and Romanian programs, Ministry program and Food Distribution program.

Bible distribution

Berean Prison Ministry is sending out 2000 plus Bibles per month to inmates in prisons in 44 of our states at the present time. Their name and identification gets recorded on a computer so that each inmate receives only one Bible. Even though Berean sends out a large number of Bibles, they have never advertised free Bibles.

Two letters have recently been received from Hawaii requesting Bibles and another came from an inmate in Oregon with a \$300 check attached thanking Berean for their help. One of the nicest letters ever received simply said: "I would like a Bible with giant print, color black. When people tell me about drugs, I'm going to tell them about Jesus. Thank you."

Bible study course

A letter is enclosed with each Bible sent to an inmate stating that if he or she would like to participate in our Bible Study to please fill out lesson

#1 and send it back to us. We then grade the lesson and send three additional lessons. Berean is presently receiving about five thousand lessons per month to grade. There are 50 lessons in the complete course and the Bible must be read to complete each lesson. Many of our young group members and residents of our retirement home along with other brethren help grade the lessons.

Russian program

The Berean Ministry also has a Bible and Bible Study Course program in the Republic of Karelia, Russia. This program was started by Bro. Howard Getz. Col. Alexander Safonov is the Director for the Department of Corrections. He is a very good friend of the Apostolic Christian Church and has visited our churches in Sarasota, Athens and Peoria. Several years ago he had a heart operation which was paid for by our church. Col. Alexander and General Mikhaylov, who is the Minister of the Interior, visited Peoria in October.

Romanian program

Bro. Fedi and Sis. Ruth Davidovics began their efforts by holding Bible Studies at their home in the mountains. It is difficult for people to travel to each other's homes because few have cars and gasoline is very expensive. They were given a small building in the town of Carta to use, but the priest of the town put up a lot of resistance, so the owner decided they couldn't use the building.

They now hold Bible classes in the bedroom of one of the former students. There are currently about ten people attending the classes. They are looking into renting a

building or perhaps buying one in the cost range of \$10 - 20,000. Bro. Fedi has also been going into the federal prison in the town of Cfikszereda to hold Bible classes, which have been well attended. The warden has been very cooperative. Berean is committed to supporting this program at an estimated annual cost of \$2,000 for Bibles, Bible Studies, postage, supplies, gas, etc.

Jail & prison ministries

The Berean Prison Ministry has the chaplaincy at the Peoria County Jail, the Stark County Jail, the Juvenile Detention Center, the Youth Farm and the Sheridan, IL State Prison. Having the chaplaincy means that we are able to conduct services each Sunday at the facility with weekly Bible Studies and weekly counseling.

Berean also holds weekly Bible Study classes at the Tazewell County Jail and the State of Illinois Women's Prison located in Dwight, IL. These studies are being conducted by our Bloomington brethren. There are 190 women attending these classes.

Many individuals have benefited from these programs. We know that this is only because of the Lord adding His increase to our small efforts. We appreciate the prayers of the Brotherhood. As in the early church, prayer is essential.

"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Acts 12:5

The continued financial contributions of brethren throughout the land to our Mission Fund makes it possible to support these programs and share the truths of God's Word with many unfortunate souls.



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

Opportunities in Agua Prieta Mexico

We have worked through the Concern International organization to construct buildings to support the Brazos de Amor orphanage for needy children. The love for the children is very evident with the work going on at Brazos de Amor, located on the outskirts of Agua Prieta, Mexico. Brazos de Amor stands for Arms of Love.



Entrance to Brazos de Amor

Many work teams have been going to Agua Prieta. It is about a 2-hour drive from Tucson and just across the border from Douglas, AZ. Teams often fly into Tucson on Saturday and spend the night in a motel near the airport and then attend Tucson church on Sunday. After church they are driven in large vans to Douglas, AZ to a motel where they stay from Sunday night through Thursday night. Breakfast is at a local restaurant; lunch is prepared by someone in the group and by someone from the orphanage where we work. The evening meal is usually eaten at a local restaurant. The group ends the week on Friday and travels back to Tucson for Friday night and stays at a motel near the airport where they fly home on Saturday.

The Ralph Venema family, with several adopted children, make the trek from Fruitport, Michigan to Agua Prieta multiple times each year to provide supervision of work at the orphanage for this organization.

The Venema family has a real devotion for the poor and needy children of Agua Prieta.

Currently the orphanage has two large dormitories, one for the boys and the other for the girls. The campus also consists of a kitchen and dining hall, a small school and outdoor recreation area. The dream is to have multiple group homes with house parents similar to Gateway Woods environment. Last spring this dream became reality when the construction of the first group home started. This construction consists of excavation, block laying, cement, plumbing, electrical and septic work. There is much work to be done there as the dream of having several group homes is fulfilled.

There is therefore opportunity for our brotherhood to organize a work team or to volunteer to go on a work team being organized by a team leader. There is also an ongoing need for funds directed to World Relief that can be utilized to help alleviate the suffering around the world including projects such as this one. We are grateful for the many brethren that give generously of time, talents, and resources to make such projects possible.



New Group Home

Work is not the only goal on these trips. Spending time with the children is blessing for the children and the team members. The children enjoy playing basketball, soccer and doing crafts. Though language is a barrier, there is no way to mistake

the look of love and thanks from a child that has hope because someone cares.



School Children

Work teams also have the opportunity to share the Word of God in daily devotions that help us all reflect on the abundant blessings we have as citizens of the United States of America and members or friends of our blessed brotherhood. Such experiences also help us reflect on our daily priorities and what is really important as life journeys on.

Work was also being done at a school located in Agua Prieta. The work there included laying tile floors in the school and putting up a fence. Food, clothing and shelter are important to sustain life. However, for the children to rise above poverty, a good education is necessary. A modest facility in which classes can be offered is an important step toward fulfilling these educational goals.

The orphanage and the school are both located in the poorest area of the town. The housing is similar to that of Juarez, Mexico with houses made of pallets and other materials that they can find to make them livable. There are opportunities to be involved in a team to Agua Prieta. If you are interested, you can contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260/597-7330 or mfiechter@adamswells.com.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of our facilities. We need wisdom from God to make ongoing decisions and plans. We need caring staff with hearts in tune with the resident's needs. We need grace and courage to be Christian examples and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ here at the facilities of Apostolic Christian Services in Morton.

Amid the routine and not-so-routine experiences of each day, it is important to keep an eternal perspective. Often, disappointments may bring discouragement. Remember the saying, "Disappointment is God's Appointment". We must rely on the Holy Spirit's leading for every situation in life. Prayerful and careful responses to challenging situations are much more effective than hasty, reactive responses. It's amazing what an enormous missionary field exists at the work place.

It's been interesting around here lately. We had a great Fall Festival. The Breakfast Club meets every other Saturday. This is a real treat for all involved. Some residents take part in the Enabling Gardens event. They really "dig in"! We continue to access a nearby indoor swimming pool. This activity is therapeutic in various ways.

Thanks to each of you who has set foot in our Home, shared a helping hand, and brought extra blessing into the lives of the residents.

JANUARY birthdays at Tim-

ber Ridge, 2125, Veterans Road, 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 431 W. David, Apt. H., Morton, IL 61550: Rhonda Gerst (1/12).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Sis. Julie Zimmerman

"And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

After Mary was visited by the angel and was told that she would bring forth a son, she responded by saying, "behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Thy word." (Luke 1:38) And then in verses 46-55, Mary magnifies the Lord with a "song of praise" for the work He was doing in her life. "And Mary said, my soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior." (verses 46, 47)

In this humanly impossible situation (which could have potentially brought disaster to Mary's life) she surrendered her all to God and obeyed His will. Because she

surrendered and obeyed, she was able to sing out, magnifying the Lord and rejoicing in God. We as Christians have many reasons to have hearts filled with praise and glory to God. Often that praise is probably dimmed or quenched because of our lack of complete surrender to Him. May we be challenged to fully submit our all to the Father so that we can be instant and spontaneous in praise. As we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, let us take time to reflect on all that He has done for us and who He is and have hearts that are full of praise to Him. Jesus is our LORD and SAVIOR!

News

Gateway Woods would like to welcome Sam C, Sarah M, Matt W, Lavonte W to our residential campus in Indiana. God continues to work mightily through our family-focused group homes, where Jesus Christ is lifted up as the model for living. We also say farewell to Holly F, who will be going to live in a Christian foster home in the Northeast Indiana area.

Recently our Adoption Supervisor joined two of our adoptive couples for an interview on a local radio program about how the Lord worked to bring children into their lives.

As part of our Strategic Plan, the Gateway Woods Board of Directors has set an ambitious goal to make a presentation about Gateway Woods in every Apostolic Christian Church in America within the next 2 years. We recently presented at Denver, Indy, Columbus, Bay City and

Lamont-Gridley.

Thanks to all those who have been generous to us this Christmas season! It is truly humbling to be on the receiving end of such kindness and giving. Only in heaven will each of you know what your gifts of love have accomplished, not just in funding our various Christ-centered services but also in encouraging the workers here at Gateway Woods.

Please be prayerful for our staff and residents throughout the Christmas season. The holidays can be particularly difficult for our residents and foster children ... and for our Houseparent staff who are spending Christmas away from their own relatives. We covet your continued intercession for this difficult but vitally needed ministry to troubled children and families.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Melissa Slagel**

Let's be thankful for this day,
For our friends and our play
Let's be thankful; let's be glad,
For our food and the things we
have.

Let's give thanks for you and me,
And our home and family.

Our month of November was filled with things the color of brown, food that is good for you, and most of all – thankfulness! The children heard the question, “what are you thankful for?” many, many times and while at first we heard responses like hot dogs and pizza, we later began

hearing things like, my mom and dad, my warm bed, my friends, my school, God. Thankfulness is something you have to feel – not something that can really be taught. So it was a bit challenging but then rewarding to see them progress over the month and really think about what they are thankful for.

We had our annual Thanksgiving feast this month. The children made pilgrim and Indian costumes and sang songs and poems for their parents. After their hard work, they were able to eat their “feast” complete with bread made with their own hands!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

Our annual Sunday school Fall Festival was October 30. We were thankful for the beautiful weather and all of the children that came and participated.

We were blessed this month with many visitors. Ministering Bros. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) and Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) came and brought the Word to us. Thank you and may God bless you for coming the distance to serve us and ultimately God. To all of those who traveled along, you were a blessing as well and we enjoyed having you!

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord

all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.”

Psalms 27:4

As autumn arrives we are having rare midmonth rain storms, quite a change from our blessed sunshine. We hope weather will settle in time for our winter visitors.

Many enjoyed our annual Sunday School church picnic October 24.

Our thanks to all who participated in exterior church cleaning October 30 and interior cleaning November 1-6.

Autumn Catherine Emch was born on October 18, to Brian and Aimee Emch. Haylee is her sister and Bro. Don and Sis. Cathy Emch are her grandparents.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Katie Klopfenstein became first time parents on November 13 when son Matthew Scott was born. Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein are his grandparents and Mary Ella is his great grandmother.

Thanks to the Tucson Sunday School and church for hosting our 7th and 8th grade Sunday School class. What a fine way to learn Christian fellowship!

Thanks to our visiting ministers, Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson), Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena) and Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Morton). Bro. Ted held a seminar on Christ-centered self image and relationships on Saturday, November 13. We are thankful for the Lord's rich blessings through his faithful servants.

Many prayers have been ut-

tered for numerous members and friends in the hospital and at home. Sis. Shirley Mohrman, Ellen Wiegand, Bro. John Pulfer, Sis. Heather Thorpe, Bro. Ed Frautschi, Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, Bro. Jim Laukhuf and Dakota Thorpe.

Bro. Ernie and Sis. Marcelle Dapper's new Arizona address is: Mountain View Villas, 9230 N. 26th St. #111, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges

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

Matt. 1:23

This Christmas let us do as this Irish Proverb says:

Count your blessings instead of
your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your
losses.
Count your joys instead of your
woes;
Count your friends instead of your
foes.

On October 30-31, our congregation was blessed with a visit by the Psalm 100 Quartet (Bros. Ryan Bertsch, Chet Baumgartner, Darren Drayer, and Matt Drayer) of Bluffton, IN. Their visit was very uplifting and enjoyed by all. May God, who gave them the gift of musical harmony, continue to bless them for sharing this gift with others.

We also wish to thank ministering Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) for driving approximately four hours round trip from Scottsdale, where he had been attending a conference, to serve us. May God richly reward him for lending himself as a servant and including us in his visit to Arizona.

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

We enjoyed having two visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Ev Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN) both ministered to us over the pulpit for which we are very thankful. May God richly bless them for their willingness to share the Word.

We enjoyed a weekend of fun and fellowship with the Phoenix Jr. Bible Class on November 6-7. We thank them for visiting us and are grateful for their safe return to Phoenix. We look forward to more fellowship with them in the future, Lord willing.

Some of us were blessed to travel to Phoenix for a women's conference by Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Morton, IL). We were truly blessed to be there and hear many encouraging and exhorting things to help us in our daily walk as Christian women. We thank everyone involved for making this wonderful event possible and also available to our small group in Tucson. We are most grateful.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Robin Moser

“Who has believed our message

and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

Isaiah 53:1

The Christmas season affords opportunity to talk about our Saviour in the workplace, with friends, and with strangers while traveling, etc. The challenge is there to look out for those who may be receptive to discussing the reason we celebrate Christmas. We pray God can use us in any instance, but Christmas reminds us to be more thankful and willing to share our joy.

We were grateful Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) was willing to assist on the pulpit this month. Our congregation is so thankful for those ministers (and visitors of any type) who make the effort to worship with us.

Our hospital patients this month were Ann Yaussi (Aaron) who underwent a successful surgery on her back and Sis. Lois Klotzle (retired Elder Bro. John) who has recovered from pericarditis. We are grateful for God's healing on these loved ones. Mike DeHoff also appreciates our prayers with a recent leg ailment; he plans to take time away from school while he heals.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Ingrid Fortenbacher
Greetings to one and all.

“...and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they

saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him.”

Matt. 2:9-11

As I pause to consider the time and the season before us, I feel so blessed that I was raised in a church where from my youth I was taught the beautiful story of Christ's birth. I believe there are so many children today who have no idea of what "Christmas" is really about. What an opportunity to us all to witness to those less fortunate.

Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher were happy to hear the news of the arrival of another healthy grandchild. Audrey Erin was born to Sis. Lydia and Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf, also of Akron.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI), Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH).

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

Bro. Doug Mangers (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cheryl, Champaign, IL) and Sis. Kary Ackerman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Marge, Morton, IL) were married on November 21 in Morton. We're happy to add this young couple to our fellowship and wish them the Lord's blessings in their new life together.

Our love shall not diminish
Nor fade nor wane away;
Bind us till life we finish
And in the grave we lay.

Though all this world be fleeting,
True love will still abide,
And when our journey's ending,
Lord, lead us to Thy side.

Zion's Harp #137

We bid farewell to Will Moser who spent the summer and part of the fall here in Denver. He headed back to the University of Illinois.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lord and each one who offered prayers to God in my behalf. Your love shown to me through gifts and deeds of kindness was much appreciated during my stay in the hospital with hip surgery and my recuperation time at home. May God richly bless you all.

*In Christian Love,
Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer*

CONNECTICUT **ROCKVILLE** **Laura Virkler** **Amber Reutter**

"Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices..." (ZH # 236). At this time of year we are always reminded of how thankful we should be for the bountiful blessings we have been given. May all of us remember all the year through to count our blessings one by one and remember God's goodness to all of us.

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life..." (ZH #237). The engagement of our Sis. Deanna Virkler (John and Sis.

Maureen) to Bro. Brad Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue) of the Congerville, IL, congregation was announced to us this month. We wish them much grace as they plan their new life together in the Lord. May God's blessings go with them, especially Sis. Deanna as she makes her new home in Illinois.

We are always so thankful when souls turn to the Lord in repentance. We wish Lauren Goric (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lynnette) much grace as she begins her walk in Christ.

It is always a joy when new babies arrive safely and healthy into new families. Dan and Melinda Fehr (Fairbury, IL) welcome their first little one, Carter Jack. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan and Ralph and Martha Fehr (Fairbury, IL). Trudi and Chris Kozak welcome a second baby boy, Steven Edward, who joins his new big brother Kevin. Grandparents are Bro. Sonny and Sis. Verona Schneider and Ken and Laura Kozak. May these parents seek God's grace in raising these children up to fear and obey Him always.

We mourn with those who have lost loved ones in the past month. Sis. Gertrude Lanz passed away, leaving a congregation full of brothers, sisters, and children in the spirit. She does leave many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews who will surely miss her very much. Sis. Gert lived almost ninety-seven years, and her dedicated life to the Lord is an example for us all, and will live on after her. May God console and

comfort each one. Our sympathies are also with Sis. Barb Hangartner (Bro. Dave) who lost her brother, Albert Fluckiger Jr., and Bro. Gene Beutel (Sis. Lynne) who lost his sister, Amy Crumbo. These two untimely deaths are a reminder to us that we should always be watchful, for none of us know when God will call us Home.

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who have been hospitalized recently. They include Bro. Lester Heintz, Jane Schultz, and Phyllis Lanz, who is recovering from major surgery. May God provide healing to these souls and be with them.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

We are approaching holidays set aside for us to remember to thank God for the abundance He has provided and soon we will be celebrating the birth of His Son. May these not be just once a year days for thanks and remembrance, but daily may we praise Him for His goodness.

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing.”

Proverbs 18:22

We rejoice with Bro. Joe Bohart and Sis. Holly Barton (Detroit, MI) as their engagement was made known to us. Their parents are Phyllis and Jerry Bohart of Dunlap, IL, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Vi Barton (Detroit, MI).

Our congregation has been listening to the tapes of the General Conference. What a blessing we receive by listening and may we

put those instructions into action in our lives.

We are always thankful that ministers and their families make the effort (and we know it is an effort) to come and serve us. Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH). Other visitors were from Morton, Grayslake, Tremont and Princeville, IL; Rockville, CT; West Lafayette and Leo, IN; Philadelphia, PA; Silverton, OR; and Wilmington, DE.

Services are usually held the first, third, fourth and fifth 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. Adam and Sis. Jill Merkle (703) 929-7941 or Bro. Adam and Sis. Liz Hermann (703) 516-4345 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 as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

Our thoughts are turning towards the upcoming Thanksgiv-

ing holiday, a time when we remember especially all the things we are thankful for. We were thankful this past month for the visiting ministers that came to share God's Word with us. Visiting were Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL), our Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL). We pray that God would bless them for their efforts in His name.

We had our monthly potluck at the fellowship hall. Our theme was an old fashioned turkey dinner and we certainly enjoyed the meal and each other's company. It's always a blessing to gather with loved ones of like mind and faith.

Welcome back! We are beginning to see a return of a few of our winter residents. We are thankful that God kept them in good health through the summer and that they are once again able to worship with us in Ft. Lauderdale.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Mary Masters**

Visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta, GA), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), and our dear Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN). Bro. Ed read the letter of the Memorandum and then helped in the joyful work of welcoming Sis. Daniela Todoran into our fellowship of believers. We enjoy Sis. Daniela's loving smile and willing hands and welcome her as our sister in Christ.

Hospital patients this month

have been Sis. Jeanette Yergler and Bro. Rolland Keller. We pray that these loved ones will regain health and strength in God's timing and will.

We were exhorted last Sunday to remember to give thanks for the most precious gift of all, our Lord Jesus Christ, as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday this week. When we reflect on what He went through so that we may inherit eternal life, the lures of this present world seem to dim. The world and its prince, the devil, have a subtle way of enticing us into the busyness of life. When we are so involved in the pursuits of this world, the connection with Jesus is loosened and the power to overcome greatly weakened. Let's beware of Satan's tactics of busyness, distractions, and crowded work schedules. Do you have time to commune with God and read His Word every day to gain insight and wisdom from above? Does busy mean *Being Under Satan's Yoke*?

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Carol Koehl

Sis. Mandy Koehl (Sarasota, FL and Morton, IL) and Bro. Dustin Hodel (Roanoke, IL) were united as one in marriage on October 31. Their parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl and Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty Hodel. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and ministering Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) were both here for this joyous weekend, as were many friends and relatives.

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) has been here most of November. On behalf of the

Sarasota church, we wish to thank Bro. Dale for all his labors of love.

Hospital patients have been Bro. Glenn Price and Bro. Virgil Kaeb. We're thankful Bro. Virgil is back in church already. However, Bro. Glenn continues to need our ardent prayers.

Our prayers are also with Harold Spiker (father of Sis. Linda Sabo) and Clyde and Jean (Eisenmann) Earley who are seeking the Lord in repentance. We rejoice along with the angels in Heaven.

We want to extend our sympathy and love to Sis. Irene Lehman (Sabetha, KS) in the loss of her helpmate, Bro. Andy. Bro. Andy and Sis. Irene used to spend their winter months in Sarasota, until his health no longer allowed them to come.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Carol Kaufman

"But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness."

Acts 26:25

As we listened to the Conference tapes, how our hearts burned within us as the Elder Brothers spoke forth words of truth and soberness. Our prayer is that we will continue to be fervent and prayerful that they may be faithful watchmen on the wall.

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) for taking the time to come and share the Memorandum with our congregation. We are also thankful that Bro.

Tom Waldbeser was willing to help Bro. Steve. Let us not be hearers of the Word only, but doers. When the world looks at you, what do they see?

God blessed our congregation with faithful brothers and sisters who took time out of their busy schedules to come and strengthen us. We were able to fellowship with some at our annual wiener roast, with some at a picnic and some at a singing. God bless each one of you!

As winter approaches, there are many who will be going down to Florida for the winter and many who will be in the Atlanta area for business. We would be honored if you took the opportunity to visit us. We enjoy the fellowship of other believers as they are traveling in or through our area. Our Sunday morning service starts at 10:15 for song service. We meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 pm. The church is located off I-85 southwest of Atlanta. We are off exit 64 (Jonesboro Rd) exactly four miles west off the exit on the left hand side. If you have any questions or want to alert someone of your coming, please call either Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788, Bro. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554, or Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8335.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy

Thanksgiving should be more of an attitude than an observance; More a way of life than a day apart;

More a habit than a holiday;
More a spirit of gratitude than a
time of feasting.

—William Arthur Ward

More of an attitude –

Gathering together to hold a benefit dinner for the Sunday school Mexico trip meant many attitudes had to blend together to reach our goal. The attitudes of the attendees had to be one of wanting to give and loving others. Our gratitude goes to all who worked and to all those who attended. There will be many who will benefit from your labors of love and your giving heart. May the Lord bless you all.

More a way of life –

Gathering together to spend time studying God's Word needs to be our main focus in life. Not just on Sundays or holidays when we gather together, but every day of the week. As we have begun a study on the Old Testament and are following the footsteps of Noah, Moses, Job and many others, we have much to ponder and much to learn.

More a habit –

Hoping to make it a habit to help others is something we desire to instill in our children. The Chicago and Belvidere Sunday school children spent a weekend together tying quilts, stuffing envelopes and making up bags of soup for the less fortunate victims of the hurricane in Haiti.

A Wednesday evening was also spent by our Belvidere congregation tying quilts for the less fortunate. As we make it a habit to help

others, the Lord will richly bless our efforts.

More a spirit of gratitude –

As we count our many blessings this holiday season, may the spirit of gratitude be the first part of our prayers and the ending of our prayers.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON
NORMAL
Kara Martin
Rebekah Kaufmann**

“O give thanks unto the Lord;
for He is good: because His mercy
endureth forever.”

Psalms 118:1.

We are thankful Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL) spent a Sunday with our congregation. We praise God for the Word that was given to us.

Joe and Carrie Kieser welcomed Eli on October 16. His big sister is Emma. His grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Kieser and Hank and Becky Brandt of Atlanta, IL. On October 21, Dolan Rabe joined the home of Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie. His siblings are Bro. Durelle, Bro. Adrian (Sis. Melodee), Sis. Julissa, Dustin, Quinton, Benson, Carly, Dylan, and Dayton. Grandparents are Dennis and Julie McDugle of Pontiac, and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner of Cissna Park, IL. We rejoice with these families!

Bro. Ed Feller, Jr. (Sis. Betty) passed away on November 12. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Betty as she mourns the

loss of her husband.

A family hymn singing was held on November 7. Special thanks to our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students and Kindred Spirit of Peoria for sharing their songs with us.

Our Bible Class students and their parents hosted a Formal Dinner on November 13 to raise funds for their mission trip next summer. It was a special evening of fellowship and worship as the students served and sang to the glory of God!

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers with us in the past month. Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), and Wes Moser (Lester, IA) brought to us the Word of Life. We also appreciate the labors of Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker on our behalf.

We again offer Bro. Richard Gillespie (Sis. Paula) our prayers and support as he recuperates from further surgery.

Sunday, November 14, our church had a farewell singing for Bro. Richard Frank who is moving to the Eureka home apartments. He has willingly served the church in various capacities and his many years of untiring labor will not soon be forgotten.

We had three weddings this past month. Ryan Pyles and Jill Kelly were married on October 23. Their parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and James and Brenda Kelly of Chillicothe, IL.

On October 24, Bro. Jeb Joos

was united to Sis. Kristy Miller in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris Miller of Sardis, OH. They seem to have settled nicely into our congregation as another young couple.

On November 6, Kurt Eberle was married to Amy Cox. Their parents are Ronnie and Sue Eberle and Ed and Helen Cox of Lowpoint, IL. We hope they will feel the blessings of God in their marriage.

We are thankful that another young couple is moving to our area and plans to assemble with our congregation. Bro. Lucas and Sis. Diana Gudeman and their newborn son, Collin William, recently moved from Tremont. We hope that they will feel welcome and blessed as part of our congregation.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Ray Baer wishes to express their thanks and appreciation for all the prayers and cards of sympathy at the time of his death. May God richly bless each of you.

As another year quickly draws to a close, it often is a time of reflection for the child of God. As a brother recently mentioned, each day we live is like a page in a book that is written. Are there some pages that we wish we could tear out? We are so thankful that our God will patiently work in us so that we would bear more fruit. He desires, as should we, that the book of our life would reflect His light and be read by all men.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Karla Kieser

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

1 Thess. 5:18

Greetings to all this Thanksgiving season! We were excited to have a wedding this past month. Bro. Doug Mangers married Sis. Kary Ackerman from Morton on November 21 in Morton, IL. Bro. Doug is the son of Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl and grew up in the Champaign area. We wish the newlyweds well as they make their home and begin their lives together in Denver, company

In this season of thanks our Sunday School children gathered together on a Saturday morning to prepare baskets for distribution to the needy. The children were excited and loved putting the baskets of food and other essentials together. May the Lord bless each cheerful giver and each receiver!

We thank our visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). We especially want to thank Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder for helping out our Elder Bro. Wayne with the Memorandum on November 7. This is a very important task and we appreciate his act of service.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Rich and Sis. Dorothy Fischer as they

experienced a loss in the family this past month. Bro. Rich lost his brother, Marvin, who was from Leo, IN.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings of love from Chicago. By the time you read this, we will have commemorated Thanksgiving and taken a little extra time to think about the things for which we are truly thankful. In Chicago, we are very thankful to have a new family from South Bend, IN, assembling with us. We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Mangold and their children, Andrew, Benjamin and Zachary. We know relocation is a big “uprooting”, but we pray that they will feel at home in our congregation as they establish new roots here.

Special thanks go out to Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) for presenting a Topical Bible Study on “The Early New Testament Church”. We appreciate his willingness to delve into the Scriptures on our behalf as well as make the trip to Chicago. We also appreciated the recent visit and ministry of Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ) and a visit by the Belvidere, IL, Sunday School. We thank each one for the special blessings they brought.

Our prayers are with our dear Sis. Julie Westfall as she is at home recovering from surgery. We have grown to love Sis. Julie and her family since they have moved here recently and pray for God’s healing and blessings on them all.

My little 3 ½ year old nephew

continues to teach myself, and my family, what it is like to see through the eyes of a child. As we get older, our views and attitudes on life and circumstances can become more jaded and skewed, and I know I can really complicate things which shouldn't be that hard at all. Simple faith. Simple Trust. The things we were taught in Sunday School and absorbed like a sponge. These are the things about which my nephew is learning. Recently, his baby sister had to have a blood sample taken. It was a somewhat traumatic scene. It took three separate nurses three separate tries to find a vein from which to draw a blood sample from my niece. By the time it was finished, my niece was screaming, my sister was crying – and my nephew was soberly standing there with big eyes – but no tears. Since he usually gets upset in those types of situations, my sister asked why he didn't cry. He simply replied, "I was trusting in God." What can be added to that? "...and a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6).

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Andrea Walder
Susan Waldbeser**

We are grateful to the following ministers for serving us this past month: Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL), Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL). We appreciate the service of each of these brothers and know God will

bless them.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'er-shaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark! 'Tis the voice of angels,
Borne in a song to me,
Over the fields of glory,
Over the jasper sea.
Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'er shaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hymns of Zion #218

Our thoughts and prayers were often with two dear families this past month during the loss of their loved ones. Our prayers go to Sis. Dorothy Walder (late Bro. Dale) on the loss of her precious little infant grandson, Braden Joseph, son of Joe and Tricia Walder. It was also with sadness in our hearts that we bid farewell to our Sis. Tillie Rudin. She leaves behind her daughter, Sis. Sandy Rudin, and son, Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin and family. We pray that God will sustain these two dear families in their time of sorrow and that they can rest assured in the hope that their loved ones are "Safe in the Arms of Jesus".

Our prayers are with Sis. Joan Rudin and Sis. Mary Bauer as they both underwent surgery this past month. We pray that God's healing hand will be upon them.

We rejoice with Bro. Monty and Sis. Bethany VanWyhe on the birth of their precious little girl, Lydia Rose. Also enjoying her is big brother, Levi, along with grandparents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank and Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan VanWyhe (Lester, IA).

Also welcoming home another little daughter is Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte Waldbeser. Laura Joan joins big sisters, Lisa and Molly, and big brother, Luke, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser and Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA). May God continue to be with these two dear families as they strive to raise these little ones for Him.

We also have two other families rejoicing over grandchildren born. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder are enjoying little Isaac Luke born to Bro. Josh and Sis. Tina Walder (Congerville). Also Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (late Bro. Alvin) welcomes a new grandson, Dolan Donald, son of Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe (Bloomington, IL).

On November 14, our church listened to Bro. Wayne Laubscher preach his last sermon and retire from the ministry and his duties as deacon. We thank him and Sis. Gloria for their service to our church the past nineteen years and pray that they can feel God's continued guidance and blessings in the years ahead.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Rachel Schrock

One cold, frosty Sunday morning we were reminded how the frost disappears when the warmth of the sun is soaked in by the earth. Likewise, if our hearts are spiritually cold and frosty, the warmth of the Son's Word can make the frost disappear if we will allow it to soak into our souls.

One whom we believe is now

basking in the fullness of God's love is Bro. Glenn Ruegsegger (Sis. Margret, Bay City). He passed from this earth on October 17. Bro. Glenn is the father of our Bro. Lee (Sis. Alice) Ruegsegger. May they feel the comfort that only God can give in their time of loss.

Bro. Brad Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue) is also basking in God's love and comfort as recently his engagement to Sis. Deanna Virkler (John and Sis. Maureen, Rockville) was announced. The happy couple is planning a January wedding. We are praying that both families will be blessed during the days, weeks, and years ahead as these two lives become joined into one in the Lord.

Bro. Brent and Sis. Sheila Ifft have also felt God's comforting, guiding hand as they have recently moved their family to our area. We welcome them and their boys, Joseph, Darren, Stephen, Nathan and Jacob, into our congregation!

We also welcome those who join us to worship each Sunday and Wednesday night. We were especially blessed on a Wednesday night to have ministering Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO) in our midst. May God bless them for being willing to be spent on our behalf during their visit.

Two souls have felt God's blessings on their conversion and are planning to become members of the family of God Thanksgiving weekend. These peace filled souls are Kali Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie) and Craig Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth).

Peace is also filling the homes of other families in our congregation who have welcomed the safe arrival of their precious babies. Isaac Luke joins Bro. Josh and Sis. Tina Walder's family. Hannah is a proud big sister! Bro. James and Sis. Lisa Knapp embrace Lily Ann into their hearts. She is welcomed home by her siblings, Jesse, Jared, Joshua, Leah and Jordan.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, And rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Romans 5:1-2

There was rejoicing among the angels, wise men, shepherds, Simeon and Anna as they received the news of Christ's birth and anticipated the redemption He would bring to mankind. We too rejoice whenever this plan of salvation is embraced by seeking souls among us. On the weekend of October 23 and 24, Bro. Dick Hartman (Allegra) and Sis. Trisha Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) gave their testimonies and were baptized. In January, we look forward to hearing the testimony of Amanda Kellenberger (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie), who also has repented and found peace.

Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) assisted with the provings of Bro. Dick and Sis. Trisha. Also vis-

iting Elgin the weekend of the baptisms were ministering Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). Other visitors who lent themselves in the ministry were Bros. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Neil Ramseyer and Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), and Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL). May God bless all for their labors.

During the last month, we welcomed two little additions to our church family. On October 25, Ryan Scott was born to Andy and Lori Tobler and joins brothers Zachery and Cole. Ryan's grandparents are Michael Battuello and Pam Brown and Sis. Madelyn Tobler and Merle Tobler. Bro. Ben and Sis. Stephanie Standish announced the birth of their daughter, Manna Kailyn, on November 8. Awaiting her homecoming were her sisters, Aubrey and Ashton. Manna's grandparents are Joe and Sis. Cheri Frantz and Mike and Kathy Standish.

Of those who underwent surgery, Kaelin Schambach (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika) and Sis. Merrilee Johnston are back in our midst and seem to be doing well. Sis. Debbie Sauder (Sis. Gert) is at home recuperating from bypass surgery, and Sis. Marge Wewetzer (Bro. Bill) remains hospitalized after suffering a broken hip. Bro. Chuck Schambach also required some hospital care and has recently been moved to Resthaven. We know the Master Healer and Comforter can reach beyond our

limits to help these dear ones in their need.

On November 17, Sis. Tillie Rudin passed away in Cissna Park. Our sympathy is extended to her daughter, Sis. Sandy Rudin (formerly of Elgin), her sister, Lydia Osmun, and the rest of her family. Though Sis. Tillie will be sorely missed, we believe she is at rest in the Lord.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I would like to thank all who remembered me with cards, gifts, and phone calls on my 85th birthday. May God richly bless each one.

*In Christian Love,
Bro. Albert Schambach*

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger**

Our congregation has many reasons to rejoice. We are thankful for five souls who have begun their repentance. We wish much grace to Rebecca and Miranda Leman (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene), Rachel and Angela Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn) and Connie Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola). May God guide them through this important step in life.

We are also thankful to have had several visiting ministers to share the Word with us this month. We extend our sincere appreciation to the following brethren: Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Dennis Rassi

(Fairbury, IL), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL). Also, on November 6, Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) joined us to help with the reading of the Memorandum. We are grateful for the blessings of the evening.

Our Bros. Harold Schmidtgall (Sis. Ethel) and Jim Stoller (Sis. Janet) have undergone surgery recently. Our prayers are with them as there may be uncertain days ahead. May they feel God's special nearness during this time.

Bro. Dan Beutel's sister, Amy Crumbo (Pekin, IL), has unexpectedly passed from this life. We offer our sincere condolences to all of her family. Also, death has claimed the life of Marvin Fischer, brother-in-law to Bro. Tom (Sis. Edie) Stoller. May the Lord be near, comfort, and provide for all who are grieving.

We are thankful to have witnessed baptisms for three dear souls. We warmly welcome our new sisters, Ashley Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine), Danielle Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris) and Kate Rocke (Bro. Robyn and Sis. Jan), into the body of Christ. May they find sufficient grace to battle on day by day.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Anna Schmidgall
Tammy Hinrichsen**

Greetings from Fairbury! Our congregation was blessed with many visitors this past month. We had an invite-a-couple weekend

and our Bible Class invited Bible Classes from the Akron, Winthrop and Minneapolis churches. Ministering to us were Bros. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH), Nate Wieland (Goodfield, IL) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL). Thank you for allowing yourselves to be used on our behalf.

Micah Andrew Knapp was born November 3 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana. He is welcomed home by big sisters, Lexie and Megan, and big brother, Seth. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart and Bro. Charles and Sis. Paula Knapp. Louisa Jean Moser was born November 15 to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara. She is baby sister to Damaris, Silas, Leighton, Gideon, Reena, Elsa and Josiah. Grandparents are Robert and Cherie Kaisner and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser and the late Myrna Moser. We rejoice with these families as they experience the miracle of a new baby in each of their homes.

Several from our congregation have spent time in the hospital this month. Our prayers for God's healing touch go out to Sis. Pat Hartman, Laura Zehr, Helen Gerber, Bro. Harvey Schieler and Bro. Rich Walter.

Our friend, Willard Walter, passed away on November 17. We extend heartfelt sympathy to his life companion, Arlene; his children, Dale and Carol Ann Glotfelty, their families; his brother, Bro. Rich Walter, and his family. Willard and Arlene have

attended church faithfully and his presence will be missed by everyone.

By far the most wonderful news to be able to put in this letter is the fact of another lost soul coming to the knowledge of a need for a Saviour. Jarrin Rabe (Darrell and Jean) has taken that step towards a "Peace that passes all understanding" by giving her life to our Lord Jesus! We rejoice with her and encourage her to continue in faith.

As each of us gathers this Thanksgiving season and are thankful for families, friends, and our faith, let us also remember how blessed we are to be in a country that allows us the freedom to worship!

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Leman**

Our thanks go out to Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). May God bless each one for being willing to share God's Holy Word with us at Forrest.

Congratulations to Ben Wenger and Leah Stoker on their marriage engagement. We wish them God's blessings and direction as they make plans for the future. Ben is the son of Marvin and Rita Wenger.

Another precious little daughter named Mikayla Jo was added to the family of Bro. Mike and Sis. Marsha Lanz. Welcoming her

home is big sister, Marissa, and grandparents, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz.

We are thankful little Abigail Aberle (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Tami) is at home and doing well after a short hospital stay. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Carol Turner (Jerry) as she recuperates from surgery. Also we continue to uphold in prayer our friend, Blake Hall, as he undergoes further treatment.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin**

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

We are so thankful for four "new creatures in Christ". Our new sisters are Sis. Leigh Bowen, Sis. Michelle Schwenk, Sis. Mary Beth Moen, and Sis. Shelley Hinrichsen. There are not adequate words to thank Jesus for the sacrifice He made for us, so we could be washed in the blood and made clean and whole. May we never forget to praise and thank Him daily.

Gabriel Joseph was born to Jason, Sis. Jenny and Hannah Royer. May God bless them and their new addition.

Our hospital patients are Sis. Sandy (Bro. Sam) Hohulin and Sis. Vi Hohulin (the late Bro. Chris). We pray they can feel the healing hand of the Lord, and the

love of their church. We also think of Brenda Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck) as she prepares for an upcoming surgery.

Visiting ministers this month are as follows: Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie), Bro. Dennis Kauffman (Sis. Bonnie), Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda), Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores) and Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou). May God bless them for their service.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Recently our family had occasion to get some sandwiches at a restaurant. The head waiter who seated us was a middle-aged man, full of enthusiasm. He seated us and we thanked him for his courtesies and general friendliness. He said he does his best with the talents he has been given. He then said, "I won't let the devil take my joy from me." This was an instructive comment, and one instigating much thought. Indeed, we as believers have an enemy that tries to rob us of our joy. We who faithfully serve the Lord have an ongoing reason to be joyous because, not only do we have a spiritual abundance, but a material one as well. We have very little reason to lose our joy, but the devil roars as a lion trying to rob us of our inner happiness associated with salvation.

We were glad to have Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) as a ministering brother, both on Thanksgiving Day and on the following Sunday, November 28.

Bro. Ralph Schlipf was injured recently loading some tables, and had to have hip surgery. We wish

him well and pray for the Lord's healing. Sis. Lucille Wagner was also hospitalized, but is now back home. Sis. Val Funk and Sis. Sonia Endress are recovering from surgery, and Sis. Winifred Schlipf is taking treatments for an illness. Sis. Jean Kieser is recovering from surgery, too. May God be the great physician according to His will. How wonderful it is that we can commit our loved ones to His care and then rest in His will being done.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Feucht, Roanoke, have moved to a farm a few miles southeast of Gridley. We welcome them. They will be attending Gridley on Wednesday evenings, for now.

Bro. Kevin Knapp was here on Wednesday evening, November 10, to speak about his trip to the Holy Land. This was very interesting, and we thank him for his many insights and meaningful experiences regarding the Biblical/historic sites he visited.

In our local church's calendar (for November), it was noted we have eight converts. How thankful we should be that the door of grace is still open, and that souls are hearing the call to repentance. The Scriptures tell us that one soul is worth more than the whole world, so we should rejoice with this number of persons who are seeking their soul's salvation. Yet, the fields are white unto harvest, and there are many, many more eligible to find this great hope through our Lord and Saviour. May the church ever be a beacon of Truth, and reflect a godliness that can help draw the lost.

We offer our sympathies to Bro.

Carlos and Sis. Marti Bahler over the passing of his mother, Martha Bahler, of Fairbury.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

Another bundle of joy has blessed the home of our Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel Braker. Reagan Elizabeth was born October 21. She is welcomed home by big brother, Kyle.

May God bless this growing family.

Marian Waldbeser passed away October 24. She is a sister to our Sis. Ruth Krantz.

Gene Mathis passed away. He is the father to Joann (Gene) Knapp. May God comfort these dear families.

Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL) was the speaker for our topical Bible presentation on Wednesday, November 3. His topic was on "Being An Encourager". An encourager means: to inspire with hope; to inspire on; to give strength and hope and comfort. What an opportunity for us as believers to be encouragers.

We were blessed to host the wedding of Bro. Traever Guingrich (Indianapolis, IN) to Sis. Andrea Neukomm (Lexington, KY) on November 14. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda Neukomm (Lexington, KY). May our Lord bless this dear couple as they walk hand in hand in service to Him.

Our visiting brothers for the

month were: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN), Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL). May the Lord bless these dear brothers for their labors of love.

Note of Thanks:

Our thanks to all for your prayers and kindness shown to us during our Sis. Mildred Koehl's (Mick) illness and then at her passing. God bless you all.

The family of Mildred (Mick) Koehl

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"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, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

On November 6, Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) ministered to us. We appreciate his service.

Leona Ivie has made known her desire to seek the Lord in repentance and learn to walk in His ways. The angels rejoice in heaven over one sinner who repents.

On November 14, four converts were announced for upcoming testimonies and baptisms on November 20 and 21. They are: Isaac Funk (Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi), Jodi Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy), Zach Nelson (Bro. Breck and Sis. Jane), and Jeremy Stickling (Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan).

On November 16, Bro. Wade Fehr (Sis. Marjorie) gave his testimony-of-faith at the Peoria Sky-lines home and was baptized. On November 17, Sis. Marjorie gave her testimony-of-faith after Wednesday evening services. Sis. Marjorie was then baptized. We rejoice with them in their new walk with the Lord.

On November 7, "Living Waters" Men's quartet from Gridley sang at our Hymn Sing. The kindergarten and pre-kindergarten also blessed us with their songs of praise.

On November 3, ministering Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton) and Bro. Joe Gerber spoke at Family Night. Their topic was: "Intelligent Design".

On November 2, a prayer meeting was held at church over the lunch hour. It was a blessing to spend a "Sweet Hour of Prayer" during the process of our national election. "In God we Trust" as He has blessed America, may He continue to bless, lead, guide, and protect our freedom.

On November 6, the Light House Academy held its supper and auction. It was a blessing to learn more about the school. Many lovely donations were made. Special thanks to all.

Madialena Peja was born to Omero and Bethany (Kieser)

Anguiano. Thankful grandparents are: Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Kieser.

Ruby Grace was born to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Rachel (Geyer) Waibel. Ruby is welcomed home by her sisters: Zoe, Ellie, Mia and Tess.

Special prayers are appreciated by these dear families who are experiencing health problems: Sis. LouAnn (Fred) Funk, Bro. Chad Herman, Bro. Bob (Sis. Lorene) Joos, Sis. Judy (Bro. Dean) Martin, Fred (Sis. Norma) Rieker, Bro. Herman (Sis. Eva Jean) Schaefer, Bro. Ben Stickling and Bro. Ivan (May) Thomas.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington) and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) inspired the sisters with children and the newly married at the women's seminar on November 2. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley) spoke to the brothers on November 11 concerning their role of responsibility within the family.

The choir traveled to Ft. Scott, KS, during the weekend of October 30 and 31.

Welcome to our congregation: Bro. Michael and Sis. Lori Stratton, Collin and Haley.

Note of Thanks:

Many thanks for your visits, flowers, cards, gifts, and phone calls while I was in the hospital rehab. I have felt all your love and prayers. May God bless you all.

Sis. Florence Schwartz

"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and

to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Isaiah 9:7

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Phyllis Knobloch Crystal Streitmatter

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:21

We are thankful that two dear souls are seeking for this treasure and have turned their hearts to God. Raquel Knobloch (Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann) and Mark Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia) are now walking with the Lord! We find joy in our hearts when we hear this kind of news when the world is in such a turmoil. The peace that passeth all understanding! It is ours for the asking!

We have had several hospital patients and pray that the Lord will grant them according to their needs. They are retired Elder Bro. David Kieser (the late Sis. Ruth), Sis. Joan Berchtold (Bro. Lavern) and Bro. Nate Martin (Sis. Esther). May we all continue to keep them in our prayers.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner added two grandchildren to their family. Braden Joseph was born to Joe and Tricia Walder (Hoopeston, IL) on October 28. He was taken to be with the Lord, one week later, a bud for the Master's Bouquet! God be with this dear family! On October 24, a daughter, Taya Joy, was born to Bro. John and Sis. Holly Zimmerman

(Santiago, Chili).

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) was here to help our Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene) with the Memorandum on November 13. We are so thankful for our dear Elders and pray that we will continue to appreciate all of the good advice they give us and also for the many hours that they spend in our behalf. The next day we had "Invite a Guest", and Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) also ministered unto us. Thank you to the ministers and also to all of the guests which we thoroughly enjoyed.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

Psalm 27:14

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Doris Fischer
Joan Leman

"...What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19:6

We rejoice with two young couples as they have each been united in holy matrimony. Sis. Keri Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy) and Bro. Kirk Plattner (Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene, Princeville) were united as one in the Lord on October 17. Bro. Dustin Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty Hodel) and Sis. Mandy Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol, Sarasota) were united as one in the Lord on October 31.

We wish them God's rich blessings as they establish their new Christian homes.

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,
 His love and truth with one accord,
 Go offer Him thy youthful days
 and walk within the Saviour's
 ways.

Hymns of Zion 135, Verse 1

We are thankful that Joel Wuthrich (Bill Wuthrich and Sis. Valerie Wuthrich) has heeded God's call unto repentance and has surrendered his life unto the Lord in his youth. May he ever feel God's love and guidance as he walks with the Lord.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Barb Stoller (Bro. Rich), Mary Jane Steffen (Dan) and Dillon Hodel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Connie) as they have spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray for God's blessings of strength and healing for each of them..

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Drew and Sis. Amanda Leman, as they welcome little William Andrew into their hearts and home. He was born October 18. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Jeanne Leman and Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Zimmerman of Morton. We also rejoice with Bro. Matt and Sis. Melissa Kaufman as they too became first-time parents. God blessed them with a little girl, Sophia Leigh, on November 2. Joyful grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Janet Leman and Lynn Kaufman and Warren Kaufman. May God grant wisdom to these parents as they raise their

children

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power."

I Corinthians 2:4

In appreciation, we thank our visiting ministers for sharing God's Word with us. They were Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda) of Leo, Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene) of Princeville, Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie) of Princeville, Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth) of Wolcott and Bro. Dave Zehr Sis. Vicki) of Gridley. May the Lord bless these brothers and their families for laboring on our behalf.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
Lavonne Wagenbach

We are always thankful for visiting ministers and especially want to thank Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL) for the efforts put forth to feed our congregation spiritually by the Holy Spirit's inspiration.

Katie Moser passed away after a full life of 105 years. She had been a resident of the Apostolic Christian Restmor in her latter years of life. Our sympathy is extended to her family.

We also grieve with Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel on the passing of their daughter, Amy Crumbo, of Pekin, IL. Her siblings are Bro. Dan Beutel (Eureka, IL), Richard (Naida) Beutel (Stowe, VT), Bro. Gene (Sis. Lynne)

Beutel (Rockville, CT), and Sis. Colleen Moser (Bro. Mark). Her children are Jerey Harper, Trudi Harper, Cali Harper, and Kasi Crumbo. May each one feel the presence of the Comforter during this time of sudden loss.

Bro. Lucas and Sis. Diana Gudeman are first-time parents to Collin William. His grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel. We pray the Lord will guide and bless their lives as parents and as they relocate to the Bradford, IL, congregation. Bro. Si III and Sis. Lori Wagenbach have been blessed with another child, Lauren Elisabeth. Her siblings are Courtney, Caitlyn, Elise, Bethany and Simon IV. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Si Jr. and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach as well as Bob and Joy Rodden (Mackinaw, IL). Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Sauder rejoice in the birth of their grandson, Hudson Douglas, born to Doug and Brooke Sauder (Livermore, CA). He was born on November 14 and welcomed home by his big sister, Sutton.

Recently hospitalized were Bro. Ken Huette (Sis. Arlene), Sis. Vi Koch, and Sis. Emma Aberle. May God who knows each one's need provide comfort and care to these loved ones.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Knepp
Barb Banwart**

A new baby girl has brought much joy to the home of first-time parents, Nate and Lynette Schick. Laura Rose was born October 19

and is welcomed by many little cousins and by grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick and Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz. On November 11, Ryan Carter Mangold was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Judy Mangold. His older brother and sister are Michael and Erica. Grandparents are the late Bro. Charles and Sis. Mary Mangold (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue Waibel (Wolcott, IN).

Father and son, Bro. Eugene Kellenberger and Bro. Ron Kellenberger, are experiencing serious illnesses and appreciate prayerful support. Sis. Pat Knapp was a recent surgical patient. There are others among us who experience illness or other trials and we know they have the compassion of our Saviour.

We appreciated the recent Wednesday evening visit of Bro. Byron and Sis. Carol Stoller (Gridley, IL) for a topical Bible study. We were so well reminded of the privilege and necessity of prayer.

Our congregation was blessed on the weekend of September 20-21 when a dear soul gave her testimony and was baptized, now our Sis. Katelyn Fehr. She is the daughter of Dave and Sis. Linda Fehr. Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) was here to share God's Word the same weekend.

It is a blessing to enjoy this season of Thanksgiving. One verse from a hymn reads,

With grateful hearts the past we
own;
The future, all to us unknown,

We to Thy guardian care commit,
And, peaceful, leave before Thy
feet.

—*Philip Doddridge 1702-1751*

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Amber Steffen
Elizabeth Frauhiger**

Safe in the Arms of Jesus
Safe on His gentle breast
There by His love o'ershaded
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hymns of Zion #218

We are thankful to know that four dear sisters are now with the Lord after many years of faithful service. On October 19, Sis. Doris Frauhiger slipped into eternity at the age of 79. Our sincerest prayers are with the loved ones she left behind. They include one son, Bro. Lynn (Sis. Jenny); two daughters, Sis. Lavon Gerber (Bro. Rex) and Louann Fahl (Phil); six grandchildren and one great – grandchild.

Sis. Alice Aschliman won her earthly battle on October 28 as the Lord called her Home to be with Him after 82 years in this life. Sis. Alice will be missed by her son, Bro. Derryl (Sis. Peggy); four daughters, Sis. Diane Heyerly (Bro. Von), Loretta Smith (Dave), Laura Grime (Mark) and Sis. LouAnn Kaehr (Bro. Keith); 21 grandchildren and five great – grandchildren. Other survivors include three brothers, Bro. Dale Fiechter (Sis. Doris), Bro. John Fiechter (Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Gerald Fiechter (Sis. Eunice); and four sisters, Sis. Irene Reinhard, Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander (Bro. William), Sis. Doris

Neuenschwander (Bro. Charles) and Sis. Lillian Bertsch (Bro. Walter).

We lift up our Bro. Richard Reinhart as he mourns the loss of his dear wife, Sis. Phyllis. Sis. Phyllis passed away on November 10 at the age of 78. Our prayers are with her son, Vaughn (Gayla), two daughters, Carol Gaskil (Doug) and Patti Johnston (Randy), and six grandchildren.

On November 17, Sis. Clara Fiechter bid this world farewell and was welcomed to her Heavenly Home. She was 86. We remember her husband, Bro. Homer, and her children, Ray Fiechter (Carol), Sis. Sheryl Ringger (Bro. Alan) and Kent Fiechter (Deb). Also surviving are her brothers, Bro. Everett Schladenhauffen, Bro. Harold Schladenhauffen, and Warren Schladenhauffen; nine grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. While we mourn our loss on earth for each of these sisters, we know that they are rejoicing at the reunion up in Heaven.

The rejoicing in Heaven continues as three more souls have given up the ways of the world to follow the Lord. We also rejoice with David Wolf (Bro. Kent and Sis. Viola), Scott Johnson (Jamie) and Danielle Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Trudy). May God direct them as they begin their journeys in faith.

Sis. Dulla Pulver has spent some time in the hospital. We pray that God's healing hand be upon her.

September 2 was the day that Aden John Frauhiger was born to Kenny and Lynette. His happy

grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Reinhard and Bro. Tom and Sis. Rose Frauhiger.

Aaron and Bobbi Howley welcomed their first son on November 9. Owen Clark is the new grandson of Sis. Carla Girod.

November 7 was the wedding day of Bro. Brady Ripple and Sis. Jacki Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda). We pray that this dear couple will feel God's blessings in their marriage.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

Romans 13:14

We are thankful that Adrienne Steffen, daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise, has put on the Lord Jesus Christ this month. We are prayerful for her that each day she will turn away more and more from the flesh and learn to rely completely on Christ.

We were encouraged and convicted as we heard the Memorandum this month. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton) to assist our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner in reading it.

We had two first-time grandparents this month. Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Schwartz are the joyful grandparents of Kedrik William Sonnigsen. His parents are Tyler and Heather Sonnigsen. Also,

very thankful is the new grandma, Sis. Kathy Meyer for her grandson Gavin Truman, son of Andy and Sarah Yergler.

Bro. Dan Dubach (Sis. Bethany, Prescott) shared his ministry with us this month. We are always thankful to have their family visit the Bluffton area.

We are prayerful for Bro. Everett Schladenhauffen (Sis. Luella) and Bro. Harold Schladenhauffen in the loss of their sister, Sis. Clara Fiechter (Bro. Homer, Bluffton). We are thankful that we have a reunion in Heaven to look forward to.

We had several hospital stays this month. They were Sis. Clarice Isch (Bro. Harry), Sis. Louise Gerber (Bro. Carroll), Sis. Aldulla Pulver, Sis. Marguerite Kipfer, and Sis. Alice Honegger. Praying they will always be relying on the Lord for their strength.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

Psalms 27:14

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber**

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Luke 2:9-10

"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

Greetings of this Holy Season to all! May the love, hope, peace and joy of the momentous event of the Savior's birth be the basis of your holiday celebrations with family and friends. Jesus is truly the reason for the season.

Elder Bro. Lynn Steiglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) graciously expounded on the Memorandum from the Elder Conference. He lovingly relayed the conclusions of the Conference and gave us all much food for thought and growth. We were challenged to live consecrated lives to the glory of God. It is evident that our Elders spend much time in prayer and Scripture study in order to bring their findings to us and it now becomes our responsibility to mature in the Spirit.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Romans 12:2

Our prayers have been sent heavenward once again for Lana Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine) as she has begun her fifth round of chemotherapy. We trust our Heavenly Father for endurance for Lana and continued peace for her beloved family.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:7

We enjoyed a very special Thanksgiving Program. We truly have so much to be thankful for. Many took part to emphasize the blessings we enjoy from everyday things that we take for granted to the priceless gift of salvation and the joy of living for Christ. We ended the evening by singing “God Bless America” and it is so evident that He has, and, even though we are displeasing as a nation in many areas, He continues to do so. May we be stirred to truly thank God for our blessings.

In spite of wonderful blessings, it is important to keep those in our congregation who are going through times of testing and ill-health. It is one of the beautiful privileges of our fellowship to “pray one for another”.

Sis. Betty Huber has been confined to her home for some time. Our dear Bro. Lester Nuest has also been unable to assemble with us. We are prayerful that they will not become discouraged and remember the promise in the verse: “It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23)

May your Christmas season be blessed and your life surrendered to Christ who came to us by the will of our Heavenly Father as the Babe of Bethlehem and grew to be-

come our Savior.

The Babe Of Bethlehem

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 divine,
surrounds the Christ so mild
Alas how many only know the Saviour as a child.

Our saving hope is all in vain, If
here our love should cease,
For in the man of Galilee, We find
the gift of peace.

‘Tis not the babe, but Christ, the
man Who walked in Galilee;
‘Tis not the manger, but the cross,
That sets the spirit free.

Be not content this babe to know,
Nor stay at Bethlehem,
But go with Christ to Calvary's
brow, Beyond Jerusalem.

It's there men learn to know the
Christ, For there he bore man's
sin.

Then open wide the door of heart.
And let the Saviour in.

Hymns of Zion #36

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Debbie Anliker**

Greetings from Indianapolis.

Blessings have certainly been bountiful this month!

We were blessed with visitors to share God's Word, two new babies joined our church family, we had opportunities to share the blessings God has given us with others, and we shared the joy of two loved ones being joined as husband and wife.

On Saturday evening, October 16, Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) was here with our Elder Bro. Wayne

Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) to share the Memorandum with us. It was an evening filled with instruction and encouragement to help us on our way.

Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS) spent October 17 with us. We thank them for being with us and for sharing God's Word.

October 18 was a special day for Bro. Joel, Sis. Tricia, and Parker Zeller as they welcomed Madison Lee into their family. Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller, Indianapolis, and Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson (Dallas, TX) are Madison's grandparents.

Bro. Tim Sauder came from Leo to spend a Wednesday evening with us. He shared about the programs and opportunities at Gateway Woods.

October 30-31 was outreach weekend here in Indianapolis. Many young people traveled to spend the weekend with us. It was a wonderful weekend of fellowship and many opportunities to share God's blessings with those in the community. It was encouraging to see their eagerness and enthusiasm to share God's love.

Samuel Joseph was warmly welcomed by Bro. Joe and Sis. Tara Sprunger on November 12. Chloe is Samuel's big sister. We are so thankful for his safe arrival.

Many of the Indianapolis congregation traveled to Morton on November 14 to attend the wedding of Bro. Traever Guingrich and Sis. Andrea Neukomm. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich, Indianapolis, and Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda Neukomm (Lexington, KY). Bro.

Traever and Sis. Andrea will be at home in Morton. We wish them God's rich blessings as they begin their life as husband and wife.

Bro. Ken Lawson (Sis. Sharon, Dallas, TX), Bro. Niles Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN) were all in Indianapolis November 14. It was a blessing to have them with us, and our prayer is that God will richly bless them for their labors of love.

We have had much to be thankful for this month!

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Eric & Bobbi Ann Heinold

Sis. Erma Moser was hospitalized in the past month. Due to declining health, she is moving to Whispering Pines nursing home in Valparaiso. Our prayers are with her and her sister, Sis. Lorene, as they make this transition.

Karla Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla) had gall bladder surgery this past month. She is recovering well.

The Junior & Senior Bible Class members and the Single Group helped package food baskets of items donated by the church members for some families in our area for Thanksgiving. They delivered the baskets and then had a pizza party and enjoyable evening at Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold's home. It is such a touching experience for each one to be able to help others in their time of need.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, may we remember the reasons that each of us have to be so thank-

ful for all of the blessings that God has given us this past year.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Our congratulations to Dustin Donovan and Amanda Gerber who were married October 23. Dustin's brothers are Bro. Jerry and Randy Fessenden, and foster parents, the late Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz. Amanda's (Mandi) parents are John and Deb Gerber and Ricki and Jim Glessner (Smithville, OH). May the One who brought them together be their guide.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Mary B. Gramm on the sudden passing of her brother - in - law, Norman Kuhn (Karen), and Sis. Marie Bertsch, his aunt.

We continue to pray for Bro. Duane Broquard (Sis. Carol). We were happy to see Bro. Duane and Sis. Carol in church on November 14. He was wearing his body cast. Praise to the Lord for His blessings.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Heidi Pence were first-time parents on November 13, with the birth of Levi Andrew. He was named after his great - grandfathers. His grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorine Hackenjoos (Latty, OH) and John and Marty Pence. God's blessing on this family.

Christmas greetings. God give you joy; He came that we might live. Everywhere we see lights at this season. The greatest light is Jesus and those that shine for Him. (Matt. 5:14)

"Wherefore the Lord said, For-

asmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."

Isaiah 29:13-14

"Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth; ... He is the Lord our God:"

Psalms 105:4,5,7

Bro. Marvin Fischer was called Home to his Lord on November 19 and services were held November 21. Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Pat and their family.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carlton Beer
Paula Haab**

Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) came to Milford to support and help Bro. Nelson on the pulpit in Bro. Dan's absence. We do appreciate all the ministers who have been willing to spend a Sunday with us. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) has made a few trips to Milford. We were all enlightened and encouraged when he talked on Prayer: Why pray, When to pray, What to pray for, Who to pray for, and the position to be in while we

pray. Also what hinders our prayers and the answering of our prayers – the answers all being found in the Bible. The brothers and Bro. Bill have had opportunity to look into the Word together a few evenings which all have agreed that it was good for them to have been there.

Sis. Edna Lehman continues to recover in her home from major surgery. We are so thankful that she feels it is God's will for her life and can have such a good attitude. Martin Stookey, Bros. Don Beer and John Lehman, and Sis. Mayedean Lehman all are able to come to church again after enduring some health problems.

We are happy to welcome a new baby to our church family. Jared was born to Bro. Marc and Sis. Jodi Beer on November 12. He joins big brother, Justin. Excited and thankful grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer and Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Dotterer (Rittman, OH).

It is always a blessing to hear from our Sunday School children. We had that pleasure on November 14 when they sang praises to God, told us of some of the things they were thankful for, and recited Bible verses pertaining to Thanksgiving. The adult choir is always an added blessing to our programs. Now begins the preparation for Christmas. May we all remember the "Reason for the Season", Jesus Christ being born in a lowly manger, to live and then die and arise from the grave, all for the remission of everyone's sins.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

If Jesus were born one thousand times in Bethlehem and not in me then I would still be lost. There was no room in the inn for Him. Is there room in your heart for Him?

We were blessed with many traveling ministers: Elder Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) along with Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Dan Kilgus (Remington) spent Saturday evening, November 6 exhorting us with the Memorandum letter. Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN) preached the Word to us.

We're enjoying fellowshiping together with the Wolcott congregation on several occasions with their church building under remodeling. We had a joint Memorandum service; also, Lord willing, plan to have Thanksgiving services together.

Hospital patient this month: Charity Pratt experienced major back surgery. Her husband, Dave, was able to travel back from Afghanistan to be by her side. We praise God for his safety while traveling and during his war duties.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Melisa Gerst
Stacey Feller**

We extend our warm greetings and wishes for a blessed Christmas celebration to all!

Bro. Rustin and Sis. Amanda

Meister shared a Sunday with us in November, and we appreciated his help in ministering the Word.

Abbey Klopfenstein from Leo, IN (Bro. Loren and Sis. Rita) has begun college in our area. We extend a hearty welcome to her and are enjoying having her worship with us.

Our warm congratulations and best wishes to Shana Frank (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn) and Kevin Schutt as they were married October 22 in Cabo San Lucas, Baja, Mexico. They are residing in Indianapolis. May God protect, guide, and richly bless this new union as they share life together.

Around Thanksgiving, we enjoyed an evening together at church assembling food baskets to be distributed to various families in need. Thanks to all who contributed items and time to this project.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Edward Lester

Greetings of Love and Peace to all.

I pray that everyone embraced the opportunity of fulfilling your obligation as American citizens by voting. Some of the characteristics of a public servant are privilege, position, and power. Privilege, to serve God. Position, where you stand on issues. Power, using fruits of the Spirit to accomplish God's Word. Not all of the candidates use these words as described, but one person who did use privilege, position, and power to God's people's benefit was Deborah. Deborah, the leader of Israel, is explained as a prophet-

ess. (Judg. 4:4) Deborah used these key words to deliver God's people. Real heroes are hard to find these days, but if you read Judges, you should be able to find some that are worth emulating. The Jewish people depended on God and obeyed his commandments just like us. You demonstrate privilege, position, and power to your family and friends every day. Maybe you are a hero and you don't even realize it.

This month Valparaiso welcomed the Harvest supper. We also wanted to thank Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn) and Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa), Indianapolis, for sharing in our dinner. Accompanying the brothers and family was the Indianapolis choir. Thank you for allowing us to listen to your wonderful voices of praise!

We also want to thank Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. Luann, LaCrosse) and Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott) for sharing God's Word with us.

INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE

Diana Houston
Nettie Haab

"Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."

II Cor. 3:3

What a blessing to have visiting ministers and we are thankful for them as some drive several hours

to come visit us and share God's precious Word. This past month they have been Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN).

Our thoughts and prayers go with Sis. Jan Furrer (Bro. Vernon) as she continues to heal from hip replacement surgery. She is doing well.

We joyfully announce the engagement of Purdue students, Bro. Seth Beer to Sis. Brandy Schwab. Parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Beer (Leo, IN) and Bro. John and Sis. Wendy Schwab (Wolcott, IN).

It was a blessed sun-shiny weekend for the Eastern World Relief Project Presentation. We want to thank everyone who took part and hope all that came were blessed as we were.

"The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it."

Proverbs 29:7

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Lisa Furrer
Heidi Bahler

"Our lot is found in pleasant places; A goodly heritage is ours..." The last Sunday in October, we had a delightful day in LaCrosse, as they had extended an invitation to our church to gather with them on our "off" Sunday,

due to church remodeling. We sincerely thank you all for a day spent together in worship and song. The food and fellowship truly were wonderful! Also, a special thanks to ministering Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN) for being used in the service of the Lord towards our Remington and Wolcott assemblies the previous Wednesday evening. He presented a topical Bible study at our fellowship hall.

Another engagement from the home of Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab was announced. Their second daughter, Sis. Brandy, has accepted the marriage proposal from Bro. Seth Beer of West Lafayette. His parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie (Leo, IN). Seth and Brandy are planning a June 26 wedding, and we pray God's blessings on their every decision!

Submitting to hip replacement surgery was Sis. Jan Furrer (Bro. Vernon). We trust God to grant His healing powers. "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord..." (Jeremiah 30:17)

Just a few weeks after returning from a lengthy European mission trip, our ministering Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna) was also scheduled to have hip surgery. We surely hope it's successful and the recovery is smooth, knowing God is able to do both!

Once again we were blessed to gather at Remington in the quietness of the sanctuary to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Thank you, Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), for coming to help our local Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna) and

Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances). We also thank the Remington congregation for welcoming us often while our church house is under construction.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller have celebrated 50 years of marriage this November! We consider it an honor to have them in our midst, and extend heartfelt wishes for God's favor to them and their family. Congratulations!

Thus united and in concord
Let us walk the path of life;
Hand in hand, O may love bind us
For each other's welfare strive.

With the love of God inspired,
There is joy for us on earth;
May the Spirit, we've acquired,
Grant us blessing, peace and
mirth.

Zion's Harp #237, vs. 1,4

**IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

Christmas. May we remember that Jesus is the reason for the season, and, as we go about with the many preparations that go with celebrating the first coming of Christ, may we also be sure we are prepared for His second coming which could be at any time.

Our sympathy is extended to Rhett and Amy (Butikofer) Jensen at the death of Rhett's mother, Joan (Colin) Jensen. And to Sis. LaVerne Butikofer (Bro. Al) at the death of her brother, Bro. Marvin Fischer (Leo, IN). May God grant comfort during this difficult time.

I found a little poem I would like to share as we come to the close of

another year and begin a new year.

I see not a step before me
As I tread on another year;
But I've left the past in God's
keeping,
The future His mercy shall clear.

As God has so abundantly guided and provided for us in the past, may we trust the future into His keeping also.

**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark**

"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given ... and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Even as we observe Christ's coming to earth as a tiny baby, it is easy to overlook the rest of the story—His suffering for our sake and His ultimate strength and power in overcoming evil. Praise be to God for His power and glory!

We are thankful for the visiting brothers and their families who have been so willing to share the wonderful lessons of the Scripture with us, and thankful for God's protecting hand as they traveled, a gift we so often take for granted. Bros. Dewayne Dill, Dan Koch and Brandon Plattner have served us.

Sis. Willa Clark's family has been blessed again, as David and Julie Clark have a new son, Addison Joseph, born November 18. He joins a sister, Stella. Other grandparents are Roy and Sandra

Reno and Don Clark.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We enjoyed having Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan Frieden (Elgin, IA) and their family visit us this month. We appreciate Bro. Floyd's assistance on the pulpit as well.

We rejoice with Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky Snodgrass' family on the finalization of their adoption of Josie and Shelby, who have changed their names to Renae and Rebba, respectively. This reminds us of the Spirit of adoption available to us and the amazing promises that come with it (Romans 8:14-17).

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

During this past month two couples have been united in marriage. On October 23, Jason Knueven and Trela Knobloch were married. Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knobloch are Trela's parents. Bro. Greg Johnson and Sis. Kristen DeSmet became one on November 7. Kristen's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley DeSmet. We wish both of these couples God's blessings as they begin their life's journey together.

Because of these special occasions we were blessed with many visitors. Among them were ministering brethren including Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bros. Darren Fehr, Pat Zaugg and Duane Metzger, all of West Bend, IA.

With rejoicing we share the

news of two souls answering the call of repentance. We pray God will continue to encourage Maria Warner and Chad DeSmet as they seek to do His will. Thankful parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue Warner and Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley DeSmet.

Bro. Micah and Sis. Marcy Gherian were blessed with the arrival of Zachary Paul on October 22. Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe and Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian (Junction, OH) are his grandparents. Sis. Zelma Knobloch is blessed with another great-grandchild.

Levi Jacob was born on November 9 to Bro. Eric and Sis. Joy Kupferschmid. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid (Eureka, IL). Sis. Emma Meyer is a great-grandmother to Levi.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord."

²*Jeremiah 30:17*

We had loved ones spending some time in the hospital during the past month. Sis. Alice Wulf, Sis. Emma Gerber and Bro. Bill Wulf were in need of extra medical care but are now home recovering.

When this news comes out in print we will be in the middle of the Christmas season. Let us reflect on the real reason for this holiday and not get preoccupied with all the extras.

Note of thanks:

God bless each one of you for your prayers, cards and calls that

were given for me while in the hospital and recuperating at home from back surgery.

Thanking you,
Bro. Paul Leuthold

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Rosalie Wiegand
Sharla Wiegand

"Joy here alternates with woe."
Zion's Harp #91,
"The Heavenly Mind"

Our new sisters in faith are Kelli Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya) and Janae Schulz (Bro. Roger and Sis. June). It is always a time of rejoicing for a congregation. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) helped with this important work.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Sean (Sis. Valerie) Gray in the passing of his grandmother, Dorothy Bendlage. We also said goodbye to Bonnie Wyss and extend sympathy to her brother and sister-in-law, David and Sis. Kathy Wyss. Bonnie's husband, Bro. Doug Wyss, preceded her in death.

IOWA
BLOOMFIELD/PULASKI
Barbara Schock

We were blessed with another visiting minister on October 17. Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) was here. We thank him for coming over and sharing the Word with us. May God bless him for his efforts.

Also, that same weekend, Nathan Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara) had an accident, and

broke his leg. Surgery was required to put the bones back in place. Our thoughts and prayers are with him, and may he feel the hand of the Great Physician.

On the 13th and 14th of November, the Single Group hosted Invite-A-Friend. It was a very blessed weekend, and we had a good turnout.

Bro. Bernard Schaer assembled with us on November 13-14. It has been years since he has been able to come. It was a pleasant surprise to walk into church and see him sitting there on a bench.

Christmas is almost upon us. Our Christmas lists start to get long, and life seems to speed up a bit. We have to get this done, this sent, this prepared, this and that. But do we stop to think what this season is all about? It is about gifts, yes, because this is the time that we rejoice for God's gift to us, His Son. It's not about us. I love Christmas. I love to sing the carols and to read the Christmas Story. It seems though that the world has lost sight of the true meaning of Christmas, the real reason for rejoicing, for celebrating. This was made clear to me as I listened to some school mates of mine talking of what they wanted for Christmas, or they already knew. It is sad to think that to some, Christmas is the time when they get what they want, not a time to rejoice at the Savior's birth.

The Angel's Song

I wonder if we'll hear again
Such lovely song on earth,
As that which once the angels
sang,
Of Jesus' wondrous birth.

O rapturous, holy, blissful scene
Above Judea's plain,
As there the humble shepherds
stood
And heard the sweet refrain.

The echoes of the heavenly song
Did fill the earth that night
For in the town of Bethlehem
Was born the Prince of Light.

The angels sang their praise to
God,
Of peace, good will to men,
Such words as sung by angels host
Shall they be heard again?

Perhaps when Christ shall claim
His own,
As angels round Him throng,
We'll hear the blessed notes again
Of that celestial song.

—Henry Beer

IOWA, WEST BEND

Betty Wirtz
Lori Skoglund

When our October issue of the Silver Lining arrived, it became apparent that the second page of our correspondence had been lost somewhere in transmission. So the remainder of our September letter will begin this month.

Arlo (Marilyn) Grimm was a surgical patient and is home again. Sis. Joyce Banwart and Sis. Clara Banwart were both hospitalized briefly this month. We pray for all our loved ones who have health problems in or out of the hospital. May God grant courage when it is needed and restored health where it is His will.

Much spiritual instruction and encouragement was gleaned from the Conference tapes we have been privileged to listen to.

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”

Matt. 7:24-25

The last weekend in October we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Jordan Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp, Burlington, IA). We welcome him as our dear brother in faith. Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) read and meditated on Joshua, chapter 20, which tells of the city of refuge. He likened it to Bro. Jordan's finding of that city of refuge when he came to the Lord in repentance and became converted.

Other visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA), Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN) and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther) and Bro. Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth) from Lester. We appreciated our own Elder Bro. Wayne (Sis. Kathy) Fehr (Portland, OR) being with us also.

Bro. Darin and Sis. Twila Massner were so thankful for the safe arrival of their new son, Benjamin Alan, on October 29. Aaron will enjoy having a little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart

and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner.

Hospitalized this past month were John (Audrey) Zaugg who was injured in a farm accident and Sis. Edna M. Banwart and Sis. Doris Banwart who received medical treatment. All have been released. Sis. Doris is spending recovery time in the Care Center. Many prayers have been offered on their behalf.

We extend sympathy to those who have lost loved recently. Bro. Bruce (Sis. Audrey) Messner has experienced the deep sorrow of losing a loving father. May they hold onto the many precious memories they have of Bro. Harold Messner (Sis. Geraldine) of Winthrop, MN. Bro. Harley (Sis. Adele) and Bro. Don (Sis. Verda) Bruellman experienced the unexpected death of their brother in law, Bernard (Elaine) Wichtendahl of Livermore, IA.

As we look forward to the joys of the Christmas season, let us keep in our hearts the everlasting joy that His birth made possible.

The Priceless Gift of Christmas

...for God sent the Holy Christ

Child at Christmas for our sake
So man might come to know Him
and feel His presence near,
And see the many miracles performed while He was here.
And this Priceless gift of Christmas is within the reach of all,
The rich, the poor, the young and old, the greatest and the small.
So take His priceless gift of love,
reach out and you'll receive,
And the only payment that God asks is just that you believe.

—Helen Steiner Rice

JAPAN, SHIODA **Eiko Nozawa**

Late autumn has been unusually warm around here. There is a beautiful park near my parents' house, where many cherry trees are planted. And these trees are blooming in the middle of November! Not a few flowers, but so many. They bloomed 2 times this year. How unusual! These flowers are rather white than pink compared to the ones in Spring. But they are so cute and pretty.

Sis. Vicki Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) enjoyed this unexpected beauty during her visit as much as autumn leaves and sweet persimmons. Bro. Akihiro Ito (currently, Tremont, IL) also visited us. November 14 was a joyful Lord's day with these familiar faces among us. It was so good to see them again after a long absence from each other.

Mr. Okamura was a busy worker in Shioda. He pruned trees, fences, bushes etc. When outdoor work was done, he gave the annual fall cleaning to the church building. Thanks to his hard work, warm sunlight pours into church through the clean windows, when we worship the living God on the Lord's day.

In this Thanksgiving season, let us give our special gratitude and praise to our God, who showed and still shows us how much He loves and cares about us.

KANSAS, BERN **Sally Strahm** **Sheri Edelman**

Bro. David and Sis. Sheri

Edelman are thankful Kristi Ann arrived safely on November 14. Big sister, Kari, welcomes her home. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene Edelman.

Troy and Amity Kaeb were united in marriage October 23. We pray God will be with this couple in the days ahead. Their parents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Don Wales and Sis. Carol Wales of Kansas City.

Byron Stoller (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria) and Emily Edelman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) of Sabetha have announced their engagement. May God be with them as they plan for their future wedding.

God calls servants to speak the Word of Truth. Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester, IA) was with us on October 17, Bro. Rex Freiden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO) was with us on November 7 and Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jody, Wichita, KS) was with us on November 14.

Sis. Lucy Rokey, Bro. James Menold (Sis. Louise), Sis. Lois Hartter (Bro. Steve) and Bro. Dan Edelman have spent time in the hospital. We pray a healthy and speedy recovery for all of them.

Our college graduates that will be graduating in December are Sis. Tamra Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan), Bro. Luke Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda of Congerville), Sis. Michelle Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn of Detroit) and Katie Strahm (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Mary). We pray for each one of them as they have fin-

ished their schooling and will be starting in the work force.

Our Sis. Diane Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen) has relocated to Lamar due to employment. We pray God will be with her wherever she goes.

Another year is almost to a close. May we be thankful for the blessings God has sent us and rejoice in the trials He has given us to make us stronger.

Mary's Child and Mine

It was a bed in the stable,
A manger filled with hay,
Where Mary laid her baby,
When He arrived that day.
The stable was rough and humble,
But it sheltered them from the storm.
The manger was crude and common,
But it kept the baby warm.
The clothes Mary had for her baby,
Were simple, but she was content.
I'm sure her heart was joyful,
When she held the child God sent.

I prepared a bed for my baby,
I wanted only the best.
The finest of linens and blankets,
Whereon my child should rest.
And the clothes that I chose were perfect,
Fabrics of delicate hues.
The prettiest and the finest,
Of yellows and of blues.
I spent many days of dreaming,
My heart was filled with joy.
I planned that the best and daintiest,
Should greet my girl or boy.

Yet one day I saw I'd forgotten,
What was an important part.
And I learned what really mattered,
Was cleansing the pride from my heart.
For the best thing to give to my

baby,
A Christian mother would be.
What I needed most was a spirit,
Of loving humility.
Now I pray to be more like Mary,
Gentle, calm, and content.
Desiring only the needful,
Compliant with what God has sent.

Now my greatest desire for my child is
A heart that is upright and true.
A heart that will serve the Savior,
Until life on earth is through.
A life that is humble and honest,
A soul that is tender and fine,
So that they may meet up in heaven,
Mary's child and mine.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for all the loving support and kind deeds offered to us during the passing of our dear wife and mother, Sis. Lila Rokey.

Bro. Joe D. Rokey Jr.

Bro. Joe & Sis. Kathy Rokey

Bro. Morris & Sis. Arlinda Rokey

Sis. Marilyn & Bro. Jay Kellenberger

Sis. Margaret & John Hundley

Sis. Carol & Greg Renyer

Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Rokey

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Ethel Smith

Our love and greeting and reverence for our great God, our Lord and Savior.

We had the pleasure of hosting the Peoria Choir on the weekend of October 30-31. After a dinner at the park, we enjoyed the beautiful hymns. We were privileged to share our homes and enjoy the blessings of fellowship with our

guests. The weekend was very joyous and uplifting.

November 15, Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker, Ervin Knecht, Dennis Warner and John Lehman assembled with us. The duties of Elder of Ft. Scott Church were placed upon Elder Bro. John Lehman. We pray for God's blessings, grace and His guidance for Bro. John and for the church here in Ft Scott. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Dennis Warner for his stewardship for the past few years.

Other visiting ministers this past month were October 31, Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL); November 7, Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL); and November 14, Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL).

We experienced a great loss to our church here in Ft Scott with the sudden passing of our dear and precious Sis. Kathryn Banwart on October 25. She was the wife of our retired Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart and mother of Bro. Lon Banwart (Sis. Debbie) and Bro. Don Banwart (Sis. Aleta) and their families of Ft Scott. She is greatly missed by all of us. Our deep sympathy goes to Bro. Raymond. His health has been failing and has just recently entered the hospital. He is continuing to improve at this time.

Note of Thanks:

Bros. Donald and Lon Banwart and families would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, flowers and food sent to our families. A special thank you for the loving funeral service by Elder Bros. Ted Witzig, Morton, IL, and

John Lehman, Sabetha, KS, and Bros. Larry Bahr from here and Ronald Allenbach, Kiowa, KS. The grandsons of Sis. Kathryn provided special music.

How shall it be when we shall hear him calling...

KANSAS, KIOWA
Laura Wagenbach
Jennifer Stewart

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

Luke 2:15-20

Our prayer for you this Christmas season is that all year through you keep these things and ponder them in your heart, and that we glorify and praise God all year long and just not the Christmas season.

We are looking forward to hav-

ing the young people from K-State come to help us with our caroling this year, and the Christmas program.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr

Sis. Kasha Kraft was risen to a new life in Christ on October 31. Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Bros. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) were here for her testimony and baptism. Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy are her parents.

Bro. Albert and Sis. MaraJean Edelman welcomed a new granddaughter. Teagan Jean was born to Tony and Dora Hines on October 31. Also welcoming her was big sister, Aleah.

On November 7, Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) reminded us of the powerful words of our amazing God – do we make time to read and pray in solitude?

KANSAS, SABETHA
Dawn Strahm
Jeanelle Plattner

The Sabetha congregation was thankful to have Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) minister God's precious and holy Word to us this past month.

Byron Stoller (Bern, KS) and Emily Edelman have announced their engagement. Parents of the couple are Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria Stoller of Bern and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Edelman. We pray for our Lord's nearness and blessings as they look forward to their upcoming wedding.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger are happy to welcome their new granddaughter, Sophie Jae, into their hearts. Sophie was born on October 11 to Darin and Stefany Lesmeister of Topeka. Stefany is the daughter of Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn.

On the weekend of November 13-14, Tasha Knoblock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Rose Ann) and Maggie Eisenbise (Bro. David and Sis. Shari) gave their testimonies to the church and were welcomed into the household of faith. May God ever be near these two babes in Christ as they walk the pathway of this life.

We have had the privilege of hearing three of our four sessions of Conference tapes. It is such a blessing to be able to hear the advice, admonition, and encouragement from our Elder body.

"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."

I Timothy 4:15

Our church Thanksgiving potluck was enjoyed by many on Sunday, November 5. It is always special to gather together as we give God the glory for the blessings of the past year.

The junior Bible class again took time to rake leaves for several in our community this fall. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and we pray God will bless each of the students as well as the teachers for their acts of kindness.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Jeanelle Plattner were blessed with the arrival of Reid Mitchell on August 27. Siblings, Blake and Kortney,

and grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner (Sabetha) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman (Bern), also welcome Reid into their family circle. Reid has been hospitalized with many unknowns in his future. Our prayers are with this dear family as they face each new day.

Other hospital patients this month were Sis. Irene Lehman (Bro. Andy), Sis. Vila Meyer (Bro. Velmer), and Sis. Loree Plattner (Bro. Hank). May God be with each of them also in dealing with their illnesses.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Louise Aberle wishes to thank each of you for flowers, cards, and messages of sympathy at the time of her death. May God bless each of you.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

As I turn my attention to writing this article, I first try to empty my mind of what else I have to do. I took a moment to look out my kitchen window where I saw the last stalk of hollyhocks still in bloom. This is November 16 and it is hard to believe that this part of Kansas has not had a killing frost so far this fall. We are still enjoying the beautiful foliage that autumn brings.

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi was present for services on November 7. Also that day, students of the Kiowa Sunday school were present. They had been overnight guests of the Sauder family in Hesston. Our fellowship is a special blessing to all who share in it. Thank you to all

who make it possible.

Bro. Philip Bowers told me of his recent experience when he attended a ten-state TRIO conference in Detroit. His part of the agenda was on a sensitivity training module for working with students with disabilities. During our conversation I heard these words, "that God's will would be done" and "that God would be glorified". These two phrases seem to be a high priority in Bro. Phil's life.

Bro. Milton Bowers has been able to be present for church services most of this summer. In order to make him more comfortable, two benches were removed from the back of the assembly room and a recliner brought in for Milton's use. This past week, he and his family learned that his body is enduring another affliction and they are in the process of having his problem addressed by specialists. It is Bro. Milton's conviction that he is ready to accept God's will whatever the outcome may be. In the meantime, we are lifting up Bro. Milton and his dear wife, Sis Lillian, in prayer as God's will reveals itself to them.

Present plans are to hold Thanksgiving services on Wednesday evening, November 24. Individually, we need to hold Thanksgiving in our hearts every day.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Betty Baltic
Barb Huber

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever."

I Chronicles 16:34

We're truly thankful for the Lord's many blessings. The weekend of October 31 was a blessed time when Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) in sharing the Memorandum and expounding many wonderful teachings from God's Holy Word. May the Lord bless these dear brothers and their dear wives for their many efforts and labors of love to travel many miles for the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

Wonderful Words of Life were again shared with us by visiting ministers, Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL) on October 24, and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) on November 7. We thank these brothers for lending themselves to be used in the Lord's Service.

An added blessing was shared on November 14, when we witnessed the marriage vows of Sis. Andrea Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda) to Bro. Traever Guingrich (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy, Indianapolis, IN) at Morton, IL. As they have become one in Christ, we pray God will continue to bless their lives and guide them in every step they make throughout life. Since they will be establishing their home in Morton, we look forward to their visits back to Lexington.

Visitors coming from far and near, Burlington, IA; Congerville, IL; Francesville, IN; Bay City, MI; and Rittman, OH; blessed our fellowship when they assembled with us this past month.

A warm welcome is always extended to anyone who may be in our area or traveling through to come and visit us in Lexington. You may contact Bro. Dan Baltic (812-218-8140), Bro. Doug Germann (859-224-8710), Bro. Lester Huber (859-745-2541), or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859-273-8574).

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Rose Watson
Terri Huber**

To God be the glory! Our hospital and bedridden patients, now home and daily improving, were Bro. Lloyd Blough (Sis. Ella), Bro. Noah Blough (Sis. Marguerite), Sis. Loretta Steffen (Elder Bro. Aaron) and Bro. Wes Daniels (Sis. Sue). Perhaps they do not even know how often we think of them and pray for their spirits to be uplifted.

We appreciate the shepherds who labor in a special way for the Lord. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) was here to assist Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen in reading the Memorandum.

We rejoice with the Steffen family, as daughter Heather (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy) has expressed her desire to repent. We can see the joy in her countenance!

The ladies enjoyed the annual Secret Pal luncheon and "revealing". It is a blessing to "provoke one another to good works" as we remember our secret pal with thoughtful gifts and notes of cheer throughout the year.

As you read this, all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season will be over: the Sunday

School programs, the caroling, the baking and shopping and wrapping! Have a peaceful, blessed holiday 'til we meet again in 2005!

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Jamie Bahr
Krista Wieland**

We are happy to share in the excitement of Sis. Holly Barton's engagement to Bro. Joe Bohart of the Washington D.C. congregation. Sis. Holly's parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Vi Barton and Joe's parents are Jerry and Phyllis Bohart of Dunlap, IL. We wish Becky Kujawa and Marc Alholinna God's blessings and presence in their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene Kujawa and Arno and Emma Alholinna. We were reminded of the marriage between Christ and the Church as we witnessed Bro. Ryan and Sis. Amber Prevo's vows on October 24. Parents of the couple are Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr and Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Prevo of Gridley, IL. May God go with Bro. Ryan and Sis. Amber as they establish their home in the Bloomington, IL, area. Thank you to the visiting ministers who were here for the wedding: Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington-Normal, IL), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL), and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL).

Bro. Andy and Sis. Krista Wieland are the blessed new parents of Ashlyn Berniece. Grand-

parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Bauman of Smithville, OH, and Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland of Bay City, MI. We are excited to have Ashlyn as the newest addition to our growing church! We also rejoice with first-time grandparents, Bro. Ernie and Sis. Mary Weigele, on the birth of their granddaughter, Reagan Mary Fields. Reagan's parents are Brad and Gretchen Fields of Atlanta, GA.

Our prayers continue to be with little Graham and his parents, Bro. Jesse and Sis. Bonnie Bedolla, as he has recently undergone outpatient testing. We also want to be prayerful for Jason Allen (Pat and Sis. Jeanie Allen), who was badly injured in an accident. He is recovering at home from multiple injuries. We continue to pray for Bro. John Orcsik and Eszter as he is now at home recovering. Bro. Jim Barton (Sis. Vi) and Bro. Guy Wieland (Sis. Rose) are also recovering from surgery. Sis. Pat Baran's mom, Sis. Wilma Ramsier, recently passed away. We are thinking of and praying for Sis. Pat, her husband, Craig, and their children in the loss of their mother and grandmother.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Detroit church,

I want to humbly thank all who remembered me in your prayers, your cards, phone calls, and gifts of love during my illness.

Thank you to the young people for the beautiful singing in the hospital, and for the visitors who came to our home.

May God richly bless each of you for your love and concern for

my family and me.

*In Christian love,
Bro. John and Eszter Orcsik*

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill**

“Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.”

Psalm 7:1

Sis. Ethel Bednarski was a surgical patient this month, following an unexpected diagnosis. We're glad to hear Sis. Ethel is recovering in her home. We've also missed seeing Sis. Millie Schmidgall and Maxine Larson as they both deal with various health issues. Our prayers are with all.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue Messner, Alissa, and Chelsey due to the death of their father and grandfather, Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN). Bro. Harold has close ties to others here as he served as Elder of the Minneapolis church for a number of years. Our sympathy to Sis. Gerri and the rest of the family.

We enjoyed the visits of Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) the weekend of November 13 and 14. Both were present to read the Memorandum to our congregation. We appreciated Bro. Bill's ministry as well as his presence at our monthly nursing home singing and fall potluck

before he flew home.

A number of Bible class students enjoyed a weekend in Fairbury, IL. Thank you so much for your invitation and efforts.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Heidi Nohl
Katie Koehl**

We are thankful that Harmony Sauder (Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa) has begun her repentance. Our prayers are with her as she begins this most important step in her life.

The engagement of Byron Wulf (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce) and Amy Hacker (Charles and Deb Hacker) was made known to us. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Our congregation has been blessed with three new baby boys. Jared Joseph was born to Joe and Angie Koehl. Welcoming him is his brother, Jacob, and grandparents, Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Koehl and Don and Janet Hacker. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Julie Koehl were blessed with little Jackson Lee on October 22. Anxiously awaiting their new baby were big brothers, Nathan and Kaleb. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda Koehl and Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner. Steve and Anette Metzger welcome their new son, Logan Ray, on November 16. Happy grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon Koehl.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Steve and Anette Metzger on the passing away of

Steve's brother, James Metzger (Lester, IA). We trust the Lord will be with them during this very difficult time. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Mabel Schmidgall with the passing of her sister, Florence Gutknecht (Winthrop, MN), and Emil and Arlene Griener with the passing of Emil's sister, Sis. Tillie Rudin (Cissna Park, IL).

We were thankful to have Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) come and visit with us on the Middle East. We trust God will bless him for his labors.

Emil Greiner (Arlene) is being hospitalized. We pray God will grant healing where it is His will.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Ginny Stoll
Rachel Steiner**

We would like to express our sympathy and prayers to the family of Florence Gutknecht, who passed away on October 25. We are so thankful that Florence answered God's loving call before she died. May the family feel God's nearness.

Our retired Elder Bro. Harold Messner passed away on November 4. We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Geraldine, and the entire family. Many thoughts were expressed regarding Bro. Harold's many years of loving service and his deep love for the faith and the brethren. We pray that the family will feel God's love and grace.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Tom and Maggie Miller and their son, Jeff, and his wife, Andrea, and their daughter,

Regan. Riley Elizabeth was born on October 31 in need of heart surgery. After living for two weeks, this precious baby girl went Home to be with Jesus on November 15. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family.

The Sunday School children recently hosted the 55 and Over Supper. What a privilege to listen as our older brothers and sisters shared precious memories of the past. How thankful we are that this faith and heritage has been kept so steadfastly!

Our annual voting took place this month. Bro. Dick VanDeest and Bro. Derrick Schmidt completed their terms. We thank these brothers for their labors. Bro. Tim Schmidt was voted in as Usher/Recorder and Bro. Dick VanDeest was voted in as Trustee. Sis. Rachel Steiner was voted in as Sunday School substitute. Sis. Julie Schmidt was voted in to be Sis. Becky Braulick's assistant for the sister group. We thank Sis. Nancy VanDeest for her years of service.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, phone calls, cards and expressions of love offered on my behalf during my recent surgery and recovery. God bless you all.

*In His Love,
Sis. Sue Sward*

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

We have been blessed recently with a number of visiting ministers: Bros. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane,

Bern, KS), Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS), Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). While these brothers were here to visit family and friends, we appreciate their willingness to labor in the Lord's vineyard when they assemble with us.

"Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

Psalm 30:4

"Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord."

I Chronicles 16:9-10

As we often assemble together to sing and fellowship, it is truly a little foretaste of heaven. This certainly was true as we gathered together at the home of Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger for our annual wiener roast and singing. Nearly all of our church were in attendance.

Troy Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan, Bern, KS) and Amity Wales (Don Wales and Sis. Carol Wales) were married on October 23. May God richly bless this young couple as they walk the pathway of life, hand in hand.

**MISSOURI, LAMAR
Wendy Braker
Becky Marti**

We appreciate Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumberg, NY) traveling here to assist in sharing the Memorandum letter with us. May we each be inspired to more willingly obey and serve the Lord so we do not miss out on that eternal reward.

Garrett Luthi (Bro. Leon and Sis. Teresa) was hospitalized recently for surgery. We pray for his continued recovery.

We welcome Sis. Diane Strahm to our congregation. She has moved here from Bern, KS.

**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Krista Banwart**

This past month we continued to enjoy visitors including the following ministers: Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christie, Morton, IL), Bro. James Koehl (Sis. Hildegard, San Diego, CA), and Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL).

As we look forward to the Christmas season, our hearts are filled with joy about the reason for the season ... and the reason for our life and hope. It is a time to celebrate ... with thankfulness and joy, God fully met our deepest need with just a baby boy ... His very Son sent to this earth to be our sacrifice, to give us life eternal, grace, and hope beyond all price!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Susan Haerr**

I apologize for the lack of news in the previous Silver Lining and will try to bring everyone up to date as of this edition.

We were excited to hear the announcement of two of our brothers. First, Bro. Ben Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) is engaged to Sis. Molly Hodel of Bloomington, IL. Also, Bro. Robey Shuck is engaged to Sis. Angie Hodel of Roanoke, IL. Congratulations to both couples. We are praying for you as you build a marriage centered on Jesus and we look forward to your wedding days.

We give God the glory for the safe return of our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer from his time in India with several other Elders. It was encouraging for us to hear how God protected them there and is working mightily in the hearts of believers in that country. It was definitely a reminder to be consistent in our prayers for them, as they do not enjoy the religious freedoms that we typically take for granted.

We are always excited to have new people worshipping with us and so we welcome Bethany Wiegand of Bloomington, IL, and Jeff Knobloch of Lester, IA. We are thrilled to have them as part of our church family and pray that they will feel the love of Jesus here.

It has been an encouragement for us to witness two souls who have a desire to change their lives. Our prayers are with Bob Jenkins and Wes Sutter (Dan and Sis. Tina) as they commit their hearts and lives to their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

There are a number of people in our congregation who have had to say goodbye to family members in the last few months and we wish to extend our sympathy and offer our prayers to each one. First, to our Sis. Emma Dee Hoerr (Bro. Robert) and Sis. Ruthie Hoerr (Bro. Louis) on the death of their brother, Bro. Ray Massner (Elsa) of Prescott, AZ. Also to Sis. Judy Huber (Vernon) and their family on the passing of Judy's sister, Marian Waldbeser, of Morton, IL. Finally to our Sis. Dianne Sutter (Bro. Roger) on the passing of her mother, Verine Scott. To each of you, may God be near you each time you think of these special people.

Our congratulations to Nikki Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) and Adam Miller on their marriage. We pray that God will bless you with many years together.

Among those receiving medical attention in the last month are Sis. Emma Dee Hoerr (Bro. Robert), Nikki Haerr and Missy Reiman (Lester and Jane).

We have been blessed with a number of visiting ministers in the past few months. Thank you to Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Bro. Jim Furrer (Prescott, AZ) and Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS). We have been blessed by the messages you shared and pray that God will richly bless you in return.

Merry Christmas to all of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. May God bless you as you celebrate the birth of Jesus and may He be with you throughout the

New Year.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

We were blessed to have several Elders here with us for the regional Elder Conference on October 30. With us for the remaining of the weekend were Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH). A potluck meal was held in the evening followed by the reading of the Memorandum. We certainly appreciated the work of these Elders over the weekend as well as the many unseen labors they do on our behalf throughout the year.

The next weekend we welcomed ministering Bros. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) into our midst. We enjoyed a potluck meal together Saturday evening, followed by the topic "Our Spiritual Heritage" by Bro. Clark. Many seeds were planted that evening and our prayer is that the ground on which they were sown was ready and willing to receive them.

We were again fortunate to have Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) here with us on the weekend of November 14. We thank him and his wife for their many trips to our congregation over the years. We certainly receive a blessing each time!

Our prayers extend to the family of Howard Virkler on his death on November 3. He will be missed by his wife, children and brothers, Bros. Clyde and Lowell Virkler.

Hospitalized this past month

were Sis. Bernice Hirschey and Gilbert Widrick. We pray for their healing and increased strength in the coming days.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia Graf have a new baby girl, Audrey Erin, born November 1. Also welcoming the little sister at home is Kenny, Jesse, Carmen, and Orin. Audrey's grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf of Akron and Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher of Kitchener.

Bro. Mark Steidl and Sis. Megan Rupp were united in marriage Sunday, November 14. Parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl of Akron and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carol Rupp of Rittman, where the wedding took place. We welcome Sis. Megan into our Akron congregation and we wish God's continued blessings for them.

Bro. Al and Sis. Mary Ann. Weigele had a trip to Europe visiting relatives and friends and sites and are back home safely. Charlotte Kaufman and her daughter Karen had a vacation in Austria and returned safely.

Bro. John Graf is assembling with us after being hospitalized. Kathryn Nagy was hospitalized and is back to our Apostolic Christian Home, where she resides.

Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO) spent a weekend with us; and Bro. Lawrence assisted Bro. Dave in sharing the Memorandum with us. We were blessed also on Sunday with Bro. Lawrence's messages.

We appreciated Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman) ministering to us and thank him for his inspiring words.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

As the month that celebrates Thanksgiving draws to a close, our little congregation has so many things to be thankful for! We are thankful for the visiting ministers who travel to be with us and lend a hand on the pulpit. This month we enjoyed meeting and greeting Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) as they visited the Columbus church to share God's precious Word with us.

We are also thankful for our college students who have helped us immensely this month. We were appreciative of their willingness to help with our World Relief night which was spent packing soup mixes and also the annual fall church clean-up. Thank you to all who labored with us that weekend to accomplish the work that needed to be done.

Our appreciation goes out to Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenni Sauder and Sis. Jenny Rufener (Leo, IN) for providing a presentation on the services offered by Gateway Woods. What a blessing to know that the seed is being planted in the hearts of many troubled children. Our prayers of thankfulness go out to the houseparents, counselors and administrative staff who give so much of their time to help children in need.

Finally, we are so thankful to

be able to extend a warm welcome to our dear Sis. Kristy Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb, Mansfield, OH) who recently moved to the Columbus area. We look forward to worshipping with Sis. Kristy.

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."

Psalm 75:1

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

Haley Rose Manz was born on October 25 to bless the home of Bro. Scott and Sis. Sara. We wish them much grace and wisdom from our Heavenly Father as they raise their precious little girl. Haley's grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake of our Sardis, OH, congregation. Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian became grandparents on October 22 when Zachary Paul was born to Bro. Micah and Sis. Marcy Gherian of Lester, IA.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) for spending the weekend of November 6-7 with us. It was a blessing to gather together Saturday evening and listen to the reading of the Memorandum. May we all apply what we heard to our daily lives so that we can walk a closer walk to our Father in Heaven.

We enjoyed the visit of ministering Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). May the Lord be his rich rewarder.

Bro. Matt Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Deanna Mas-

ters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) of the Mansfield, OH congregation made their engagement known to us on November 14. We wish them the Lord's guidance and direction as they plan their future lives together.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi Schneider and their children, Joel and Lynelle, who recently moved to our area from Forrest, IL. They have been here only a short time, but we have already been blessed by their presence.

OHIO, LATTY
Bonny Wenninger
Amanda Steffen

"And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it."

Jeremiah 33:9

We rejoiced with three new names/souls this past month as they were baptized. We welcome Sisters Carolyn Baird and Melissa Greutman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristy) and Bro. Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann). With us the same weekend were Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN). Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI).

We were exhorted as a congregation on November 5 as we heard the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) was here to help Bro. John with this labor.

Our congregation was saddened to hear of the death of Sis. Lillian Eisenmann. This sweet little lady lived a full 82 years and always thought of others more than herself. Her husband, Bro. William, died in 1989. We also heard of the death of Ray Baer from Illinois. We express our condolences to his sister, Sis. Deb Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon), and the rest of her family. May God be with all the remaining family members that have recently lost loved ones.

Tricia Whitman and Zachary Baxter were married on September 25. Her parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman. May God be with this couple as they start a new life together.

There is one little hospital patient to report on this month. Nyle Stoller, infant son of Bro. Reid and Sis. Amanda Stoller, had to be hospitalized recently for a condition. God be with this family as their little boy recovers and grows in grace.

Dave and Elaine Keysor are the thankful parents of a third son named Timothy Karl. He was born on November 1 and is welcomed home by Megan, Alex and Alan. Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor and Kenny and Dolores Greutman (Grover Hill, OH). Bro. Jason and Sis. Heidi Pence of Leo, IN, are the first-time parents of Levi Andrew, born on November

13. His maternal grandparents attend Latty and are Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorene Hackenjoes.

Note of Thanks:

I want to humbly thank all who remembered me in your prayers, and for all your cards and gifts of love during my recent surgery and recovery at home. May God continue to richly bless each of you for your love and concern.

*In Christ's love,
 Ray and Ann Sinn*

Update on construction: Currently, the foundation walls are near completion and are bricked already. The main level walls are being laid and support posts for an east entrance are being constructed.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann

On November 14, we were excited to learn of the engagement of Sis. Deanna Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) and Bro. Matthew Manz (Bro. David and Sis. Kathy, Junction, OH). Pray for them as God knits their lives together as one.

"Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given: and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."

Luke 8:18

On November 13, we experienced the blessing of the reading of the Memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis.

Roberta, Smithville, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Mark in this service. May God give us all the grace to apply what we have heard.

Several of our members lost loved ones this past month. Sis. Viola Popp (Bro. Lawrence) lost her brother, Richard Meister. Sis. Wilma Ramsier (Bro. Kenneth, Rittman, OH) also passed away. She is the sister of our Sis. Leora Bocka and the sister-in-law of our Bro. Wallace Ramsier. Kindly remember these grieving loved ones in your prayers.

Two couples in our congregation are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in November. They are Bro. Rex and Sis. Marilyn Beer; and Bro. Dave and Sis. Edna Eyerly. We thank God for the evidence of His power in their lives.

On November 14, Bro. Mike Baumann Jr. (Sis. Lilly) was re-elected as our Sunday School Superintendent. Bro. Roger Miller (Sis. Dorina) was elected to replace Bro. Dan Sauder (Sis. Pam) as our Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. We thank these brothers and their wives for their past service and pray for their future responsibilities.

Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) was our visiting minister this past month. We thank him for serving us from God's Word.

Our church held its Annual Fall Outing on October 31. We all enjoyed the fellowship and thank those who labored to make it possible.

Elmer "Bud" Sauder was again hospitalized this past month.

Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

As the world rushes around this holiday season, may we experience God's gentle stillness and peace in a Christ-centered Christmas.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Laurel Indermuhle
Anne Widmer

Draw us to Thee, O Lord;
May we still journey on to heaven,
In one accord thro' Christ our
Lord,
May grace to us be given.
Zion's Harp #125

May God's blessings be with each of the visiting ministers that came to share the Word with us. Those that came were Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH).

We remember Sis. Vi Baltic, Bro. Mitch Baltic and Walt Baltic, family of Ed "Duke" Baltic, in prayer, as he passed away in late October. Also called from this life was Sis. Wilma Ramsier. May her husband, Bro. Kenneth; son, Keith; daughters, Joan Wilging and Sis. Pat Baran (Detroit, MI), continue to feel God's comfort.

May God grant continued healing to Bro. Andy Maibach, as he was in the hospital this past month.

A new little arrival came to the family of Doug and Debbie Rupp. Justin Michael was born on September 23. He is joining older brother, Jacob. Grandparents are Earl and Pat Rupp and Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian.

November 14 was the union of

Bro. Mark Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan, Akron, OH) to Sis. Megan Rupp (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol). May God bless this couple as they begin their lives together. Sharing in this special time was visiting ministering Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH). May God richly reward him for his efforts.

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Hartzler
Terry Zollinger

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so:
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus
loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible
tells me so!
Hymns of Zion #176

Hopefully in a couple years, Haley Rose Manz will be learning to sing this precious song. She was born on October 25 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Sara (Junction, OH). Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake. As Bro. Scott and Sis. Sara, as young parents, start raising their family, may they be in God's abundant love and care. May God bless you!

What various hindrances we meet
In coming to the mercy seat;
Yet who that knows the worth of
prayer
But wishes to be often there?
Hymns of Zion #202

Prayers have been answered for Sis. Alice Ramsier (Bro. Mark) and Malachi Blough (Bro. Alan

and Sis. Renee) as they spent time in the hospital this past month. May they continue to heal by the Lord's powerful hand and we look forward to seeing them in church again soon.

"The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bride-groom, and the voice of them that shall say, Praise the Lord of hosts: for the Lord is good; for his mercy endureth for ever..."

Jeremiah 33:11

The marriage of Sis. Kristina Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris) and Bro. Jeb Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny, Bradford, IL) was witnessed by many brethren and friends on October 24. It is with sadness to see Sis. Kristy leave the Sardis area, but we rejoice with her and Bro. Jeb as they start their new life as one in Bradford, IL. May the Lord abide in your hearts and home always. The ministers who willingly helped Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle were Bro. Ronald Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL). May the shepherds of our faith feel our prayers as they lead the sheep each time they step up to the pulpit.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days
Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Hymns of Zion #150

The year 2005 is upon us and may everyone be blessed; especially being thankful by counting our blessings however small or large it may be. We take so much for granted. Let us be willing and faithful servants for the Lord.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Rachel Maibach

Alyssa Miller

"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Galatians 1:3-5

Amanda Gerber (John Gerber and Ricki Gerber) was united in marriage with Dustin Donovan. May God bless them as they begin their life together.

Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH) was willingly used as a vessel for the Word of Life this month. We thank God for bringing forth what we need to hear.

Bro. Chuck Nieman (Sis. Delphine) spent time in the hospital recently. Bro. George and Sis. Carol Schuster each took their turn in the hospital, also. We are thankful they can assemble with us again. We are also thankful that Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann) has quickly recovered. God was good to little Wynn Stoller (Bro. Kirby and Sis. Carrie) by granting him a successful surgery and speedy recovery this month.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Teresa Rywalski

Rebecca Beard

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;"

I Thessalonians 5:12

Sharing the pulpit with our home ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH). We trust the Lord will bless them for doing His work.

As we look forward to the upcoming Christmas season, may we remember the true meaning for the season.

Sis. Frances Laidig and her daughter, Sharon Harris, recently moved into a new home together. May God bless their new home. Their new address is: 5702 Angola Rd, Lot 42, Toledo, OH 43615.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

Recently, our congregation was increased by two as Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna (Miller) Strahm moved to Oregon from Sabetha, KS. After their June wedding in Silverton, OR, the couple had moved to Kansas where Bro. Brent grew up. They felt led, however, to move to the Portland area. We welcome them both and are very pleased to have them here! We hope Bro. Brent will soon feel at home here in Oregon and it is very nice to have Sis. Brianna back with us. May the Lord bless their new home and

provide for them.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me...”

Psalm 51:10

On Sunday, November 14, we had the privilege to partake of Holy Communion. This special service was led by Elder Bros. Art Metz and Wayne Fehr. We sincerely thank them for serving us.

This past month we had the following visiting ministering brethren: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bros. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), all from Silverton, OR. We thank them and their families for their support. May God bless you all.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Kelsey Walder

“And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”

Luke 22:19-20

On October 23, we were privileged to partake in Holy Communion. Once again we were encouraged to ponder the wonderful plan of salvation at the price of Jesus coming to this earth and shedding His innocent blood for our sins. A special thank you to Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and

Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) for assisting our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) in the labors of this weekend.

November 7 was the special wedding day of our Sis. Rosanna Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Brett Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) from Sabetha, KS. May God bless this dear couple as they joined their hearts and hands in marriage and provide for their needs as they walk the heavenward pathway as one in Him. We were blessed with many visitors this weekend including ministering Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS). May God bless him for his labors in the Word on our behalf.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hymns of Zion # 218

In loving sympathy and in prayer we remember our Bro. James and Sis. Tonya Schneider in the loss of their daughter, Caroline Joy. Sis. Tonya was in the hospital and then placed on bed rest for a number of weeks before little Caroline was born 3 ½ months early on November 11. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider from Forrest, IL. May God provide for the special needs of this couple and their extended family as they grieve over the loss of their little girl.

We rejoice with our Bro. Adam and Sis. Lori Kuenzi in the birth of their second daughter, Kendra

Ann, on November 15. Big sister Julia is excited to have a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich and Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi. May God provide this couple with wisdom to raise their growing family up in the fear of Him.

PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and
Mary Elizabeth Gasser

This month our Sunday School children began practicing their songs, memorizing their pieces, and preparing for the Christmas program. What a joy to see our children, from the youngest to the oldest, excited about being able to celebrate the birth and life of our Savior in this way! While many of the verses and songs are well-known, even the older children find something new each year to learn, to practice, and to add to their own memories of the Christmas story. May we find delight this year in learning again the blessed story of the Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem. And may we each find a way to share this story with someone who needs to know that the miracle of Christmas is still with us today.

We are also thankful that the story of Christmas and the Cross of Christ has taken on a new meaning for Rika Allen (Bro. Robert), as she has begun her repentance during the last month. We trust that she will feel the leading of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of the Church as she begins her walk with the Lord.

TEXAS
DALLAS/FORT WORTH
Carrie Beyer

As our church looks forward to sharing in Communion for the first time on December 5, it's awe-inspiring to reflect on Christ's sacrifice for mankind, especially so soon before Christmas. In a sense, it draws the entire mission of Christ together. He came to Earth as a baby, helpless and in a feed trough. He lived His life in service to others, though He is the One who should be served. And of His final hours, He said, "No man taketh [my life] from me, but I lay it down of myself" (John 10.18). The Son of God came to give us life, to show us love. As children of the King, our sharing in Communion should remind us how utterly hopeless we are without the life and love of Christ. God's grace sets us free!

Many congratulations to Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson, who were recently blessed with the birth of another granddaughter. Joel and Tricia Zeller of Indianapolis are the proud parents of Madison Lee.

We'd like to thank Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont/ Gridley) and Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont) for their service in the ministry at our church in recent months. And to all our visitors: thank you for including us in your travel plans; your visits are such an encouragement! We look forward to the visits of Fairbury and Tremont ministers in January.

Anyone living near or traveling through the area is welcome to worship with us. We currently

meet in Grapevine, TX, at the Holiday Inn Express just northwest of the D/FW airport, near the intersection of Highways 114 and 121. To reach the hotel while traveling either direction on Highway 121, exit on Main Street; the hotel is on the south side of the highway. For worship times or other information, please contact Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson (817.431.0832), Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer (817.750.1028), or Timothy Stoller (817.759.1549).

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz

The Lord has blessed us richly with many visitors this past month. We are extremely grateful for our visiting ministering brothers, who so willingly and capably shared God's Living Word with us: Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL), Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL); and Bros. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS), Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL), Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO), and Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa, Detroit, MI). We are also thankful for the blessed fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Rockville, CT; Chicago, Congerville, Eureka, Fairbury, Princeville, Roanoke, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton, Bluffton North, IN; Bern, KS; Detroit, MI; St. Louis, MO; and Latty and Smithville, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. Please note however, that we do

not have a visiting minister scheduled for Christmas weekend (12/26), or New Years weekend (1/2). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Even on the Sundays when no visiting minister is scheduled, there may be local brethren gathering to listen to a taped sermon. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any midweek visitors. 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, SAN MARCOS
Amy Ringger

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. Brothers who preached the Word recently have been Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris), Jeff Thames, (Sis. Brenda, Washington), John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke), and Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria).

When we receive the new schedule for services each year, we anticipate the blessings of fellowship with each minister and visitor who comes. These churches begin our New Year of services: January 2, Bradford; January 9, Mansfield; January 16, Wichita; January 23, Bloomington; and January 30, Rockville.

We extend a hearty welcome to anyone 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.

VERMONT, NORWICH
Areli Reutter

So now again Thou hast to us a blessing given.
Our handiwork is blest by thy good word from heaven.
Thou blessest food and drink, our needs to satisfy.
Therefore we give thee thanks; our

song shall rise on high.
Zion's Harp #13, verse 2

Greetings dear ones in Christ. This month church services in Norwich, VT, were held on November 14. We were thankful to have ministering Bros. Everett Gerber and Warren Zahner from Rockville, CT. May the Lord bless their willingness to preach the gospel to the small flock in Vermont. We also enjoyed a number of other visiting brothers from Rockville.

This month the first church directory for Norwich was printed! May the Lord continue to bless us in both number and Spirit.

We are thankful for all visitors who support our small gathering. We invite any who have travel plans in the northeast to come and worship with us on the second

Sunday of each month. We begin our services promptly at 10:15 am. For more information or directions, please contact Morey Weiss at (802) 295-5981 or Bro. Kirby Reutter at (802) 295-1869. It is also important to note that the address listed in the new "minister's book" is incorrect. The correct address is:

344 Main Street;
Norwich, Vermont 05055.

Let us be thankful most of all this Thanksgiving Season that we are Pilgrims on our way to a better Land.

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

Psalm 69:30



CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2004/2005

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 309-263-4036 or E-mail kjs@a5.com.

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
MEBSH	Jan. 6-14, '05	Les Cayes	Ron Palitto	Grade School	11
MEBSH	Jan. 13-21, '05	Les Cayes	Dean Pashak	Grade School	9
AWA-T	Jan. 20-28, '05	Les Cayes	Troy Stuber	Water Aid	5
AWA-FRW	Jan. 20-28, '05	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-B	Jan. 20-28, '05	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
SEED	Feb. 17-25, '05	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9
Palm Grove	Feb. 18-26, '05	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11
SEED	Mar. 10-18, '04	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	11
MEBSH	Mar. 17-25, '05	Les Cayes	Rich Bertschi	Grade School	9
AWA-FRW	May 5-13, '05	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-T	May 5-13, '05	Les Cayes	Troy Stuber	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	May 5-13, '05	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
JAMAICA					
CCCD	January 1-8, 2005	Montego Bay	Greg Herman	Deaf School	40
CCCD	March 19-26, 2005	Kingston	Gridley BC - Roger Stoller	Deaf School	50
CCCD	May 20-28, 2005	Deaf Village	Warren Kloter	Work Place	40

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		
Ron Palitto	330-336-5373		
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	
Dean Pashak	989-662-7685	989-662-7685	dwpashak@charter.net
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Kevin Sauder	309-263-4036	309-263-4036	kjs@a5.com
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
Troy Stuber	309-925-2603		tstuber@highstream.net
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	topnotch@home.ffni.com
Greg (Beth) Herman	309-243-5610		gbherman@juno.com
Warren Kloter	309-208-2785		wkloter@myexcel.com
Roger Stoller	309-747-3228	309-747-2566	rstoller@dtmspeed.net

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



ALTERNATE HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents.

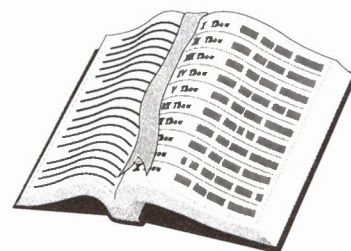
At this time, however, we are experiencing a staff opening. Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner are planning to leave Gateway Woods in the near future. This offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Ed Graf
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033

If anyone is serving in our Armed Forces that would appreciate receiving a printed sermon, please send their name and address or email address to:

Printed Sermons
6082 N. 2800 East Rd.
Forrest, IL 61741
or phone (815) 657-8798



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BOOK STORE HOURS

The store hours are Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The address is 805 West Cruger, Eureka, IL 61530 and the phone number is 309-467-3611.

U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

For area work projects, please contact the following Disaster 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



Sermon continued from page 2

scription. That joy is a joy that is very hard to describe.

We know what makes us joyful in our walk of life. Some of us have joy in succeeding. Some of us get a joy out of accomplishing things. Some people get joy in amassing great wealth. Some people get a lot of joy out of doing something good for someone else. Well Christ did something for each of us so that we could have joy in our heart. That was that He died.

Yes, today is traditional Christmas day. The day in which all of Christianity remembers His birth there in Bethlehem. But the Jews are still fighting with the Syrians. Just as they were in the Old Testament. You can go back into the Old Testament and find when the children of Israel were warring with the Syrians. And today they are warring with the Syrians.

I would venture to say that if we could have been present in Bethlehem in the last twenty four hours, that we would have found soldiers standing at every corner of every street armed to the teeth. Looking for some terrorist attack coming in from Syria. Times haven't changed that much between the Israelis and the Syrians. They are repeating history over and over and over again and no one knows if it will ever end.

But the thing that we do know, dearly beloved, was that Christ was born there in Bethlehem and that He died about thirty years later outside of Jerusalem on Calvary. That while He was here on earth, He brought this beautiful plan of redemption, beautiful plan of salvation. And that we are living in this beautiful day of grace. That no matter what our sins are like and what they were or what they have been, it doesn't matter. He has heard them all. There isn't a single thing that any of us here in this assembly could possibly have done that the Lord hasn't heard over time and time again. So there is no reason to be embarrassed in bringing out our sins. There need be no fear of unburdening one's heart, to think that they might have done something that would em-

barrass the Lord. Impossible. He has heard them all and He has forgiven them all. He has forgiven them all! So you won't even be the first one to be forgiven for whatever sin might have been committed. And He is still willing to offer that joy and that peace and that contentment to know that you can spend eternity with Him.

You might ask the question, dear friends, as to what proof do we have that this is so? The proof is here. The proof is contained within these holy words. The proof is in the fulfillment of the Holy Scriptures. If you need something more materialistic to satisfy yourself, look at the archeological findings that have been uncovered in the recent years. If you go through and look at them, you will have to be convinced that the Word of God is being fulfilled and is occurring very, very rapidly.

If you sit in the congregation of God and look at the converts that are occurring, those individuals who have decided and made the decision and have finally committed to the beautiful doctrine of Jesus Christ. You have to admit that miracles are still occurring. That these miracles that are occurring today are like those miracles that occurred at the time when Christ was here upon earth. The joy in the heart of an individual when they feel the peace of God is a miracle that cannot be denied. And to think that He is still offering this to every single soul that wants it!

Our society has chosen to be extremely materialistic during this time -- gifts, gifts, gifts. We give our children and we give our grandchildren material gifts. Everyone enjoys giving.

Something that happened one evening in Florida not too long ago. As you well know, the Jews celebrate a period, a few days, seven days I believe, called Hanukah, in which they have a menorah. In some instances the menorah has nine candles and other times there are seven candles. The traditional one is seven candles. The one that they normally used for the holiday season is nine candles. The center candle is used to light one

of each of the other candles a day for eight days, to remember the accomplishments of their ancestors. In Florida there are a lot of Jews. So in many instances, during the period of Hanukah, you will see these menorahs come forth where they are in public, to think about the Jews.

After Hanukah, the Christians put in its place a Christmas tree. How many of them think about the birth of Christ? I had to think, when I saw that change from the menorah to the Christmas tree, what are the Christians really thinking about? Are they thinking about the glitter and the lights that we associate with Christmas or are they really thinking about the birth of Christ in Bethlehem and about His suffering? About His doctrine of love and joy to mankind. Are they really thinking about His death there on Calvary? Or are they thinking about the tinsel and the lights that that particular group chose to put up as an indicator of Christmas in the place of the menorah? Would it have been better for them to have some display of Christ being born in a manger?

I am not going to judge them. I have no intention of making any judgment. But it struck me very forcefully as to what Christian-dom appears to have come to think about Christmas. Shouldn't we all be thinking about what God actually did for us by bringing His Son here upon earth? Shouldn't we be thinking about the joy that He brought here upon earth and the joy that He brought through His suffering?

Yes, our God loved us so much that He wanted all of us to have in our heart that joy. He did it by bringing His Son through the birth of a virgin about two thousand years ago. Let us rejoice and have joy in our hearts for all the blessings that He has provided for us throughout our lifetime.



- NOTICE -**Repair and Distribution of
Worn Bibles &
Bible Story Books**

Presently we are not taking Hymns of Zion due to our large inventory and not enough requests for hymnals. 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.

**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: bibledist@parlorcity.com

Mexico Work Teams 2005

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
Magdalena	Dec. 27-Jan. 3, 2005	Construction	Tom Schifferer	847-695-7510	tomandkathy@schifferer.com
Agua Prieta	Dec. 27-Jan. 3, 2005	Construction	Don Jackson	989-662-4286	dontinafam5@truevine.net
Magdalena	January 1-8, 2005	Construction	Jon Eide	765-427-4874	jeide@purdue.edu
Magdalena	Mid January	Construction	Max Burnham	620-343-5394	
Magdalena	February 12-19, 2005	Construction	Jerry Rauch	260-824-2387	healthyourselves@adamswells.com
Magdalena	February 21-28, 2005	Construction	Scott Hills	860-429-3790	lulabelle3@juno.com
Agua Prieta	March 12-19, 2005	Construction	Bob Meyer	260-824-3236	bobmeyer@adamswells.com
Magdalena	March 12-19, 2005	Construction	Arlan Miller	309-747-2683	seek_truth@yahoo.com
Rio Bravo	March 12-19, 2005	Construction	Jim Barth	309-367-2098	barthlings6@juno.com
Magdalena	March 19-26, 2005	Construction	Bruce Aschliman	260-824-5160	aschlimanb@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta	March 19-26, 2005	Construction	Denis Fry	260-824-3055	fry.d@mchsi.com
Rio Bravo	March 19-26, 2005	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439	dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Magdalena	March 26-April 2, 2005	Construction	Pete Aberle	309-925-5969	dpabfrms@hotmail.com
Rio Bravo	March 26-April 2, 2005	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439	dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Juarez/Copper Canyon	March 17-24, 2005	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	cherylh@mtco.com
Magdalena	June 11-18, 2005	Construction	Andy Bauman	309-965-2174	arbauman@juno.com
Magdalena	June 18-25, 2005	Construction	Joe Sprunger	317-770-7351	joes@sullivan-corp.com
Rio Bravo	June 18-25, 2005	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439	dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Magdalena	July 2005	Construction	Brian Ricketts	815-657-8308	brickett24@hotmail.com
Rio Bravo	July 9-16, 2005	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439	dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Juarez	September 14-21, 2005	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	cherylh@mtco.com

If anyone is interested in teaching health/first aid/medical/fire/EMT/dental skills in Magdalena, Imuris, or Ixtlan, contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann.





The following is part of a continuing series of beliefs and practices of the church with the Scriptural basis shown. These are included in a booklet entitled Reference Guide to Scriptural Themes distributed by Apostolic Christian Publications, Eureka, IL.

By: Bro. Perry Klopfenstein

ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE

Authority of Elders	Acts 14:23, 16:4, 20:17 Acts 20:28, 21:18 Romans 13:7 I Timothy 3:4-5, 5:17-19 Titus 1:5, 1:9, 2:15 Hebrews 13:7, 13:17 I Peter 5:1-3
Admonishment	Romans 15:14 Galatians 6:1 II Thessalonians 3:15 II Timothy 4:2 Titus 1:13, 3:10
Exhortation	Acts 14:22, 15:32, 20:2 Romans 12:8 I Thessalonians 5:14 I Timothy 4:13 II Timothy 4:2 Titus 1:9 Hebrews 10:25, 13:22
Church Discipline	I Corinthians 5:5-8, 5:11-13 I Corinthians 14:40 II Thessalonians 3:6, 3:14-15
Church Conference	Acts 15:2,6; 15:22, 25 Galatians 2:1-6
Memoranda To The Churches	Acts 15:23
Closed Communion	I Corinthians 10:21, 11:27,29 II Corinthians 6:14-18
Proving & Testimony	I Thessalonians 5:21 I Timothy 6:12
Laying On Of Hands	Acts 6:6, 8:17-19, 9-17, 19:6 Hebrews 6:1,2 Deuteronomy 34:9
Laying On Of Hands [Ordination]	I Timothy 4:14

... continued next issue

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光

“Silver and Gold, Are Cold”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Anyone who has difficulty paying the bills, would like very much to have some silver and gold, some money, to be able to feed himself and his family. Therefore, silver and gold are very important in life, up to a point. In Proverbs 30:8 we find the words, “Give me neither poverty nor riches.” The next verse reads, “Lest I be full and deny thee,” and “Lest I be poor and steal.”

Although silver and gold can be used to print God’s Word and to build church buildings, it doesn’t meet all of our needs. Several years ago a retired politician who lived in our prefecture, Yamanashi, was said to be so wealthy that he had bars or ingots of gold or silver in his home, but I didn’t hear anything about him being especially happy. He did have a serious disease for which he often visited the Chuo Hospital in the city of Kofu. After he died I heard that he had a very large funeral with many dignitaries from Tokyo in attendance. That offers little comfort.

I am concerned that many rich people are very lonely.

I often think that silver and gold, are cold. It is cold to the touch and it is cold because there is no personal relationship. We need things to live, but things don’t make our lives. Our relationship with God and our relationship with other people must be given high priority in our lives, if we are to know the meaning of true success.

Our families and our friends, our brothers and sisters in Christ, are priceless. No commodity can ever take the place of love and understanding from God and others. Silver and gold, are cold, and so are many of the things that silver and gold buy. Food, clothing and shelter are necessities, but once we get beyond that, we must be careful. It is good to use any excess amount to help others and thus bring glory to God, either in our lifetime or after we are gone.

May God teach us how to have a warm relationship with Him

and with others. It is in these warm relationships that our needs are met and we may have the courage to get up every morning in good cheer. It is important that we be good listeners and take note of what others have to say. It has been said that people are not willing to listen until they themselves have been heard. In Philippians 2:3 we find the words, “In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” This attitude comes from God, not from silver and gold.

In Acts 3:6, Peter said to the lame man, “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee.” We may not be able to heal the lame but let’s at least give our love and respect. Silver and gold mean a lot, if available, but they don’t mean everything. The wise men brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the Christ Child, but Christ gives us freedom from the curse of sin, and eternal life. That’s a warm feeling.

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Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

THE SILVER LINING
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