

A serene winter landscape featuring a large, snow-laden tree in the foreground on the right. In the middle ground, a red barn with a snow-covered roof stands amidst a snowy field. A wooden fence with snow on its rails is visible in the lower foreground. The sky is a pale, overcast blue.

# *The Silver Lining*

*In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.*

*In him was life;  
and the life was the light of men.*

*And the light shineth in darkness;  
and the darkness comprehended it not.*

*December 2009*



Sermon by Bro. Mike Ursu, Kitchener, Canada

## Isaiah 7:14, 9:6,7 and St. Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-40

Beloved, what a wonderful opportunity again this evening, to be around the Word of God. There is no better place. We can think of places that bring us earthly joy and happiness, whatever it might be that we experience. But beloved ones, the Word of God is a safe haven, the harbor, a cleft. All that God reveals of Himself through His Word is wonderful for us to experience. May God bless us this evening as we come under the sound of God's Word.

God preserved all these details because He wanted us to know of the surety of Jesus Christ, the only begotten of God and conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of a virgin. Beloved, the only begotten Son of God: we read of the prophecies in Isaiah. There are so many Scriptures that we could read from that prophesied. Of when the first born children were all to be killed from two years old and under. And how in Ramah, Rachel could be heard weeping for her children who were not. (Jeremiah 31:15) So many, loved ones, that give unto us the proof of Scripture.

But that is not why we assemble this evening. We don't come because we doubt that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God. We don't come because we don't believe that Jesus is the Son of God. We don't assemble this evening because we wonder, was He really here upon this earth? Although the Scripture reminds us in one of the Gospels, the books of the world couldn't contain all that Jesus did, but these things were written so that we could believe (St. John 21:25).

Loved ones, are we thankful for faith? We are not as Anna or as Simeon here, who saw the physical body of Jesus Christ. But that is not why He came either. He came to lay down that body. He came to lay down that life and to take it up again. Beloved ones, He came in the form of a human being. How does the Scripture say it? So that He could live the way we did. So that He could experience the infirmities of the flesh that we do; the temptations, the trials that we experience. So that He could be in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin (Hebrews

4:15). So that we can see that it *can* be done, to live on this earth without sin. Jesus Christ being our example.

He came in a lowly way, as we read here. God preserved these details, as we already mentioned. Yet, loved ones, don't we rejoice that Jesus was here? But it doesn't end there. We sang in the hymn together, if we only know Him as a Babe, we are of all men most miserable (*The Babe of Bethlehem*, Hymns of Zion, #36). The hope lies in the resurrection. The hope lies in the faithfulness.

How was it there that we read in Isaiah? "...Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." 7:14. God with us. It said in the next verse that we didn't read, "Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good." v.15. Beloved ones, Jesus is our example. We call ourselves, by God's grace, disciples of the Lord. What are we eating so that we can know to do good and forsake the evil? What is it that we are consuming that gives us the ability, the enabling power of God, to be able to go forth? It is not of our own desire or our own self discipline. But beloved ones, the power of God. Yes, it is of our own desire, for we as believers, desire to fulfill the will of God.

Here we can see the work of God. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Isaiah 9:2. Here we read it in Isaiah. We read it in the New Testament Gospels. A light to lighten the Gentiles (St. Luke 2:32). We were Gentiles. We were unbelievers. We were not God's heritage by way of lineage or by way of family heritage. But by faith, we have been transplanted. Transformed by the renewing of the mind, that we could be able to have the light shining upon us. We are people that walked in darkness and have seen a great light.

Oh, we didn't see the star as the wise men did. Or have the opportunity for us to be there when He was born. But beloved ones, we are able to read the Scriptures. We are able to have

*Sermon continued on page 40*

### Cover Verses

Front: John 1:1,4,5

Back: 1 Peter 4:14

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*"The Lord lifteth up the meek: He casteth the wicked down to the ground."  
(Psalm 147:6)*

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

December 2009

### A Meek And Lowly Attitude

Meekness is the noblest virtue,  
Every Christian's honor bright;  
It adorns the youthful member  
And the aged with its might.  
Though it does not stand in favor with  
those of a proud behavior  
Yet 'tis more than precious gold,  
More than fame and wealth untold.  
*Zion's Harp # 186, verse 1.*

We sometimes hear meekness associated with one who is weak, one who will allow others to inappropriately dominate him, or one who is unable to stand for his convictions when faced with opposition. Among the varied definitions in the dictionary we find: patient, mild, not inclined to anger or resentment, easily imposed upon and too submissive. That is quite a mix of meanings—some positive and some negative.

The Bible uses meekness in a positive manner, as representing an appropriately submissive spirit. It is preceded by humility and it reflects a gentleness based on inner strength which is kept under control. Several examples of meek individuals and acts of meekness follow:

- "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" (Num. 12:3).

- King David, as he was cursed, told his soldiers to let Shimei alone because David believed that the Lord may have told Shimei to curse him. (2 Sam. 16:5-14)

- The prophet Jeremiah, when he was threatened with death because he delivered a message of God to King Jehoiakim said "...do with me as seemeth good and meet unto you" (Jer. 26:12-14).

- Jesus said "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matt. 11:29). As He was dying on the cross He said "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

- Stephen, as he was being stoned said, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60).

Certainly none of these individuals or deeds are examples of weakness. They all represent acts of courage and faith

performed under threat of injury or death, yet these individuals stood firmly on their beliefs. Paul and Peter recognized the virtue of meekness. Paul listed meekness as a fruit of the spirit and went on to say that against such there is no law. (Gal. 5:22-23). In counseling women about outward adorning, Peter wrote "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek, and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (1 Pet. 3:4).

As we attempt to apply the concept of meekness to our lives, a good place to start is with a thorough self-examination. How do we react when we face a variety of situations that are common in the lives of most of us? At work, at our place of business, within the Brotherhood, at home, or in our neighborhood, what is our reputation? Do our co-workers, our supervisors, or our employees know that we will respond to adversity in a calm, accepting manner? Are we known as one who will willingly, quietly face the challenges which come our way? Do we defer to the welfare of others and do "...that which is just and equal" (Col. 4:1)? Likewise, how do we react when someone takes advantage of us? Trusting God's divine providence and care allows us to face earthly challenges with meekness.

Satan's goal is to cause division, especially in the family and in the household of faith. As issues arise, in our local congregation, within the national Brotherhood, or at home, Satan will try to create disturbance. If we have a meek and lowly attitude, we will do whatever we can to address controversial issues in a loving, peaceable manner, relieving the distress and making a constructive difference for others as well as ourselves. "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace" (Psa. 37:11).

Jesus instructed us to remove the beam from our own eye before attempting to remove the mote from our brother's eye. (Matt. 7:3-5) Jesus also said if our brother trespasses against us we should go to him alone (Matt. 18:15-16). If we do this with a meek and lowly attitude, it is much more likely that he will hear us, and we will have gained our brother. If he does not hear us, we are to take one or two others with us, that every word may be established. Many

problems have been made worse because the truth was not established in a respectful, loving manner, with both parties exercising meekness.

We can also help keep peace within the Brotherhood and our homes by responding in meekness to what we hear or see. Before we consider passing information to others via speech, e-mail or any other means, we must be sure that it is true and in the appropriate context, so what we pass on is not misunderstood by those who receive our message. Also, before we pass along information we must ask ourselves, "Why are we doing that?" Will spreading the information be a part of the solution or will it be a part of the problem? Not every bit of information that we receive needs to be shared. If we are of a meek and lowly attitude, we will never engage in gossip, whether written or spoken, whether true or untrue.

In our neighborhood are we known as humble servants of God? Is our home a refuge from the world? If we are of a meek and lowly attitude our conduct and our conversation will not reflect a harsh and bold demeanor. In the privacy of our homes we will not take liberties that will allow Satan to expose our families to evil influences. Our children will benefit spiritually if our attitude is such that it draws us closer to God and shuns evil. If we are content being humble servants of God, that contentment will be observed by our children and by our neighbors.

Are we able to relate with a meek and lowly attitude toward those who are in authority over us? How do we react when our elected officials do not do what we think they should do, or when we do not understand or agree with church leadership? A critical, self-asserting spirit does not reflect the meekness portrayed by our beloved Saviour. Prayer and constructive communication are much more fruitful.

We could reflect upon many more questions that might help us to assess whether we portray meekness in our attitude and behavior. Most importantly we should ask ourselves how God sees us on a daily basis. The Word teaches, "For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth" (2 Cor. 10:18).

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times.

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

Silver Lining Editorials, 1377 County Rd 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561 or by e-mail to cleman@mtco.com





## 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

### Outreach Update

While the Word of God states that we should all be willing and ready to share our hope of salvation when asked, it is evident that some are specifically called to dedicated service in preaching the gospel of salvation in Christ.

For example, the Apostle Paul was sent to the Gentiles, Timothy was exhorted to "do the work of an evangelist", and the eleven disciples were sent by Jesus to preach to all men. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (1 Peter 3:15)

### History

The Outreach Committee was formed under the direction of the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee in conjunction with the World Relief Board, for the purpose of bringing more consistency and accountability to our church-sponsored efforts to fulfill the Lord's commandment to preach the Kingdom of God to all men.

These efforts include local initiatives (Bible distribution, prison ministries, etc.), humanitarian aid through Apostolic Christian World Relief (medical teams, disaster relief in the U.S. and abroad, construction in Haiti, Mexico, and Jamaica, etc.), and church planting and church supporting efforts through the Mission Committee (Ixtlan and Magdalena, MX; small church support in the U.S., etc).

### Progress

Twenty-five brothers from twenty-one of our churches have been diligently working to fulfill this charge.

Over the past year, consistent guidelines have been established for: 1) Selecting sound brethren to serve in our various outreach efforts, 2) Properly preparing these brethren for service in the area they are to be sent, 3) Clearly noting who is sent by the church, 4) Providing spiritual and physical support and nurturing, and 5) Providing biblical accountability so the pure and complete gospel continues to be taught.

The Outreach Committee has developed a refined interview process, designed to more thoroughly assess candidates for church-sponsored service on a variety of levels. A standing Selection Committee, composed of brothers experienced in the necessary skills to administer the process has been established. Guidelines for local churches to use when brethren are sent for long-term service have been developed and are available for each congregation to use.

In various stages of development are: procedures to properly prepare brethren sent into other cultures, an in-depth spiritual accountability process and guidelines for congregations to establish support teams to provide spiritual support and nurture. This concept of support teams is currently being tested in several congregations.

### Accountability

There is a great desire to ensure that Apostolic Christian efforts to share the Gospel be in complete conformity with the Word of God. If faithful brethren are sent and the church faithfully supports and nurtures them, the Word will bear fruit and souls will be delivered from everlasting destruction. In order to provide accountability, even in

the development of these efforts, each phase of the work has been reviewed by many brethren. Most of these elements have been developed by several subcommittees of 4-6 brethren each. A secondary review by the full Outreach Committee finalizes a rough draft of each component.

Then a dedicated committee of brothers, who were not involved in the original development, reviews the work for integrity with the Word. Once their recommended changes have been implemented, the written guidelines are reviewed by a brother skilled in editing and a final version is submitted to the Mission Committee for approval.

After these guidelines have gone through all these "checkpoints," the full Elder Body is asked for their review and feedback. These recommended procedures have been assembled into a reference manual that should provide the desired consistency and accountability. "But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly." (Philemon 1:14)

### What can I do?

It is our desire that this careful process will establish our church-sponsored efforts to share the Gospel on a firm foundation of truth and faithful accountability. However, if we hope to be fruitful in letting our lights shine, our every effort must be undergirded with prayer. Each of us can petition the Lord of the harvest that He would send faithful laborers into the harvest. And each of us can be "Ready to go, ready to stay, ready my place to fill... ready for service lowly or great, ready to do His will."





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

## Help a Child in Guatemala

Wandering over to the combination office/library/kitchen to check what is on the snack menu today at Comunidad de Fe Christian School in Guatemala City, the cook had just finished making a huge kettle of incaparina, a beverage that looks a bit like watery milk with specks of brown cinnamon floating in it. The product is grain-based, protein-rich and fortified with other nutrients. Next to the kettle, she places a plate of sugar cookies. She told us the school children are happy to get the snack.

The kindergarten teacher told us the same thing earlier, adding that some children receive only a tortilla for breakfast and either a tortilla or piece of bread for lunch before coming to school. Some children don't get anything. Guatemala, statistically, suffers the worst malnutrition in Latin America.

The nineteen kindergarteners (over 200 children in the school) put away their workbooks and take their cups and wait for the feast to begin. While they wait, they sing action Bible songs with their teacher. Their drink is brightened by a topping of large, colored cereal balls. This may be the only meal they get all day.

Comunidad de Fe relies heavily on funds from the donors from Apostolic Christian World Relief Child Sponsorship. Director Alba Alvarez spends less than \$250.00 a month to feed her 200 students each day using bread, incaparina, oatmeal and a dried meat product that is soaked in water and sliced for sandwiches, margarine, jam and cold cereal. The money from donors is also put toward school property

rental, teachers salaries, uniforms, school supplies etc.

The Guatemalan Schools recess from October until January 1 of each year. These "at risk" children come back from their break with the effects of three months of daily malnutrition, noticeable by their skin, hair and energy level. They also have other behavioral problems. The school has just hired a Special Education teacher to assist with these problems.

The children and the school are so appreciative of the sponsorship that we provide which allows the students to attend Christian Schools. Child Sponsorship is grateful for your willingness to help strengthen this important work in Guatemala. We appreciate the sacrificial giving of resources reflecting the essence and love of Christ in you!

For \$25.00 per month you can change a life and allow a child in Guatemala to go to a Christian school and learn about Jesus Christ. We sponsor 3 schools and each is different:

1. A school with 240 children that are "street" kids, raised down by the railroad tracks in Guatemala City.
2. A school with 100 children up in the mountains. Most with two parent families, very poor but loving the Lord and thankful for the little they have. They wear the traditional Mayan Indian dress.
3. Another school just started last January is a Christian school for the orphans of Hurricane Stan and for the families in the town that took these orphans in. Some of these children watched as their families were washed down the mountain to their death. They feel much love at their new school even though they are still living in great poverty.

The administration makes certain that their schools are distinctively Christian, and they are intent upon hiring sincere Christian school teachers that are articulate in their professional and spiritual growth. Their goal is to help the children grow in the Lord so they will have matured to loving God with all their heart, mind and soul (Matt. 23:37), and that they can be salt and light in Guatemala. (Matt. 5:13-14).

### To sponsor a child

To sponsor a student please fill out the following form and send to the office. A student will be assigned to you and you will be sent further information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check preference:

Haiti  Guatemala

Mexico  Jamaica

Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

Boy - Age \_\_\_\_\_

Girl - Age \_\_\_\_\_

No Preference

### Send to:

ACWR Child Sponsorship Office  
PO Box 36

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: [childsponsorship@acwr.org](mailto:childsponsorship@acwr.org)



**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
HOME FOR THE  
HANDICAPPED  
www.achh.org**

Like many of your lives, it is always busy here. Whether a staff member is in one of the homes working with residents, taking care of the homes, providing activities, cooking, cleaning or managing the paperwork and finances, it is always busy. As the holidays approach, we will all be even busier. We appreciate you taking time from your busy lives to learn about our residents, their needs and how we serve them.

We are grateful for each of you who love and support this work and we want to keep you informed. We are thankful for the many avenues to do so including the Silver Lining, our quarterly newsletter, the annual report, presentations to churches, our web site (www.achh.org), reports to our church representatives, etc. We know that sometimes we may be repetitious when you use more than one of these sources. We want to give you the information that is most useful to help you understand what we do, why we do it and what our needs are. We appreciate your patience with us and invite your feedback.

In reviewing the last several months of the Silver Lining, it was apparent we had not given a financial update for awhile. For those who use some of our other sources of information, this will be familiar to you.

Since our residents were born with disabilities or became disabled at young ages, they do not have work pensions, life savings, farms, businesses, etc. This means that when they become an adult, they do not have any personal means to pay their bills or their care when they come to our facilities. Because of this, all of our residents are eligible for Medicaid which means Medicaid is our primary source of income. Medicaid does not cover the full cost of our services. They only recognize about 75% of our costs which means there is a significant shortfall each year.

The State of Illinois has been in difficult financial straits for several years, but they are now in crisis. This means that in addition to not recognizing much of our cost, they are now unable to pay in a timely manner. Illinois's deficit is one of the two or three worst in the nation. This has resulted in the State passing the financial hardship on to providers like the Home for the Handicapped. We have gone as long as 4-5 months without receiving any income from the State. At times they have owed us as much as three million dollars. Because our costs are mostly for wages for staff and staff must be paid, we have had to borrow money to cover payroll. The interest on these loans adds an additional expense that is not reimbursed by the State.

We could not do what we do without the generosity of all of our donors. We are very grateful for every donor including the donations from families of residents. Even with these donations, we are still very dependent on the State of Illinois to provide Medicaid payments.

The point in sharing all this is not to complain. It is to make our supporters aware and to tell you how grateful we are for the generous support you give. It is also to remind you how much we depend on the protection and provision of the Lord and how much we need your prayers that He will continue to direct and provide for the work we do.

**GATEWAY WOODS  
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
Kristi Reinhard**

I love this time of year! Celebrating our Savior's birth is such a delight!

My favorite part of Christmas has always been picking out gifts for people I love. There is something wonderful about carefully choosing or making a gift. You wonder, "Will they understand what my heart is saying to them with this gift? Will they appreciate the time I spent figuring out just what they needed? Will they be able to tell how much I want to bless them with this gift?" Every time I watch someone open a gift, my heart swells with anticipation and joy as these thoughts run through my head.

Try to imagine our Father's heart as Jesus entered this earth. Do you think He was excited? Do you think He wondered, "Will they understand what my heart is saying to them with this gift? Will they appreciate the time I spent figuring out just what they needed? Will they be able to tell how much I want to bless them with this gift?" He is certainly watching to see what we do with His gift.

"Father, thank Thee for the amazing gift of Thy son. I cannot fathom Thy incredible love that Thou would give me the life of Thy son. I am hopeless without a Savior. Thou gavest me exactly what I need, for eternity. I have already been so blessed by the birth, death, and life of Jesus. Continue to show me daily the blessing of a life lived for Thee and for Thee only."

**NEWS:**

- We are pleased to announce the hiring of Bro. Kirby Reutter (Clarendon, VT). He will be joining us in the Counseling and Home-Based Services Programs. He plans to start in January 2010. Please pray for him and his family as they adjust to the move and a new career opportunity of working with troubled teens.

- We rejoiced with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller as they celebrated the birth of their daughter, Layla Raine, on November 23. Layla weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 20 inches long.

- We also rejoiced with Bro. Andrew



and Sis. Natalie Gerber as they celebrated the birth of their son, Simeon Grey, on November 16. Simeon weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. and was 21.25 inches long.

- We are very thankful that God continues to provide us with the right Staff. We currently have one career position open at Gateway Woods for IL Adoption Manager. Please see the notice in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information. We trust that God will continue to provide us with qualified, mature Brothers and Sisters who will be able to serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

- You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God's work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website [www.gatewaywoods.org](http://www.gatewaywoods.org) often for updates, and make sure that you're on our mailing list. In an effort to be as efficient as possible we are gathering as many email addresses as we can for our E-Post. Please send a message to [mail@gatewaywoods.org](mailto:mail@gatewaywoods.org).

- As you think about year-end giving, please consider making a financial gift to Gateway Woods. Your donations are allowing us to continue to offer Christ-centered services to families and children who are hurting. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

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### **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL**

**Athens, AL  
Sarah Hodel**

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

*Ephesians 5:20*

We've been talking about Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful. Some of the answers the kids come up with are pretty creative.

We've had kids be thankful for moms, dads, brothers and sisters, horses, tomato soup, sharks, crocodiles, toys and sunshine. We even had one little boy say he was thankful for toilet paper! I would have to agree on that one! We celebrated Thanksgiving with a feast of popcorn, apples and muffins. It's always so cute to see the kids dressed up in their construction paper pilgrim hats, Indian headbands and colorful noodle necklaces.

As always, there's always something being said or done to make us laugh. One little girl was crying about something. As soon as she was finished she must have forgot that she had just been crying because she said in a very surprised voice, "My cheeks have water on them!" Another time we were reviewing our verse for the week. The verse was "Keep thy tongue from evil." (Psalm 34:13), and when we asked the kids what they thought that meant, one piped up and said, "Don't stick your tongue out!" We spent some time where our drinking fountain had been broken and so we were just passing out drinks in little paper cups. One girl drank hers then passed her cup back for seconds. The teacher noticed there was a piece of cup missing from the top. She said "Alyssa, did you take a bite out of your cup?!?" Alyssa said nothing, only responded with a contented smile and a big loud burp!

I think all of us teachers could say we are thankful for all of our kids!

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### **ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall**

As always, we are blessed to have visiting ministers come and share the Word with us. Thank you to Bros. Fred Funk (Morton), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North) and Randy Mogler (Washington). Also we were thankful to have our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller come and read the Memorandum for us.

The last weekend of October we

had our annual Homecoming weekend. It is always a great weekend filled with fellowship, singing and worship. We love having our family and friends come join us that weekend and seeing our church full!

Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall are rejoicing at the birth of another great-grandchild. Shaylyn O'Neal Baker was born to Steve and Heather on October 23. Also welcoming her home is big sister Makayla and grandparents, Jeff and Janice Flanagan.

Cassey Green (great-granddaughter of J.R. and Louise) was in the hospital for surgery to have a mass removed. There was concern that there may be cancer, but we are thankful to report that tests show there is none! Andrew Haggenmaker, who is a brother to Bro. Ed, Sis. Joyce Ray and Sis. Clarann Lynn, was in a car accident. We are glad he is doing fine as well.

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

*Psalm 91:11*

We sometimes have very personal reminders that God is always watching over us and keeping us safe. That especially rings true right now for Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter as their son, Eric, is stationed in Ft. Hood, TX. National tragedy hit a little too close to home that day but we are so thankful to God for His provision. Eric wasn't even on the base when the shooting happened and was kept safe from harm.

As mentioned before, we had to say farewell to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hope Stoller and their two children, Braeden and Kiera. Their last Sunday started out sad as we thought about seeing them go. By the end of the day, though, there was much rejoicing as three young souls gave their hearts to the Lord! Anna Hall (Bro. Tim), Roslyn Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara) and Jessica Edelman (Bro.



Kerwin and Sis. Sara) all expressed their need and desire for a Savior. It all happened before they went home, so many of us were able to be there to witness this miracle. As a small church, we cannot describe how thankful and encouraged we are by these three girls! We pray that they will continue to seek God and His guidance.

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## ARIZONA, PHOENIX

### Heather Hinrichsen

Bro. Clarence Beyer and Sis. Rosalie Edelman had surgical procedures while Bro. Charlie Baumgartner and Sis. Kathie Labudde (Bro. Larry) were in the hospital for medical reasons. All of them continue to need your prayers.

William Robert joined the family of Bro. Marshall and Sis. Stacia Witzig on November 19. His siblings are Alyssa, Leah, Dylan, Kayla and Reesa and his grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lila Witzig (Peoria) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach (Elgin, IL).

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays approach, may we remember all that God has given us and truly be grateful for all we have.

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

*Psalm 26:7*

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## ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

### Denise Steidinger

“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds’ feet, and he will

make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.”

*Habakkuk 3:17-19*

Our congregation was encouraged this past month through this Scripture passage, and it was a great reminder that our joy is not dependent upon our circumstances or what is or is not happening around us; our joy is in JESUS! And it’s our choice where we will put our focus. May we each make the choice to set our gaze on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In the past month, the Lord has provided strength and encouragement from His Word through the willing service of our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha), Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago) and Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest). Our congregation was able to partake in Holy Communion on November 22, and we are thankful for the faithful service of our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and Deacon Herbie Knochel, Jr. (Phoenix).

As always, we extend a warm welcome to anyone who plans on passing through Prescott or is wanting to support a small church, to come and worship with us. We always appreciate the fellowship and encouragement of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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## ARIZONA, TUCSON

### Lisa Knapp

We experienced a lot of varying emotions this past month in our little church.

We were joyful as we listened to our friend, Les Plattner, give his testimony and speak of his desire to once again be a part of the Apostolic Christian Church family. We are happy to now greet him each Sunday as our brother in faith. We love his warm smile and are thankful for his presence. Our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich

was blessed to have the assistance of Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) for this special occasion. We were also thankful to have Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) with us for such a special evening.

We were then saddened a week later to say goodbye to Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Wuthrich as they felt led to move to Morton for Bro. Dan’s employment. In this economy with so many people unemployed, we all felt that God was indeed blessing Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane with clear direction on where He wanted them at this time. When God leads, we must follow and so we are adjusting to their absence, but we miss their presence here with us. We will keep them in our prayers and I know they will do likewise.

Thanksgiving is next Thursday but it doesn’t feel like it here. Our days are warm and sunny and a little unseasonably warm at that with highs in the upper 70’s and cool mornings. How blessed we are this holiday season!

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## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

### Daniel Luthi

Our congregation was very blessed with visiting ministers recently. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Marybeth, Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie) and Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy), both from Phoenix, AZ. May God bless these brothers for making the effort to travel and for blessing us by serving from the pulpit.

In October, we met for our annual Vision Day. We appreciate our ministers’ efforts in preparing our day’s discussions as we reassessed our vision as a church relating to church financial stewardship and youth fellowship.

Our church was privileged to host the Phoenix, AZ, choir during the first weekend in November. It was a blessed weekend of fellowship, and



getting refocused on what praising God is all about and how important it is. The choir sang at a local assisted living facility on Saturday, and then they had a song service after the afternoon service on Sunday. Thank you to the Phoenix choir for making the effort to travel here, and for those involved with the planning and logistics of the weekend. Again, it was a blessing for all!

With joy and a lot of excitement, we extend a warm welcome to Bro. Bob and Sis. Lyn Buckheister and their son, David. Due to a change in job location for Bro. Bob, their family has recently moved to Southern California from our Elgin, IL, congregation. We are so very blessed to have them be a part of our congregation, and hope they feel at home as they worship with us each week.

As Christmas approaches, we always look forward to the return of our wonderful "snowbirds". We welcome back Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edie Wieland (Bay City, MI) for the winter. At the time of this writing, our other snowbirds, Bro. Reuben and Sis. Chrystol Luthi (Morris, MN), are delayed. We look forward to them being on their way out here very soon.

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## CANADA

### KITCHENER, ONTARIO Johanna Fortenbacher

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

What a wonderful opportunity we had to witness the baptisms of Bro. John and Sis. Liz Kralt and Bro. Jesse Ursu. Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit), along with Elder Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy Steffen (Alto) were

here to perform the baptism. What a beautiful thing it is to hear of God working in the lives of Jesse, John and Liz.

Other ministers that came in the last two months were Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City) and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni Ramsier (Rittman). We also enjoyed the Bible topic shared by Bro. Howard Plattner for us on our Invite Weekend. God bless all you ministers.

Our church had a World Relief work night where we cut out and sewed doll dresses that will clothe many rag dolls somebody from Bay City is making that will be given to children in Haiti. We hope they will enjoy them as much as we enjoyed making the clothes.

Our good friend Silvija Ursu is soon going home to Serbia. She comes to Canada for a few months out of the year. We really enjoy the love she shows to everyone.

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## COLORADO, DENVER

### Ann Gonglach

On October 24, we gathered for a meal and the reading of the Elders' Memorandum. We appreciate Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) being here to join in this special time of instruction.

Bro. Fred Leman has moved to Silverton, OR, to pursue his career. We enjoyed getting to know Bro. Fred during his two years in Denver and wish him God's guidance and blessings.

Bro. Shane and Sis. Emily Fehr shared stories and pictures with us from their time doing medical missions in the Tello Islands of Indonesia. They were there during the summer with MAP Int'l. (Medical Assistance Program) on a mobile clinic, traveling the seas from island to island on a small boat, providing medicine and teaching sanitation and basic health practices to the people living there.

Christians there are not as free to meet together as we are here in the United States and the mobile clinic is one way to show Christ's love.

A group from Illinois and Colorado traveled by bus to Magdalena, Mexico, over Thanksgiving week to help out there.

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## CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

### Laura Virkler Amber Roche

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"

*Ephesians 1:3*

We had a blessed evening together for the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and his wife, Sis. Jan, were here from Taylor, MO, to share the evening with us. How kindly we were entreated and counseled! May all of us take the words given and apply them in a way that promotes unity and love among the brethren.

The angels in heaven must surely rejoice when a soul turns from the ways of the world to work out their salvation! We wish our friend, Everett Skinner Sr., God's abundant grace as he begins a walk of faith. We rejoice with his dear wife, Sis. Sherri, and their children, trusting that their family will be richly blessed as he endeavors to make this change.

Many family circles have been blessed with healthy babies this past month. Bro. Steve and Sis. Julie Lanz welcome a baby girl, Susanna Karen, who joins her big brother Corbin. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schultz and Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joann Lanz. Our friends, Heather and Sean McKeon, had a baby boy, Rustin James, who is welcomed by big sister Lydia. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Linda Lanz. Eli Corbin Bahler was



born to Kurt and Jessica, and first-time grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Carole Bahler and Robert and Tammy Townsend.

Several have been ill or hospitalized in the past month. Sis. Cyndi Luginbuhl (Bro. Brian) is able to assemble with us again after battling pneumonia for several weeks. Sis. Pam Luginbuhl (Bro. Chet) underwent surgery and is recovering. Sis. Rosanna Schneider is home now after being hospitalized, and we are very thankful that she continues to get her strength back after battling illness. It is easy to take our blessed weekly fellowship for granted when we are healthy and all is well, so we should especially remember those who have to be apart from us at times of sickness. We are very thankful for those that are able to gather with us again.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for the first part of November were Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Meiss from Peoria, IL. Thanks to all who feel the Spirit moving you to volunteer. We as a congregation are so blest to have loved ones come.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Zoltan Szabo (Budapest, Hungary), Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, Lacrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), and Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH). Other visitors this month were from Philadelphia, PA; Goodfield, IL; Smithville, Junction and Rittman, OH; and Lacrosse, IN.

Directions in the Ministers' Book are good for those coming from the north or west. For those coming up I-95 from south of DC or from the eastern part of the area, you need to take I-95/495 to Exit 28A (New Hampshire

Ave) for approx. 2 miles to Rt. 29 North. Go about 3 miles to Fairland Road and follow the directions in the Ministers' book.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at [jbohart@gmail.com](mailto:jbohart@gmail.com) or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

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**FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Renee Mangold**

Our church building is undergoing a renovation inside, and to some extent, outside as well. It is such a pleasure to see it progress and to witness the many helping hands that have come to Fort Lauderdale to give of themselves in this project! We will have a dedication service on January 24, 2010, and would like to invite all who would be able to join us. Please contact one of our ministers so we will have an idea of how many to plan for. For those who haven't seen the building since last winter, we trust you will be very satisfied with the work that has been done by so many. We pray that the Lord is pleased.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). We enjoyed two potluck dinners during their visits and were blessed with an outpouring of the Spirit. We are very appreciative of them and look forward to their return as God wills.

We are now into Thanksgiving week and then the Christmas season and look forward to humbly acknowledging our Saviour's birth. As you can,

please feel welcome to visit us in Fort Lauderdale any time.

Our song of praise to God ascend,  
and there with angels' voices blend.  
The day of gladness now is here;  
Sing hallelujah with good cheer.

*Zion's Harp # 7*

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Victor Beer**

Church fellowship has really picked up during November 2009. Although many have returned to their northern homes for Thanksgiving Holiday, some of our northern home owners have decided to enjoy Florida's warm winter weather. Some natives even choose to go to the "woods" to celebrate family time together. This holiday of Thanksgiving seems to touch families, in order to get re-acquainted with each other. Such times of fellowship gives us a touch of that love our Lord wanted us to have for each other.

This last month we were blessed again, as Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) brought us the ministry. Also Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN) who we hope will be with us most of the winter, ministered to us. We appreciated both of these brothers coming to be with us, and blessing us with the Word.

Having our wintertime brethren with us gives our brotherhood real vitality it seems. A love for singing the hymns of the church shows through clearly every Lord's day, and thanks and praise to our God and His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
DiAnne Brown**

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day.



We hear the Christmas angels,  
The great glad tidings tell,  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

*Hymns of Zion, #37*

Merry Christmas Greetings! Such a miracle, those 20 centuries ago, when a humble handmaid accepted an invitation, a faithful carpenter accepted a mission and an innkeeper accepted an opportunity. Can you feel the cold night...see the animals' warm breath...smell the sweet hay...sense the world's quivering anticipation...hear the baby cry? It is never lost on me that God chose handmaids, tradesmen and shepherds to fulfill the prophecy and deliver the Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Let heaven and nature sing...Christ is Born!

The Sunday school children and teachers have been working, preparing for the Christmas program on November 29. This year the theme is 'Happy Birthday, Jesus' and it promises to be a joy to all. It's always a boost to the soul to see the enthusiasm with which the children share the story of baby Jesus and the wonder of His birth. Oh, that we might celebrate the season with the wonder and excitement of the children, that the holy Child be born in us today.

Sis. Lorene (Bro. Ben) Maibach's brave fight against cancer has come to an end and she has been given sweet rest in Jesus. We petition God to find many ways to comfort her dear husband, retired Elder Bro. Ben, and their family. We are flooded with memories of this dear soul who shared her love and kindness with the Sarasota church family for so many years.

Sis. Mary Lou Joos is recovering at home from hip replacement surgery this month. We pray she receives the blessing of a timely and complete healing and returns to worship soon.

We are sad to report Sis. Beulah Funk will no longer be among our regular winter residents. She has wintered with us since the early 1970's, but feels the time has come to reside permanently in Morton. We'll miss you, Sis. Beulah. May God give you happy memories of your time in Sarasota and keep us close in spirit.

The reading of the Memorandum was held Sunday, November 8, by our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter. What a blessed assurance, to be reminded how our Elders are standing on the wall and keeping watch over our precious faith. Thank you each and every one for your service.

On December 21, 5-year old Grace Sabo is having a complex surgery. Parents, Rachel Sabo and Jeff Sabo, and grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl and Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo, would covet your prayers for a successful surgery, a rapid recovery and protection from complications. You are welcome to send Gracie a card at 107 Nippino Trail W, Nokomis FL 34275. Gracie is a bright and happy ray of sunshine and we will rejoice with the angels when she returns to Sunday School.

The Annual Sarasota Sunday School Auction will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2010. While many are feeling a time of hardship, please be sure your donation of any amount makes a big difference. Your donation of items to auction is greatly appreciated, too. Many hands make light work. Better yet, plan to join us for a festive day complete with soup and pie lunch, Bake Sale and a silent and live auction. What better way to break the grip of winter and help a good cause at the same time? Hope to see you here.

Visiting ministers included Bro. Tom Bollinger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington-Normal, IL) and Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN). Thank you for being

willing vessels — your visits bring much joy to us.

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### GEORGIA, ATLANTA

We were pleased to have Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann Tonner (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sarah Edelman (Athens, AL) with us this month. It was such a blessing to hear the Word of Life spoken by Bro. Gary and Bro. Kerwin!

Throughout the past few months, our church has been gathering small toys and gifts to assemble into shoe boxes. On November 22, we heaped the shoe boxes with hairbrushes, toothbrushes, t-shirts, yo-yos, balls, beanie babies, match box cars and many other adorable gifts. These shoe boxes were then sent to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Atlanta. From there, they will be sent to children all over the world who will not receive any other present this Christmas. A small group of us went to the processing center the Friday after Thanksgiving, and were overwhelmed with the power of God working there! It was such a blessing to see how many people thoughtfully brought gifts for these children. Imagining the joy these children will experience from the gifts and the gospel message they will receive, our hearts are impressed with a tremendous amount love for our Almighty God who makes it possible!

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### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Doreen Moser

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

*Ephesians 6:20*

### THANKS

For the loved ones who came to spend the weekend for invite a friend. We enjoyed meeting new brothers and



sisters and renewing old friendships. There is no greater friendship than brothers and sisters in the Lord.

### GIVING

For the love expressed and the many letters of encouragement sent to Britny Knobloch as she has left for the Navy. May we continue to life her up in prayer as she works toward a goal she has chosen.

### THANKSGIVING

Giving thanks is easy it seems when all goes correctly, but giving thanks in our trials isn't always the easiest thing to do! Always something to strive for the whole year, not just at Thanksgiving time.

As the season of giving is upon us, may we remember what is most important to give is our time, talents, love and praise to the Lord who gave us the greatest gift of all, our salvation.

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### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Alissa Kieser Jacki Masters

As fall is rushing forward and Thanksgiving is just around the corner, we have so many things to be thankful for.

Now thank we all our God  
with heart, and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom the world rejoices. . .

*Zion's Harp #236*

We are thankful we could enjoy the wonderful testimony and baptism of Bro. Johnathon Cargill (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Crystal). Sharing services with us during this weekend was Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS).

"...that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things."

*Titus 2:10*

We are also blessed and thankful

our church is participating in small group and all church Bible studies on the book of Titus. The Bible studies have given us a wonderful opportunity to learn the reason for Paul's message to Titus, as well as how we can apply Paul's instructions to our own lives.

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

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

*Matthew 1:23*

As we enter this time of celebration in remembering the birth of our Lord, let us we remember that we don't need to serve a God we can hold in our hands, because we have One that holds us in His hands.

Each time we sit under the sound of the Word, we take it for granted that we will be spiritually filled. We tend to forget that those who labor on our behalf have to empty themselves so that we may be filled. We extend our appreciation to Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop) for assisting our pulpit one Sunday in November in bringing us spiritual nourishment this past month.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Don Duckworth (Sis. Delores) in the passing of his brother, Virgil.

Our friends, Kevin and Marina Endress, rejoice as they bring forth a new little one in their family. Jacey Diamond was received home by her siblings, Taylor, Eden, and Brianna. Paternal grandparents are Jerry and Carolyn Endress. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser

As we enter into 2010, we live in a world of uncertainty. Many people fear the future. However, if we are walking in the footsteps of our Lord,

we need not fear. We know where we are going, because we know Who we are following. We trust in His leading and that is all that matters.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

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### ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Jackie Eisenmann

John and Sara Wegman were recently married and are now living in Cayuga, IN. John is the son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman from Oakville, IA. John has lived in Champaign for several years and we wish this couple God's blessings!

We once again want to thank our visiting ministers that have blest us this past month. Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) was here Wednesday, October 21, and Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) was with us on Wednesday, November 4.. On Sunday, October 25, Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO) spoke God's Word to us and then on Sunday, November 1, Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) spent the day with us and was used on the pulpit. We want to thank each one of these Brothers who were willing to be used by God to preach His Word and blessed all of us by their presence!

Sunday, November 15, was our Family Hymn Sing and annual Operation Christmas Child project. It is always a blessing to gather together to sing praises to God for His goodness to us! The project afterwards was enjoyed by all, especially the children, who helped pack shoe boxes with small toys, school supplies, and hygiene items that will be shipped all over the world to less fortunate children. In many cases, this will be the only Christmas gift this child will receive. This is always a sobering thought as we approach the Christmas season.

"But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarry-



ing, O my God.”

*Psalms 40:17*

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## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Julie Eisenmann

We were blessed to have three visiting ministers this month. We thank Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Ed Strahm (Bern, KS), and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) for their willingness to serve. Bro. Paul shared with us a Topical Bible Study on the concepts of Unity, Uniformity and Peace. The Lord's presence was felt as we were reminded of our duty as fellow brethren in the body of Christ.

Our prayers go out to Ken Eckel (Sis. Christine). He was struck by a car and has been in the hospital and rehabilitation. We pray for healing and that the Lord would be with them both during this difficult time. Also we have been lifting Mildred Siepka up in prayer as she underwent heart surgery. May the Lord provide strength for her and her family as she recovers. We were thankful to hear that Sis. Gladys Fisher's pacemaker surgery went well, and that she is home recovering.

It was such a blessing to remember our precious Lord's sacrifice as we shared Holy Communion together this month. Our hearts are always reunited in peace when we share this holy sacrament.

We enjoyed gathering once again at Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter's home for the annual Sunday School wiener roast. May the Lord bless their willingness.

It is such a joyous time when we look forward to Thanksgiving, to give praise to our great God for His provisions. "Give thanks unto the Lord: for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever." (Psalm 118:1)

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## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

### Vickie Maul

### Janie Waldbeser

We appreciate the labors of love from ministering Bros. Les Kaeb (Francesville), Neil Widmer (West Lafayette), and Justin Koch (Washington) who willingly shared God's Holy Word. May God reward each of these Brothers for lending themselves as servants in the Lord's vineyard.

Grandchildren are a special blessing. Bro. John and Sis. Jane Conrad are thankful grandparents of a new grandson, Jace Payton Graham, born to Blake and Rachel Graham of Wyoming, IL. Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae Rudin welcome a precious granddaughter, Willow Anne Rudin, born to Brian and Bree Rudin of Normal, IL. May God bless these families as they raise their precious children.

Bro. Marvin Frank (Tremont) and Sis. Donna Yergler were united in marriage on November 15. Bringing us the Word of Truth on this special day was Bro. Fred Funk (Morton). We wish them and their families God's richest blessings.

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## ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

### Holly Zobrist

Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristan Craig recently had their first boy, Jesse Daniel. His older sisters are Liberty and Lucy. Also thankful for his safe arrival are grandparents, Clair and Sis. Bev Keever (Mansfield) and Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Elda Mae Craig's sister, Sis. Ione Rokey, who was originally from Congerville. Our hearts go out to her family during this time.

Our hearts also grieve with Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa Hartman as well as their children, Jacob, Abby, Sis. Molly and Sarah. Sis. Lisa's mother, Wilma Springer (Dayton), has recently passed away. The family is in our prayers.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City) help with the reading of the Memorandum. We also appreciate Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) visiting us this past month. May God bless these brothers with peace in their work of preaching the Gospel.

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## ILLINOIS, ELGIN

### Amy Gasser

### Miriam Gasser

"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*

Through their inspired messages from the pulpit, we were edified and give thanks to ministering Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), and Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO). We also appreciated the time and effort of Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) on a recent topical Bible presentation: "Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

Bro. Albert Schambach has graciously accepted another change in his life, a move from his apartment to Resthaven. May the Lord continue to care and provide for him.

Sis. Jeannette Moser was able to return home after a time of rehabilitation at Sherman West Court following her surgery. Though she cannot assemble with us in church, it is reassuring to know her son, Paul, resides with her to provide assistance. We miss her!

We were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Sis. Madelyn Tobler on November 10. Surviving are eight children, including Bro. Andy, one sister, and two brothers. Madelyn's cheerful attitude was an inspiration to many. Our sympathy and prayers are



with her family.

Sis. Marie Hugh was hospitalized with pneumonia, but she is doing much better. We will be prayerful for Matt Steffen (Natalie), who is scheduled for surgery on November 24 to remove a tumor on his leg.

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### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer  
Jodi Blunier**

We are thankful that new creations, from sin made free, have been awarded to Sis. Rose Stoller (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie), Bro. Luke Anliker and Sis. Olivia Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol). We welcome them to the fold of Jesus Christ. We thank Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) for his assistance.

New births have again been experienced. Bro. Jason, Sis. Jill, Reuben and Caleb Carr welcome Caroline Louise. Grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr and Carlisle and Deanna Kelly. Bro. Chance, Sis. Shelly, and Mia Knapp welcome Eli Wade. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Knapp and Bruce (Joetta) Hinrichsen and Cathy (Ernie Appleyard) Hinrichsen. Bro. Chris, Sis. Jill, Noah and Collin Wynkoop welcome Naomi Marie. Grandparents are Harold Wynkoop and Vikki (Jim) Mcquellon and Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine Blunier.

A number of our loved ones have been in the hospital or had surgery. Our prayers have been with Sis. Liz Blunier, Bro. Leroy Fehr, Sis. Ruby Grusy, Sis. Helen Fisher (Bro. Eli), and Sis. Ann Leman.

Sis. Chris Leman (Bro. Kent) mourns the death of her mother, Sis. Millie Schmidgall (Minneapolis, MN). At home 'tis well.

We appreciate the labors of visiting ministers: Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington), Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest), Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont), Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria), Bro. Gene

Metzger (Lester, IA), Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), and Bro. Tony Manz (Junction).

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### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr  
Anna Schmidgall**

On October 25, our Bible Class hosted Bible Classes from the Cissna Park, Elgin, and Goodfield congregations. We were thankful to have Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) in our midst and then with our Bible Class for this occasion.

Other visiting ministers serving our congregation this month were Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX). We thank each of these brothers for sharing God's Word with us and pray that He will richly bless them.

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow." We rejoice with Bro. Troy Steffen (Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola) and Sis. Rebecca Herr (Sis. Cindy) as their engagement was made known on October 25. May God be with them and guide them as they plan for a life together.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..."

*Psalm 127:3*

Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley Fehr welcomed another grandson into their family on September 28. Cooper Lee was born to Luke and Kate Fehr of Fairbury. Mason is his big brother.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Steidinger welcomed their firstborn, Zachary Alan, on October 31. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger and Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz (Junction, OH).

Also born on October 31 was Leah Jane to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori Hartman. Her siblings, Philip, Caleb, Ruth, Hannah, and Naomi, are ex-

cited to have another sister. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman and Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown (Forrest, IL).

Bro. Darl and Sis. Janelle Rassi welcomed Layna Grace into their hearts and home on November 4. Big sister, Kyla, is happy for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna Schmidgall and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi (Austin, TX).

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those recovering from recent surgeries, including Sis. Mary Beth Maurer and Sis. Janice Nussbaum.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

We would like to say thank you for all the kind deeds, helping hands, encouraging notes, and prayers offered on our behalf during my recent hospital visit and recovery. It is humbling and encouraging to see and feel the love of Christ and the brotherhood. We would also like to thank those who helped with the wheat harvest and the many young people who helped walk beans. May God bless you all!

Love in Christ,

*Bro. Kevin (Sis. Kara) Moser and family*

Thanks for all the prayers, cards, food, gifts, and kind deeds in the death of our triplet brother, Dean Lovell. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness.

*Dave and Deann Steidinger*

*Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger*

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### ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger  
Lisa Aberle**

We thank Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL), Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO) for ministering God's precious Word to us this month. May God continue to grant



our ministers words to speak of His saving grace.

We pray God's healing hand be upon Sis. Barb Edelman, Sis. Nettie Kyburz and Sis. Eleanor Honegger (Bro. Wayne) through their time of rest and recuperation from surgeries.

We extend loving sympathy to Dave Schmidgall in the passing of his sister, Sis. Madelyn Tobler of Elgin, IL. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Gladys Koehl on the passing of her brother, Ray Maurer of Forrest, IL. Also, we want to extend our love and sympathy to Ray's wife, Rosemary, their children and extended family.

Little Sophie Marie is the firstborn daughter of Bro. Seth and Sis. Renee Leman. Thankful and excited grandparents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda Leman.

Our hearts are rejoicing as we heard the good news of six new repenters. We pray that Damon and Lorri Lanz, Alisha Whiteman, Jeana Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol), Amanda Zimmerman and Jesse Zimmerman (children of Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) can humbly submit their all to the Lord and leave the world behind.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

A special thank you to my church family and dear friends for the many beautiful cards, flowers and gifts received for my 90th birthday. May God bless each of you.

*Sis. Leona Steffen*

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks for the many prayers, cards, food and deeds of kindness and gifts throughout Mom's illness and death. May God bless each of you for your love to us.

*Bro. Elmer Lanz and family*

## **ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Donna Wyss**

**Rita Bauman**

As Fall draws to a close and we look forward to the Christmas season, may we be reminded to always give thanks to God for Jesus Christ and the gift of salvation through Him.

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

*Revelation 3:10-11*

The weekend of November 28-29, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Sam Rokey (Kristen), Cameron Steffen (Bro. Dirk and Sis. Deb) and Jill Wagner (Bro. Greg). With thankful hearts we welcome them as our Brothers and Sister in faith. With us on this special occasion were Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), and ministering Bros. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL), Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL), Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Ed Knecht (Sis. Judy, Silverton, OR), Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL).

Other visiting ministers this past month who labored on our behalf were Bros. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. SueEllen, Sarasota, FL) and John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL). May God bless you as you continue to serve Him.

So now, redeemed one, sleep and rest!  
Homeward we turn to do our best,  
That we in joy and trembling be  
Made ready for eternity.

*Zion's Harp #248*

Our love and sympathy is extended to Bro. Steve Gerst (Sis. Bonnie) in the

passing of his mother, Sis. Liberty Gerst (Oakville, IA). May God be your Comforter.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank our dear church family for all of the prayers, cards, flowers, and deeds of kindness during our recent hospitalization and recuperation. We appreciate it very much and wish you the Lord's blessings.

In His Love,

*Sis. Betty & Bro. Willis Wiegand*

## **ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**

**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

In a recent worship service, our minister read from the book of Jude, and used that as the text for his sermon. In this, Jude refers to himself as a "servant", a lowly estate. The minister noted how in society, job titles, offices, and earthly distinction are important to people. He posed the question if we, as the children of God, are willing to call ourselves "servants".

In Gridley, after a big struggle to get the corn and soybean crops harvested, they are now safely in bins or have been shipped, much to the satisfaction of the farmers. In mid-November, very wet crop conditions, along with high moisture of corn in the fields, slowed harvesting progress, and many of our brethren made slower progress when compared to past years. But, God heard their prayers and, after time, harvest was completed. And yet, the harvest of souls for eternal life continues; an important work in bringing souls to a true repentance.

Tyler Gramm, son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta Gramm, has moved to Morton Timber Ridge at 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, Illinois 61550. Tyler has been a presence in our fellowship for many years, and we wish him well in his new home, and may God's will be done. Surely he is in



good hands.

Amanda Harris is the mother of Blake Michael Harris, who was born on September 2. His grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Harris, Gridley, and Michael and Teri Gassord, Birmingham, AL. Great-grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Ethel Schmidtgal (Eureka, IL).

Haven Noel Miller was born on November 1 to Bro. Arlan and Sis. Katie Miller. She is their first child. Grandparents are Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller, Gridley, and Bro. Verlin and Sis. Linda Kellenberger (Lester, IA).

Brandon and Kathy Jones are the parents of their first child, Charlee Anne, born on November 4. Grandparents are Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller, Gridley, and Skip and Carol Jones, Emington. Great-grandparents are Donald and Shirley Zehr, Pontiac, IL.

Kamri Alea Witzig was born on November 12. She is the daughter of Bro. Todd and Sis. Nicole Witzig. She has two siblings, Kya (5) and Zane (3). Grandparents are Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig, and Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie Yackley (Taylor, MO). Great-grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. LuAnn Knapp (Taylor, MO), Sis. Clara Yackley (Peoria, IL), and Sis. Oleda Menold (Morton, IL).

Isabella Leah Wettstein was born on November 13. Her parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Larissa Wettstein. She is a first child. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Knapp (Goodfield, IL). Great-grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Fred and Sis. Marjorie Knapp (Congerville, IL), Sis. Donna Wettstein (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Mildred Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

Don Gilmore was ill and is recovering. Jack Sievers also suffered from an illness.

At year's end, our congregation has

three souls residing at the Meadows Mennonite Home: Sisters Betty Klopfenstein and Marge Meiss; and Bro. Richard Kiefer, Sr. Residing at the Roanoke home is Sis. Mary Stoller; and from our congregation at Eureka are Sis. Esther Kaupp, Sis. Ruth Gramm, Sis. Lucille Stoller; and Bro. Roy and Sis. Bertha Funk, and John E. Schlipf. Shut-ins living at home are Bro. Alvin Ringger and Bro. Dave Wagner. We appreciate our elderly brethren and friends, and pray for their care. God truly provides.

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### ILLINOIS, MACOMB

#### **Norm and Jan Rechkemmer**

We wish to thank Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO), Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis Cheryl, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Dale Frank, (Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA) for so willingly traveling to Macomb to minister and share the Word with us. It is certainly a blessing to all of us that gather here on Wednesday evenings.

Our last services for the fall semester will be Wednesday, December 9. Morton, IL, will be providing the minister for that evening.

Our little group has grown this fall with families moving into the Macomb area. We welcome Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig and their daughters, Sis. Erica and Sis. Rachel, who are now living in Monmouth, IL. Also, Bro. Eric and Sis. Katie Wuthrich have moved to Roseville, IL, and join us in our services.

We rejoice with Bro. Doug Banwart and Sis. Tricia Hodel as they prepare for their wedding and marriage. May God bless them.

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### ILLINOIS, MORTON

#### **Annette Tanner**

#### **Julie Bahr**

What an unusual year the farmers

have had for harvest; yet some of the reports have been that the corn yields have been more than successful in many areas. God is faithful as He commands us to "Go Forth" in conditions that may not seem ideal - remembering that we must plant and water but that He provides the yield!

As the Christmas season approaches, pause from your busy preparations and take time for the most important PREPARATION. One that is to prepare your heart to Worship the King - King Jesus!

"Jesus loves me this I know, Jesus loves to hear me say that I love Him every day" seemed to be a beloved song of Shiela Steffen who passed from this life after residing at Timber Ridge for several years. Shiela is the daughter of Sis. Eleanor Steffen and a sister to Sis. Cheryl (John) Knobloch.

Florence Kennel also passed away. She is a sister to our Sis. Verna Gingrich. Our love and sympathy is extended to these families.

A warm welcome to our Morton Church Family is extended to Bro. Daniel and Sis. Diane Wuthrich. They are moving back to Morton from Tucson.

We are so thankful for visiting ministers: Bro. Jaye Rinckenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL). Bro. Willis gave our Family Worship topic, "I Want to Meet My Savior Smiling". His topic became infectious!

Were it not for God's mercy and grace, where would we be?! On November 14, "Were it Not For Grace" was the titled theme for our Benefit Dinner with Choir in song. The Sunday School Bible Class benefits from this event to be able to share monetarily with less fortunate mission groups. Let God's rich blessings be to all those who participated!

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**ILLINOIS, PEORIA****Pam Fritzenmeier**

Six families in our congregation laid to rest dear ones this last month. Gabriel Reinhard, age 5, went to live with Jesus and his brother, Joshua, on October 18. We heard at his funeral service of the things his family learned from him. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan, Sis. Kristen (Bro. Rodney) Menold, Sis. Sarah, Sis. Bethany, Hannah and Faith, grandma, Sis. Rhoda (late Bro. Paul) Meister, and the many other family members. On October 22, Sis. Miriam (Bro. Dan) Messerli's brother, Samuel Endress, passed away. On that same day, Chad Blumenshine also passed away. He was the son of Ron and Sis. Janet, and the brother of Terri (Brian) Kaisner, Austin, TX. Sis. Mabel (Bro. Peter) Weber's sister, Sis. Doris Banwart (West Bend), passed away October 29. Sis. Erma Wieland's brother, Bro. Vernon (Joanne) Clauss (Cissna Park), recently passed away, as did Sheila Steffen, sister of Bro. Kent (Sis. Joanne) Steffen. Please do keep these families in your prayers as they adjust to these losses in their family circle.

Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) were here for the funeral of their cousin, Chad Blumenshine, and shared God's Word with us. Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont) preached the Word on Wednesday evening, November 4. On Sunday, November 8, Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke) and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton) were with us for the very special occasion of baptisms. We welcome three new sisters and one new brother into God's family. They are Sis. Cassie Feucht (Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn), Sis. Rebekah Kummer (Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty) and Sis. Chassi and Bro. Quintin Scholl (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Jane's two children).

A precious baby girl has joined the family of Bro. Mike and Sis. Mindy Kaisner. Mazie Joy was born October 19. Her big sister is Anna, and her grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner and Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr.

The Young Group hosted our church Senior Citizen Dinner on Saturday, October 31. They served a delicious meal and presented a program of songs. The next evening, Sunday, November 1, was our monthly hymn sing during which our pre-k, kindergarten, first and second grade Sunday School classes sang for us. What blessing evenings such as these are!

The Fellowship Hall was the location for the Apostolic Christian Skylines benefit supper on November 14. Chili and potato soup and dessert were the main attractions, served in an effort to collect funding for a new resident wireless call system. On October 23 and 24, the Fellowship Hall hosted an open house for the Centre Lumiere, a home economics training school in Haiti. How thankful we are for these excellent opportunities to serve Jesus by assisting the elderly and poor.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family plan to return to Haiti November 17. Bro. Tim and Sis. Sarah are healing miraculously fast from the injuries they sustained in the accident that took little Gabriel's life. Please pray for them as they return to every day life, where the void will be daily, hourly, felt. Also, keep Bro. Jonathan Aupperle, serving in Magdalena, in your prayers.

Those in our congregation suffering health issues and needing prayers include Bro. Bob (Sis. Betty) Miller, Sis. Ilene (Bro. Bob) Haefli and Jim Meister.

**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE****Linda Joos****Connie Christ**

In sorrow and pain, Thy trust do retain,

In Jesus, thy merciful Savior...

*Zion's Harp #46*

Bro. Duane "Sonny" Elsasser passed away on November 11 into the arms of the merciful Savior. We are thankful for the victory in Jesus, and extend our sympathy and prayers to his dear wife, Sis. Doreen, and their children, Marcia (Mark) Rapp, Cheri Elsasser, Kenny (Karen), Jay (Kim), Lynne (Brent) Teubel, Ross (Natalie), Jeanne (Peter) Lopez, and Jill (Keith) Teubel. Our prayers are also with his brother, Bro. Jordan (Sis. Sharon) of Bradford, IL. May God fill the void left with His peace and nearness. We appreciate the love shared by ministering Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie, Morton, IL) as he had the funeral for his brother-in-law.

We were so strengthened to hear the Memorandum letter read and expounded on. We appreciate the love of Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury) in assisting Bro. Jim in this work. May we all daily continue to strive to apply and live the Holy Word.

Other visiting ministers for this month included Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), and Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), and Fred Funk (Morton, IL). We thank God for each brother willing to be used as a mouthpiece for God's Holy Word.

This month we have several loved ones who have been hospitalized and our prayers are surely with each one. Bro. Gene Siebenthal (Sis. Kay) suffered an accident, Sis. Esther Martin (Bro. Nate) had surgery, Bro. Doug Blunier (Sis. Carol), Bro. Herb Rumbold (Sis. Diana), Sis. Helen



Schick and Sis. Edith Martin were also hospitalized. May God restore renewed health according to His perfect will.

Our dear Sis. Phyllis Knobloch has moved to an apartment at Skylines in Peoria. We pray God will be very near and help her as she adjusts to her new home.

Love of all gifts is the greatest,  
which the Spirit does bestow...

*Zion's Harp #37*

On November 22, Sis. Raquel Knobloch (Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann) and Bro. Michael Herrmann (Bro. Allan and Sis. Rose) exchanged wedding vows. We appreciate the love shared by Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) as he assisted in the marriage ceremony. We rejoice with them as they become one in the Lord and begin life's pathway as husband and wife.

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## ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel  
Judy Sauder**

Deuteronomy 26:11: "And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house..." We certainly are coming into the time of year when we can pause and reflect upon the many blessings which God has bestowed upon us.

We are thankful for the blessing of visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us this past month. On Wednesday evening, October 28, Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont) was with us for our topical Bible study. He spoke on Daniel, chapters 3 and 6. Then, on November 1, Bro. Daren Metz (Gridley) was with us. On Wednesday evening, November 11, Bro. John Bradle shared with us a topical Bible study on Daniel, chapters 6-12.

Our prayers are with Sis. Jodi (Bro. Jeff) Sauder and their family in the

loss of her father, Bill Young, of Morton on October 17.

Our congregation would like to welcome Bro. Wally and Sis. Marilyn Leman. We pray they will feel welcome as Roanoke becomes their new home.

On October 25, our Sunday school Bible class hosted an Invite-a-Friend. We pray all the students involved in this day received a blessing.

Eccl. 4:9 & 12: "Two are better than one...and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." We rejoice with Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane Bates in the marriage of their son, Matt Bates, to Stephanie Kline on November 6. Stephanie's parents are Chet and Denise Jacobus of East Peoria.

Zion's Harp #114 - "And so, farewell to you, beloved brother, as now we part and say our fond farewell!" Our congregation bid farewell to Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy Kaeb as well as their children, Kelsey, Josiah, and Abby, as they plan to move to Gateway Woods. We pray they will have a smooth adjustment as they take this new step.

We were thankful for the safe arrival home of Jason (Amanda) Rassi who was serving as a helicopter pilot in Iraq. Jason's parent are Bill and Jan Rassi.

Sis. Ione Rokey passed away on November 13. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family: her daughter, Sis. Judy (Bro. Ken) Knepp; son, Jerome Rokey (Gilbert, AZ); son-in-law, Terry (Mary Margaret) Klaus (Eureka); one brother, Eli (Beth) Hartter (Sabetha, KS); two sisters, Elda Mae Craig (Congerville); and Sis. Luella Sauder (Bloomington.)

Gal. 5:13: "...but by love serve one another." Our congregation has been given many opportunities to give in this past month. On October 31, the young group entertained our children by hosting a "Harvest Party" with various activities. Then, on November 7, our annual Nursing Home benefit was held. Proceeds will go to the Good

Samaritan Fund at the nursing home. On November 14, the Young Group again served our congregation by assisting those who wanted their leaves raked. We are so thankful for all those who willingly give of their time and resources to help those in need. We especially thank our Young Group for their service and example of love to our congregation.

We continue to lift up all those in our congregation who are facing infirmities of the flesh. Our prayers are with Sis. Helen Leman, and Bro. John (Sis. Linda) Hodel who have faced surgery in the recent weeks.

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## ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell  
Janice Sauder**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

*John 3:16*

We rejoice that Sis. Victoria Steiner (Bro. Todd and Sis. Val) and Sis. Suzanne Baer could believe in this promise, and bring their testimonies of faith before our congregation and be baptized on November 7-8. We pray God will continue to grant them grace on their pathways of life.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Ted Witzig, Sr. (Morton, IL) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL); and ministering Bros. Brad Metz (Bloomington, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Dale Moore (Elgin, IA). They were all willing to give of themselves in the Lord's work and we ask His blessing upon them.

New babies are such a blessing to their families, and we have three births to report! Elder Bro. Charles (the late Sis. Miriam) Sauder is happy to be in Japan getting to know his new



grandson, Tomoki Charles. Tomoki is the first-born son of Bro. Akihiro and Sis. Carrie Ito, of Shioda, Japan. Bro. Galen and Sis. Betty Rocke have a new little daughter, Anika Lynne. Her siblings, Emily, Megan and Caleb, along with grandparents, Sis. Kathy (the late Bro. Nelson) Rocke and Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler (West Bend, IA), welcome her home. Bro. Tom and Sis. Lisa Haas have been blessed with another daughter, Ashley Ann. Lauren, Joseph, and grandparents Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie Koch are helping take good care of her.

We extend sympathy to our two dear sisters and their families, Sis. Julie (Bro. Dan) Koch and Sis. Joann (Bro. Dale) Sauder, at the death of Sis. Madelyn Tobler, of Elgin, IL. Sis. Julie is one of eight surviving children and Sis. Joann is the only surviving sister of Sis. Madelyn. We always enjoyed her cheerful smile when she visited in Tremont, and pray for God's comforting Spirit in the lives of her loved ones.

We are reminded again that life and health are in the Lord's hand, as we think of this month's hospital patients: Joni Herrmann (infant daughter of Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura), Bro. Vernon (Sis. Ruth) Koch, and Sis. Pauline (the late Bro. Willis) Sauder. They were thankful for prayers for God's care over them.

We say "Farewell" to Bro. Russ and Sis. Beth Koehl, as they have moved away from the Tremont area to Morris, MN, where Bro. Russ has found employment. Their three children, Tasha, Ashley and Mason, were all born while they assembled with us. May God continue to bless and guide this dear family!

We congratulate Bro. Marvin Frank and Sis. Donna Yergler (Cissna Park) upon their marriage this past Sunday afternoon, November 15. May God always bless their family circles.

## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Linda Folkerts Nancy Leman

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."  
*John 10:14*

Our congregation was blessed on October 24-25 as we enjoyed the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our two new brothers, Noah Teubel and Cass Schumacher, and one new sister, Kendra Leman. Their thankful parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Marti Teubel, Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Schumacher, and Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori Leman. We welcome these new "lambs" into our fold and pray for the continued grace and peace of the Good Shepherd in their lives.

We appreciated that Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley) was able to come and assist Bro. Ron with the testimonies and baptisms and that he and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City) were willing to share the Word with us on Sunday. We also appreciate Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley) coming to share a Bible Study on October 28. May these brothers be blessed for their service in the Lord.

We rejoice with Bro. Grant and Sis. Martha Hangartner as they welcome Crew Marcus into their family. His excited big brother is Brodie, and we pray God will bless them as their family grows. Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm (Bern, KS) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Hangartner are thankful grandparents.

Sis. Sue Ruppert has recently returned home after being hospitalized. We pray for God to grant her recovery with renewed strength.

Erin Rocke, daughter of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine Rocke, has recently become engaged to Tim Price of North Carolina. His parents are George Price, Amarillo, TX, and Linda Price, Eureka. We wish Erin and Tim the

Lord's blessings as they plan for their wedding and future.

Our church enjoyed our fall "Invite-a-Guest" on Sunday, November 8. Thank you to our guests for spending a blessed day with us in worship and song.

## INDIANA, BLUFFTON Grace Gerber Kim Meyer

God has shown His love, grace, and faithfulness through many lives in the Bluffton congregation this past month. Although there have been tears of joy and sadness shed, God has remained ever present and ever faithful. How thankful we are for the Anchor in our lives, when the seas rise up around us!

It's a joyous time when we can welcome new births; and this month we have been blessed with five arrivals! Addison Lynn Raber was born to Bro. Tony and Sis. Nichole Raber. Addison is welcomed by his grandparents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb Fiechter and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Raber. Fielder Thomas joined the family of Todd and Carla Brege and his grandparents would be Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat Gerber. Bro. Doug and Sis. Tonia Isch rejoiced in the arrival of Carter Douglas along with grandparents, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni Schwartz and Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch. Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kara gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Archer Douglas Leman. Archer's grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val Leman and Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie Drayer. Bro. Todd and Sis. Jessica were also blessed with one of God's precious little bundles, Briggs Michael Fiechter. Briggs' grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth Fiechter and Doyle and Sis. Jan Reinhard. We rejoice with these growing families as they bring their new little ones into their homes!

Bro. Cory Aschliman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Holly Fiechter



(Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie) will establish their home as they were wed this past month.

We lift up Sis. Sandy (Bro. Kendall) Ringger as she battles yet another round with cancer. Bro. Joel (Sis. Erin) Drayer is also in our prayers as he is currently at the Rubio Cancer Center in Tijuana, Mexico, for treatments for his Hodgkin's lymphoma. We welcome Sis. Evie (Bro. Bob) Gerber back to church after five weeks of recovering from her knee replacement. Sis. Justine Gerber also had reparative surgery this month. And Bro. Mike Fiechter had a short hospital stay and is recovering at home. May our dear Lord send His healing mercies on these dear souls.

Bro. Kevin (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Erica Kipfer left for Ethiopia. May God bless their efforts as they try and reach the young Ethiopian girls who deserve so much more and to know God's love.

Sis. Betty Steffen (Bro. Harry) and Bro. Leroy Steffen (Sis. Elizabeth) passed away this past month. It's always hard to say goodbye to loved ones, but what joy to think of them sitting at the feet of Jesus! No pain and no limitations as they lift their arms and voices in praise!

Bro. Willis (Sis. Lois) Ehnle gave a topical presentation "Holy Spirit, Lead On!" We enjoyed his zeal for the Lord, not only through his presentation, but also on Sunday. Also this month, Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pamela, Latty, OH) gave of himself along with Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott, IN). Thank you, ministers, who give of yourselves so often to share the Word with us.

The youth in our church have been quite busy as well. With the weather cooling down, it provides for service opportunities inside. The middle school Sunday school kids put together care packages for college students. This year the annual pork chop fundraiser for the Sunday school was

replaced by a successful pancake and sausage breakfast. The senior class also held a fundraiser for their mission trip that will take place during spring break. Once again the young group held their Love One Another supper for the widows and widowers. What a great way to reach out and join all ages in singing and fellowship! The young group showed our ministers how much we appreciate them by hosting the Minister Appreciation Supper. The Bluffton congregation also hosted the Eastern World Relief meeting and enjoyed the company of many who have a heart for those in need. Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) took part in the day by talking with the young group. We were then blessed to hear from him Sunday morning as well.

Whew! God has truly been faithful! May we all take a little extra time this Thanksgiving season to count our blessings one by one because we are exceptionally blessed by our heavenly Father.

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**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Jessie Longenberger  
Sherry Pfister**

"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children."

*Psalm 103:17*

New grandchildren were born to several families this month. Bro. Doug and Sis. Tami Kaehr are new grandparents to Gabrielle Sue born on October 3; parents are Todd and Cecily Sonningson. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val Leman welcomed a new grandson, Archer Douglas, born October 26; parents are Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kara Leman (Bluffton East).

"Sorrow lasts for the night, but joy comes in the morning" describes the

loss of a family member who has hope in the Lord. Bro. Leroy Steffen went home to be with his Lord on October 28. His wife, Sis. Elizabeth, and son, Bro. Tim (Sis. Marlise), and daughter, Sis. Mary (Bro. Dean of Elkhart), survive him. Sis. Betty Steffen (Bro. Harry, Bluffton East) slipped into eternity on November 9. She was the mother of Sis. Cyndee Fiechter (Bro. Dean) and Bro. Keith Steffen. Sis. Carol Gerber (Bro. Dale) bid goodbye to her father, Elmer Roth, of Chenoa (wife, Wilda) who lived 91 years. Sis. Myra Ringger (Bro. Steve) lost her mother, Sis. Esther Gray (Francesville), on November 17. Our love and prayers for comfort are with these families.

Prayers are requested for the grandson of Joe and Jan Schwartz. Little Eli Sonningsen is three months old and is unable to retain nutrients. He has been admitted to Riley Hospital twice for this ailment. His parents are Tyler and Heather. Marcia Brewster (Brian) had back surgery and appreciated the prayers and support she has received.

We were blessed by several visiting ministers this past month. They are: Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton East), Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley), and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha).

Our congregation helped to host some special events the weekend of November 14-15. On Saturday, the Bluffton combined Sunday Schools held the first Pancake/Sausage Breakfast at Kingdom Academy. The Eastern World Relief Information Meeting was also held at the Fellowship Hall that day. On Sunday the 15th, the Sunday School presented a special program of Bible recitations and corresponding hymns after the morning service.

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**INDIANA  
FRANCESVILLE  
Mildred Clauss  
Jacki Huber**

At the season of Thanksgiving we count our blessings (and they are many) and our hearts are filled with gratitude. But when we reflect on the past year, most of us would confess that often we complain when things do not go our way. We want abundance of everything rather than what is sufficient to sustain us. We want Him to give us the things we desire; but we shrink back from suffering for His sake. Lord, we ask for Thy forgiveness! "Confession is a powerful prelude to a prayer of thanksgiving. Obedience is the Amen." (D. McCasland)

On Wednesday evening, November 18, our congregation was blessed and encouraged by our Thanksgiving program.

Communion was observed in our congregation recently. Thanks to Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North) for coming to assist Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein as we partook of the Lord's Supper.

Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO) was a visiting minister here recently and we trust the Lord will bless him for serving us.

At our monthly Family Hymn Sing we were glad to have Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein give an update on their work in Haiti. We appreciate to stay informed.

Our Sunday School Bible Class sponsored a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast at the Fellowship Center to help fund some of their mission projects.

Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich (Bro. Bob) is recuperating from open-heart surgery. She is presently at Parkview Haven for therapy. Sis. Paulette Putt (Bro. Wayne) has had knee surgery and we pray each of them will have a good recovery.

Don Getz, 79, of Harvey, IL, passed

away on October 29. Don was the son of Sam and Sis. Anna Getz and he grew up in Francesville. His career took him to far away places, but he never lost touch with his converted friends here. When his health began to fail, he recognized his great need of a Saviour and he called upon the Lord for grace and mercy. He was able to testify that he found peace with God and with man and expressed sincere love for the brotherhood. (Titus 3:5). What a blessing!

Sis. Esther Gray, 96, passed away on November 17. Her husband, Bro. Joe, passed away in 2003. Sis. Esther possessed the "ornament of a meek and quiet spirit" (1 Peter 3:4) and she was deeply loved. She is survived by three daughters: Kathy Lanz (husband Kerry), Estelle Dahlkemper (husband Dick) and Sis. Myra Ringger (husband Bro. Steve); by two brothers: Bro. Harvey Gutwein (Sis. Joan) and Bro. Glen Gutwein (Sis. Mary Ann); and by four sisters: Sis. Fern Leman (Bro. Sid), Sis. Marcella Gudeman (Bro. Wendell), Sis. Suzanne Cook (Herb) and Sis. Dorothy Beer (Bro. Victor).

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**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Gail Bradford  
Sandy Lichtle**

A beautiful fall weekend brought young people together from our mid-western churches to take part in many different work projects. Bro. Nick Gutwein (West Lafayette) started the weekend off with a Bible study on Friday evening. On Saturday, they raked leaves, cleared gutters, helped with landscaping projects, cooked meals for shut-ins and shopped with children for school clothes. These efforts gave opportunities to share the Gospel as well. Afterward, young and older gathered at the home of Sis. Ginny Zeller to share their project experiences and enjoy food and fellowship.

We rejoice at the birth of Hailey Claire Rowe on November 7. She is the second daughter of Michael and Heather Rowe. She joins her big brother Holden and little sister Annmarie at their lively home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich and Mrs. Kay Rowe. Grandpa Gene Rowe is rejoicing from heaven.

Children and parents gathered at church on Friday, October 30, for a "fall festival" where a casual meal was served followed by fun activities for both children and adults.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) shared the pulpit with Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) in reading the Memorandum. These messages from our Elders express their desire for the continued vitality and faithful witness of our church body.

Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN) shared the pulpit here on a Sunday. We welcome those who proclaim God's Word so willingly.

We recently learned that Sis. Lyn Wuethrich has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She is scheduled for additional tests on December 1 and surgery on December 8. As we pray for her return to complete health, we will rely on God's loving kindness to strengthen and guide her through the challenging days ahead.

The congregation participated in an inaugural Thanksgiving service on Sunday afternoon, November 22. Adults and high school youth sang songs of praise and thanksgiving, read selections based on scripture and gave testimonies about what they are thankful for. It was a heartwarming and inspiring service. We learn much from each other when we share what God has done for us!

As we enter a season of thanksgiving and the birth of our Saviour, may we all understand the source of our blessings and the strength for our trials!



"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

*John 10:10*

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## INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson  
Julie Rocke**

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

*Phil. 2:12*

We were encouraged in a recent sermon that we should pray that God would place the desire in our hearts to do His will, and then give us the grace and courage to do it!

We are thankful that Mindy Wettstein (Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen) has accepted the gift of grace that God has offered and has made a beginning in repentance. We pray that she will continue to keep her heart open to God's direction and work of salvation in her life.

Sis. Carolyn Levy spent some time in the hospital last month. Sis. Margene Peasley (Bro. David) underwent surgery this month and continues to experience some health issues. We pray that God will continue to heal each of these dear sisters.

Our hearts go out to Sis. Evie Heinold (Bro. Eugene) and her family in the recent loss of her sister, Mary Wilson of Phoenix, AZ. We are also keeping Sis. Mary Gudeman (Bro. Don) and their family in our prayers as her mother, Sis. Ella Schlatter (late Bro. Eli) of Detroit, MI, went home to her Lord and Savior. May all who have lost loved ones feel God's loving presence in the midst of their grief.

We will miss Bro. Dan, Sis. Cathy and Felicia Nuest as well as Bro. Don and Sis. Deb, Sis. Heidi and Hillary Nuest as they will be making the Francesville congregation their home

church. May God bless them as they take their places there.

Many thanks to Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) who spent the day with us several weeks ago. We appreciate each of our ministers and thank them for their loving service to God on our behalf.

### *Note of Thanks:*

Evie and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts of love during and since my hospital stay and recovery. Each one was and is special and all are greatly appreciated.

In Christian Love,  
*Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold.*

May each of you be blessed this Christmas season.

"Take time to remember Christ's lowly manger birth, always looking forward to the cross, His reason for coming to this earth."

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

*II Cor. 9:15*

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## INDIANA, LEO

**Elizabeth Schrenk  
Abigail Schrenk**

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

*James 2:14, 17*

The opportunities to serve are ever growing. As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are approaching, may God help us find these opportunities to serve Him.

October 31 was a special night for us as we heard how God has been working in Sam Kaufman's life. We gladly welcome him as a brother in Christ. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis.

Cindy, Morton) was with us for the weekend and we appreciated them being with us.

Jonathan Schumacher (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina) left for the Navy on November 15. He is learning underwater welding techniques while serving. We ask for your prayers as he starts a new chapter in life.

Several of our church family have been in the hospital over the past month. Sis. Sharon Pfister (Bro. Dave) fell and broke her arm. Bro. Ernie Stoller (Sis. Dean) has been recovering from kidney stones and a blood infection. Margaret Zehr had some complications with some blood clotting in her lung. They would appreciate your prayers in the coming weeks.

We extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy Kaeb. Together with their children, Kelsey, Josiah, and Abbi, they have come from Roanoke to be assistant house parents. May God teach them as they play a role in shaping the lives of young people.

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## INDIANA, MILFORD

**Pam Beer  
Carol Hurd**

On Saturday, November 14, Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) joined our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) in the reading of the Conference Memorandum. It is always a renewing of spirit to hear how our Elders care for our spiritual needs. It was also made known that Bro. Randy (Sis. Deb) Beer had the support of the Milford congregation to become their new minister. Bro. Ted and Bro. Bill conducted the ordination. We pray the Lord's blessing on Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb.

The Milford congregation welcomes Bro. John Frauhiger and Bro. Luke Frauhiger as work and college has brought them to our area to live



and worship.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer have a new son, Aidan Robert, born on November 7. Grandparents are Bro. Nelson Beer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Eureka, IL). Aidan is welcomed by his church family and by siblings, Anne, Aaron, Ashley, Amy, Adam and Amber. May God bless this beautiful family.

Brenner Schlipf, son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Kimberly Schlipf, welcomes home his new brother, Creed David, born November 15. The grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf and Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Young. His great-grandparents are Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer, Sis. Lola Schlipf, Marie Young, and Otto and Edith Stadel.

The Milford congregation extends our sincere sympathy to Sis. Mary and Bro. Dean Lehman in the passing of Sis. Mary's father, Bro. Leroy (Sis. Elizabeth) Steffen.

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## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger  
Marcella Tyler**

We have been privileged to have many visiting ministers this month. Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, La-Crosse, IN) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) proclaimed God's Word to us and we are thankful for their willingness to be used by the Spirit. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus in the reading of the Memorandum. In addition, Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN) spent a Sunday on our pulpit as well as offering a Topical Bible Presentation on a Wednesday titled "Trust in the Lord" where we were encouraged by Psalm 118:8: "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." We are thankful for each one's efforts and were enriched by their fellowship.

Big sister Ali and big brother Da-

kota are very excited about the arrival of their new little brother, Trae Michael, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Miranda Virkler, on October 22. Trae's grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler. We are very thankful for Trae's safe arrival and pray a blessing on his family as they bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We are so thankful that Brittany Weerts (Bro. Dan and Sis. Denise) has been able to find the grace to repent of her sins and seek the will of God for her life. As someone who did not grow up in our faith and who came to Christ as an adult, it is humbling for me to witness a young believer completely trusting Jesus to carry her through the tough transition out of Satan's clutches and into His loving arms. We will be praying for Brittany that she can continue this wonderful work that God has begun in her heart, and we ask all of you to pray for her, too.

We are glad to have Bro. Jesse Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) worshipping with us again after his time away in West Bend, IA. We welcome him back "home" to Remington!

Our hearts mourn the death of Gabriel Reinhard, cherished son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard, and grandson of our Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard. Little Gabriel went to be with the Lord after an accident that occurred while his family was going about doing the Lord's work in Haiti. We continue to pray for healing and comfort for the whole family.

We continue to uphold Bro. Clyde Waibel (Sis. Mary Sue) in prayer as he continues to battle cancer. Through it all, Bro. Clyde has had a consistently upbeat and cheerful manner. It is obvious that the Lord is answering prayers offered on his behalf to give him comfort and hope. We are thankful for his wonderful example of trusting the Lord through adversity and

being content despite disheartening circumstances.

The Christmas season is upon us and we eagerly await all the joy and fun that goes along with it – the songs, the decorations, the food, the family togetherness, the giving and receiving of gifts, etc. But may we each one always remember the real and lasting joy of the season – the precious gift of a child in the manger who was sent to save our souls.

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Rachel Langhofer  
Joshua Martinez**

As our nation celebrates a time of Thanksgiving and a season to worship and honor God's gift of our Lord and Savior, may you find yourself "rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Col. 2:7

We are happy to report that Sis. Pauline Laidig is doing a little better. She is able to be out of bed in a wheelchair and is feeding herself in the mornings.

"To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever."

*Psalm 30:12*

We rejoice with joyful grandparents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer. Bro. Caleb and Sis. Laura Schafer (Austin, TX) welcomed a sweet baby girl, Liliana Lee Schafer, into their family on Wednesday, October 21.

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

*Psalm 107:8*

We have kept Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe in our prayers during their recent two-week mission trip to Haiti.



We look forward to their return and to hear of the wondrous works on behalf of our Lord in that poor Caribbean island nation.

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.”

*Philippians 1:3*

Sis. Sharon Flis will be staying with her son, Ben, in Lake Havasu City, AZ, until Christmas time. She then plans to go back and may stay there until March, 2010. Her address is: Sharon Flis, 2956 Green Acres Drive, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404. We will keep Sis. Sharon in our thoughts and prayers and look forward to her return.

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”

*II Cor. 9:15*

God be with you 'til we meet again!

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### INDIANA, VALPARAISO Marguerite Hoerr

Our Bro. Art Heinold was hospitalized recently, following a fall at work. We're related to say, after recovering at Bro. Tom and Sis. Louann Troxel's home, he was soon able to fly to Florida to join his sister, Sis. Mary Ann Feller. We hope to see him back worshipping with us soon. Bro. Art is the oldest person in our church and is much loved. His positive attitude, his friendly smile and the earnest prayers he offers, all make him an essential part of our fellowship.

We have more good news in that our Sis. Carol (Bro. Ken) Bucher has completed her round of treatment and has now undergone successful surgery. We rejoice with her as she continues her road to recovery. She is so loved by all of us. It's been a privilege to pray with her during this time.

Bro. Rollie and Sis. Jo Meiss have reason to rejoice this month, also.

Their son, Dale, and his wife, Sherry, had an auto accident in which their car was hit at a crossroad, by someone who stopped and then drove directly into them. Dale and Sherry live next door to Bro. Rollie and Sis. Jo and have been blessings to them time and again. We're grateful they were spared serious injury.

We had a wonderful thing happen in our home recently. One of my co-workers at the library had an electric organ she wanted to give away. She asked at work if anyone was interested. I certainly was. We now have it in our home and the blessings from it have been many. Bob plays hymns on it so often in the evening. He seems to enjoy it and it's balm to my soul to hear him play. I can't wait until some of our children and grandchildren visit us to play it for us, too. As I told Sue, my generous co-worker, it's the gift that keeps on giving.

We're looking forward to our son, Bob, and his family visiting us from St. Paul over Thanksgiving. Becky, her sons and their wives and family will also be with us. As we grow older, our children grow ever dearer to us.

By the time this news reaches you, it will be very close to Christmas, 2009. Celebrating Christ's birth becomes more precious to us every year. We send our warmest wishes into every heart that reads our Valpo news and we hope God will shower you with abundant blessings.

Don't forget to visit our Valpo church when you have the opportunity. Remember we're just 2 3/4 miles South of U. S. 30 on IN State Rd 49.

We'll warmly welcome you.

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### INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE Hollie Meister Darlene Walder

Our congregation gathered for Family Praise Night this month. We enjoyed a wonderful meal, fellowship,

and Sis. Laura Gutwein shared with us about Loving Shepherd Ministries. Thank you to all who planned the evening's events.

We would like to thank the following visiting ministers: Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN), and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We appreciate your time and willingness to share His Word with us.

Just a reminder that we are currently sharing our church building as our new facility is under construction. Sunday's worship service starts at 11:10; we hope to be in our new facility on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010.

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### INDIANA, WOLCOTT Lynell Blume Donita Edelman

The angel's sweet message - let me hear it again  
Of peace on earth, good will toward all men;  
How the shepherds made haste and, forsaking their sheep,  
Found the lowly manger and the Baby, asleep.  
Brave Wise Men traveled from the East afar  
To worship the Babe, having followed the star;  
Costly gifts at His feet they all did lay,  
The King of all kings who was born on that day.

We can never thank God enough for sending His own Son to earth as a Babe to live as an example for us to follow each day and to die for our sins. Let us never forget the true meaning of Christmas and the One who made the way of salvation possible for all who will follow God and serve Him faithfully.

We spent a blessed evening together on October 28 when Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) conducted our Topical Bible Study entitled "Trust in the Lord". What a comfort to know that when we are ex-



periencing struggles, one of the blessings of our Christian walk of life is to "trust in the Lord". We appreciate Bro. Brian's willingness to be used in sharing God's Word with us.

On November 8, we gathered together to listen to the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). May we all heed the warnings and the instructions of our Elder brothers that it can be well with our souls. Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) also ministered to us on a recent Wednesday evening. We sincerely thank these brothers for their love shown to us, and may God's blessings rest upon them.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott and their family in the death of Mike's mother, Juanita Scott. May the Lord comfort and strengthen them in this time of sorrow.

Our hearts are so thankful that God has called Shane Bahler (Chris and Sis. Teresa) and Brett Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) unto repentance. May God grant them the grace daily to leave self, sin, and Satan behind.

Ryan Schlemen and Clint Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) have repented of their sins, found peace with God and man, and wish to give their testimony of faith. Our prayer is that they will continue to feel God's blessings and direction as they await baptism in the near future.

We have those in our midst who have suffered afflictions of the flesh and have submitted to surgery. Sis. Shirley Furrer (Bro. Irv), Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman (Bro. John), and Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances) are on the road to recovery and assembling with us once again. We apologize for failing to report a couple of months ago that little Sawyer Cleefman (Chris and

Brook) had the misfortune of breaking his leg, and we are thankful that it is healing nicely. We wish each one renewed health and strength from the Lord as we continue to lift them up in prayer.

Bro. Glenn Blume's current address is: Bickford Cottage, Room 505, 3633 Regal Valley Drive, Lafayette, IN 47909.

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### IOWA, BLOOMFIELD Christy Wiegand

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

*Psalms 127:3*

It is always a pleasure to report new babies! Ethan David was born to Bro. Vern and Sis. Boni Hostetler on November 3. We rejoice with them. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein and Joe and Wilma Hostetler (Mt. Vernon, IL).

A special thank you to Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN) for ministering the Living Word of God to us. Their daughter is here in Bloomfield attending college so we look forward to them visiting again.

Thanksgiving is here and we have so much to be thankful for. May we each remember to count our blessings, not our worries, this Thanksgiving! And as Thanksgiving quickly comes and passes and the Christmas bustle begins, may we each stop and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

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### IOWA, BURLINGTON Karla Gerst Dixie Messner

We are thankful for the troubled waters here in Burlington lately. In a recent sermon, Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville) read from Luke 13 where Jesus said "...Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5). A convicted heart has a hard time ig-

noring this command.

Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford) and his wife spent a Sunday with us also.

We are encouraged to see and hear that Bro. Dale Massner is home again after his accident and recent hospital stay. Little Naomi Eisenmann (Matt and Monica) and Bro. Bill Obermann are also recovering from their surgeries.

Seeds of goodness we are sowing  
In the hearts of man today.  
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,  
And bear fruit for harvest day.

He who gathers not at harvest,  
Will a beggar be at last.  
Therefore rise today and labor,  
Gath'ring golden sheaves with haste.

Hasten gladly to the labor.  
Consecrate to God your heart.  
Say this day unto your Savior,  
"Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

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### IOWA, ELGIN Maria Rocke

Here to support our home ministering brethren this month were Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH). We appreciate their willingness to serve us.

Jill Schupbach announced her engagement to John Butikofer (Gridley, IL). Jill's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach and John's parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma Butikofer (Gridley, IL).

We look forward to hearing from our Sunday school children in their upcoming Christmas program.

Hasten, children, to adore Him!  
Learn His name to magnify;  
Till in heaven ye sing before Him,  
Glory be to God most high!

*Gospel Hymns #877*

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## IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

We appreciate Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner's (Oakville, IA) visit this month. May God bless Bro. John for his willingness to speak the Truth.

As the Christmas season draws near, we focus more on the physical arrival of our Lord. May we thank God throughout the whole year, not only for His Son's humble birth, but also for Jesus' life and atoning death. He is not only our Teacher; He is our redeeming Christ.

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## IOWA, LESTER Polly Metzger Gloria Moser

As we are in the midst of the Christmas Season, may we reflect on the lowly birth in a manger, but most importantly keep our eyes focused on the cross. May we always rejoice and be thankful for this marvelous plan of salvation. How privileged we are to be recipients of God's great love and mercy.

Our congregation is rejoicing with several families that have welcomed precious babies into their homes. Mitchell Paul was born on October 19 to Bro. Thadd and Sis. Wendy Knoblock. Adam, Adrienne and Mathias are excited to have a new brother. Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock and Bro. Howard and Sis. Lillian Mogler are his grandparents.

Bro. Seth and Sis. Lori Miller are the thankful parents of Josiah Paul born on October 24. Rosanna and Owen are looking forward to having a new brother to play with. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester. Another precious son, Trenton Wayne, was welcomed into the home of Bro. Matt and Sis. Rosalee and Taylor Anderson on November 3. Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Mogler are the happy grandparents. May God grant much grace and wis-

dom to these dear families as they raise their children in His ways.

Heart with heart in love united,  
Seek upon God's heart repose.  
Let your love, to flames ignited,  
To the Saviour upward flow.

*Zion's Harp #33*

Amanda Teunissen and Stan Metzger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte) exchanged wedding vows on November 24. November 25 was the wedding day for Sis. Tanya Wulf (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra) and Bro. Taylor Gramm (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen, Morris, MN). Sis. Cassie Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb) and Bro. Chet Mogler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev) were united in marriage on November 1. May God bless these dear couples with much guidance and direction as they journey life's pathway together.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our home and visiting ministers who willingly share God's Word with us. Our visitors this past month include: Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA). May God reward them for their labors.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."

*Psalms 34:19*

Our church family has many loved ones that are suffering various physical afflictions or are undergoing treatment. Bro. Elmer Metzger (Sis. Mariann), Bro. Pat Meyer (Sis. Twyla) and Angie Knapp (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cari) have been hospital patients. We lift them all up in prayer to our loving, Heavenly Father who alone can pro-

vide healing and relief.

Sis. Esty Metzger and Sis. Alice Metzger have bid farewell to a dear sister, Miriam Frieden, from West Bend. We extend our sympathy to them during this time of sorrow.

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## IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

We gathered at our fellowship center the evening of October 18 for a presentation on Gateway Woods by Bro. Tim Sauder of Leo, IN. It was very informative and touching to see how they are "turning lives around".

Raya Jo graced the home of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Brittany Steiner on October 20, joining big sister, Mia. Raya's grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti Wagenbach and Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner.

On November 12, Larae Rose was born into the family of Bro. Mitch and Sis. Renee Lanz and Treyton. They are living in Missouri temporarily and assembling with the Lamar congregation. Larae's grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz and Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz.

As a new life was born, another life passed away. Sis. Liberty Gerst went to her heavenly home on November 12. Grieving the loss of this dear one are her four sons, Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Gerst (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Wally and Donna Gerst (Alto, MI), Jeff Gerst, and Kevin and Selena Gerst (Wapello, IA).

Two lives became one on November 8 when Bro. Travis Frank and Sis. Kenna Kellenberger were united in marriage in Sabetha, KS. Their parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank of Oakville and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger of Sabetha. We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Kenna and hope she soon feels at home here.

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**IOWA, WEST BEND****Janet Fehr****Sue Schneider**

Bro. Derek and Sis. Annie Knapp welcomed their firstborn, a daughter, Kelsey Ann, into their hearts and home on October 14. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner (Morris, MN).

Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) and Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner (Morris, MN) worshipped with us on October 18. We appreciate them coming and pray God will bless them for their labors of love. On the same date our Bro. Wes Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) married Sis. Kary Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) in Eureka, IL. Our prayers are with them as they establish their home together in the Lord. We welcome Sis. Kary to West Bend.

On November 8 we were pleased to listen as Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) read the Word of God and expounded thereon. May God be near him always.

Lucille Wirtz and Annette (Alfred) Fehr both have spent some time in the hospital. We pray God's nearness and provision at this time in their lives – may His perfect will prevail.

The past month has brought change to many families in the West Bend congregation, as we have laid to rest three dear souls. Our sympathy goes to each of these families. Sis. Doris Mae Banwart passed from this life on October 29 at the age of 83. Although Sis. Doris lived and worked in the Peoria, IL, area much of her life, she spent the last ten years in retirement here. It was a blessing to become reacquainted with her. Sis. Doris is survived by her brothers: Bro. Glenn (Sis. Clara) of Phoenix, AZ, and Bro. Joel (Sis. Sonia) of Eureka, IL; sisters: Sis. Lucille (Bro. Dwaine) Schmidt and Sis. Joyce Banwart of West Bend, Sis. Mary Jo (Bro. Kenneth)

Schmidgall of Phoenix, AZ, Sis. Mabel (Bro. Peter) Weber of Peoria, IL, and Lydia Jean (Donald) Payne of Pulaski, IA; a sister-in-law, Lois (Kupferschmid) Banwart of Weiser, ID; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on November 5 for Miriam Anna Frieden, after she passed away at the West Bend Care Center on November 1. Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO) brought forth a comforting message as he assisted in the services for his aunt. Miriam leaves to mourn three children and their families: Jimmy Jay of Ruthven, IA; Terry (Nora) of Alexandria, VA; and Nancy Pedersen of Ankeny, IA; brothers: Bro. Edwin (Sis. Ada) Banwart of Oakville, IA, Paul (Emmy) Banwart Jr. of Casa Grande, AZ, and Robert (Kay) Banwart of West Bend; sisters: Sis. Leona Wulf of Sabetha, KS, Sis. Alice Metzger and Sis. Estellyn Metzger, both of Lester, IA, and Sis. Lela Banwart of West Bend; sisters-in-law: Sis. Madeline Banwart and Betty Banwart, both of West Bend, and Sis. Esther Banwart, Tremont, IL.

Our most recent funeral was held for Sis. Edna M. Banwart. Sis. Edna passed away on November 11 at the age of 96. What a blessing when an elderly child of God can go "Home". Survivors include: sisters-in-law, Sis. Ella Schneider and Iva Banwart; brother-in-law, Ervin (Nettie) Banwart, all of West Bend and many nieces and nephews.

Our sympathy also goes out to Sis. Irene Rick and Sis. Pearl Anliker at the loss of their sister and sister-in-law, Sis. Hazel Moser from Morris, MN. Bro. Art (Sis. Eula) Mogler lost his brother, Robert, of Prescott Valley, AZ. We trust when death touches our lives, we can ponder its seriousness and prepare our own hearts for such a time.

As Christmas nears, we wish to "Thank God for Christmas".

Thank God for Christmas  
And the carols we hear,  
Thank God for all those,  
We love and hold dear.

Thank God for church bells,  
In the steeple that ring,  
Thank God for Jesus,  
Who was born a King.

Thank God for the angels  
Who announced His birth,  
Thank God for Christmas,  
When love came to earth.

**JAPAN, SHIODA****Carrie Ito**

November has been a busy month for us! Early in the month we had a blessed fall fellowship meeting. The theme of the day was the armor of God. The next weekend was Communion and we were blessed by Elder Bro. Mark Bahr's encouraging presence. We missed Sis. Bev and our prayers are with her and her mother, Sis. Lorene Maibach, and retired Elder Bro. Ben in Lorene's illness. The Maibachs have been such a support to our Japanese churches over the years. We were also blessed by the presence of Sis. Shirley Kieser (Princeville) and Sis. Melody Klaus (Washington) and several Klaus family cousins for that weekend. The next weekend many from Shioda went to Tokyo for the testimony and baptism of Sarah and Hannah Klaus (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana). We welcome them into our faith and fellowship and pray for them as they grow in their walk with the Lord. Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont) was also here for a few weeks to visit his new grandson and join Elder Bro. Akito and Bro. Akihiro for a bit of a mission trip to the Philippines.

**JAPAN, TOKYO****Jana Klaus**

November was a very busy month for our Tokyo congregation. The first



Sunday we had a guest minister, Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), as he stopped by on a business trip to China. We thank him for his time and efforts to worship with us and preach the Word. We await his next visit!

The second Sunday, we had many more guests from America as two of the Klaus sisters, Sarah and Hannah (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana), were baptized after giving their testimonies on Saturday afternoon. It had been at least five years since we had experienced a baptism in Tokyo and the church was full with around 60 witnesses. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue baptized Hannah and Bro. Andrew Klaus (deacon in Shioda and Tokyo) baptized Sarah. Our American guests were: Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Chuck Sauder (Tremont, IL) — we thank them for their labors of love in leading the testimonies and preaching on Sunday, and Sis. Melody Klaus (Aunt, Washington, IL), Sis. Shirley Kieser (Grandma, Princeville, IL) and cousins, Diana Schrock (Leo, IN), Daniel Drete (Washington, IL) and Abby Moser (Roanoke, IL). The Tokyo sisters labored hard also in providing meals on both Saturday and Sunday evenings. Many came from our Shioda church and we were touched by their love and support. Blessings were abounding and we praise and thank God! We also thank all of you who were with us in prayer and ask that you continue for our churches here.

On the third Sunday, the benches were again overflowing as Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue had arranged a wedding reception after church for their son, Bro. Makoto and his new bride, Sis. Anna (Indianapolis, IN). They were married back in May and it was the first time for Sis. Anna to visit Japan and see where Makoto grew up. Again, many showed their love and support, including those in Tokyo, Shioda and several relatives and neighboring friends and we thank God

for another blessed time of worship and fellowship.

In the midst of all the Sunday gatherings, we also had our Fall Shuyokai (fellowship meeting) on November 3, on a hill in Yamanashi called “Hill of Grapes” — very properly named, as you can see the vast layout of grapevines all throughout the valley below. The topic was “The armor of the Lord” and, as it was Shioda’s turn to lead, Bro. John Kinsinger and Bro. Akihiro Ito had the Bible discussions. It was a beautiful sunny day and many could attend, including a few of the above mentioned guests from the US, so we again felt the Lord’s blessings.

We were very sad to hear at the beginning of our busy month, that our dear Sis. Shizuko Urushino had a fall and had to be hospitalized. We truly missed her presence, as she surely would have tried to come to the special gatherings. We ask for prayers for her and her husband as she spends time in the hospital trying to recover. Please pray for God to give her peace in the midst of this very trying time and for her husband also to feel His hand of love and strength.

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**KANSAS, BERN**  
**Sheri Edelman**  
**Jill Meyer**

In November we welcomed Bro. Jeffrey Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) as a brother in Christ after his testimony and baptism. It is always a blessing for everyone to witness such a special event! We thank Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) for assisting and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) for ministering during the weekend.

John and Sis. Margaret Hundley welcomed a granddaughter, Carys Ann, into their family. Michael and Rachel and big brother, Aiden, are excited to have her!

Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman are new grandparents. Letty

Paige was born on November 2 to Bro. Neil and Sis. Leann Banwart who live in Taylor, MO.

Our congregation has been listening to the Conference tapes this past month. May the Lord help each of us to have a listening ear and receptive heart as we apply what we have heard to our lives.

Sis. Arlene Esslinger bid an earthly farewell to her brother, Robert Mogler, of Prescott, AZ. May God comfort her heart as she mourns his loss.

Hospital patients this month are Kathy Baumgartner, Bro. Eldon Plattner (Sis. Wanetta) and Sis. Arlene Esslinger.

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**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**  
**Martin Hohulin, Sr.**

Our ministering Bro. Larry Bahr and his wife, Sis. Julie, have a cabin in rural Missouri. It is in a remote area, but the Bahrs have made it a popular place to visit. They have been generous to entertain many members of the churches. Quite often our visiting ministers will meet the Bahrs there for an evening meal and singing prior to Sunday morning church.

It was in October that Bro. Doug Kraft, Bro. Tom Knobloch, and his wife, Sis. Jeri, brought part of their families for an overnight camp out on a Saturday night at the Bahr’s cabin. Sunday morning they attended Fort Scott church. In the group were four young brothers, all in their twenties and converted a few years ago. Several in the group were excellent song leaders and all had good voices. It was a blessing to have these young members and their families in our church service.

Perhaps you might wonder why this is Silver Lining news. The point I am striving to make is these young brothers in the prime of their life could well have taken the ways of the world with worldly companions and enter-



tainment. Instead, they chose to repent and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ with their eyes upon their Eternal Reward. Perhaps we of the older crowd do not appreciate our youthful members as we should. Our faith has a network of fellowship that few faiths have.

We were blessed to have a visiting minister, Bro. Jerry Meeks, and his wife, Sis. Christy, and their daughters, Lydia and Emily, from Sabetha, KS. In meeting Bro. Jerry, he was quick to inform me that he was not raised in our faith. I have a standard answer to all who tell me this: "That is no disadvantage as God loves you the same as those of the faith." I firmly believe those souls who come to our faith have as strong, if not stronger, faithfulness as those of us raised in the church. May God continue to bless our fellowship.

We are happy and thankful that two of our hospital patients are home and assembling with us again. Sis. Betty Lemons (Bro. Bob) and Sis. Lucille Schurter continue to feel God's healing power. Sis. Anna Lou Aberle is confined to her home many Sundays. May God continue to be with all of them.

We are in the book of James in our Fort Scott Bible Study. As we study, we find only five chapters in this book, but they are packed with timely and practical instructions for the believers.

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**KANSAS, KIOWA**  
**Janice Bahr**  
**Jenny Stewart**

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.

*Hymns of Zion #36*

We had the blessed privilege this past month to walk the road to Bethlehem on several occasions. First, when a group of young adults from the Kansas churches, and two young men from Illinois joined us for a weekend of caroling and fellowship. How uplifting to have young brothers, sisters and friends give of their time to travel so far and share in the singing of praises to celebrate the birth of Christ, and bring such a special blessing to our Kiowa congregation! Thank you all and God bless. The second occasion was at our Sunday School program when our Kiowa young people sang and portrayed the birth of our Lord, and then finished the evening by leading us to the Cross where our Lord died that we might forever live. May we never forget to keep "Christ" in "Christmas" for our Jesus is the only reason for this beautiful season! I have a small ornament that says "The nature of Christmas is giving ... because it all began with a Gift!"

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Bro. Tim and Sis. Jen Sauder who joined us for a weekend to share a presentation of the wonderful work that is being done at Gateway Woods. We know that things can't always be easy, but the thought that even one young precious soul out of a sad lost world might come to know our Lord Jesus, makes it all worth while. To work out our soul salvation is why we are here, but once we know Jesus, it is our work to help others find their salvation through Him, even if by letting our light shine and living our lives in such a way that others may behold us and see the hope and joy of knowing

Jesus, and thus seek to know Him, too. As a plaque on our wall says, "Live in such a way that those who know you but don't know God, will come to know God because they know you."

2010 is here already, and may we watch and pray, as we know not what this year may bring forth, and we want to ever be ready if God calls us Home!

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**KANSAS**  
**LAMONT-GRIDLEY**  
**Ester Knobloch**

Thy will and Thy commandments  
 Be done of us on earth  
 That each may learn with patience  
 Their value and true worth.  
 Forever there in heaven,  
 Thy mandates forward go;  
 May we with Thy grace given  
 Do likewise here below.

*Zion's Harp #85, vs. 4*

Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) came to help read the Memorandum to our congregation. Other visiting ministers with us this month were Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS). We appreciate their willingness to preach the Truth.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**  
**Rebekah Beyer**  
**Carrie Grimm**

Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner have a new granddaughter. Malia Jean was born on October 13 to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Rhoda Plattner of Garden Grove, IA. Her siblings are Mason and Mischa and maternal grandparents are Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer (Bern, KS).

Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) was with us to minister the Word on October 25. This was the weekend of our Fall Invite-a-Guest. It was a tremendous blessing to meet and greet visitors from other congregations.



gations.

We have been listening to the Elder Conference Tapes with the Bern Church. We are thankful for this precious avenue of communication and the encouragement to keep striving for the goal of Heaven.

On November 8, Sis. Kenna Kellenberger was married to Bro. Travis Frank (Oakville, IA). Parents of the couple are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank (Oakville, IA). Visiting ministers that Sunday included: Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA), Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA), Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS).

On November 15 we enjoyed an all church Thanksgiving Dinner. As the holidays approach, we look forward to time spent with family, safe travels, great health, and most of all, remembering our Savior's birth.

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### KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

The annual Sunday School picnic was held the last Sunday afternoon in October at the rural home of Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel. The students, their parents and teachers participated in the fellowship of the afternoon, making the event a cherished memory.

The next weekend a work crew of five from Wichita went to the Austin, TX, church community to do some preliminary work to get ready for the work teams who will come to repair the dormitories.

We were treated to a double blessing the second Sunday in November. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and his wife, Sis. Leonda, spent the weekend in Wichita as it was determined by the

small church schedule. Bro. Tim Sauder and his wife, also of Leo, gathered with us Sunday evening. Bro. Tim presented information concerning Gateway Woods and the expanded purpose of its mission.

It is hard to believe that our part of Kansas has not experienced a killing frost as we approach the third week of November. I am still cutting leaf lettuce from my garden. It is a joy to share it with my friends who are eager to get it. It is one way I can witness to those who do not share my lifestyle.

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### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Barb Huber

"Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in His ways. For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands; happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee."

*Psalms 128:1,2*

Through the last few months, we have truly been blessed. So many sweet and precious promises have been delivered to us through the preaching of God's Holy Word. We want to thank each of the visiting ministers who have come to lend themselves and further the cause of the Gospel in the Lord's vineyard. The ministers were: Bros. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL), Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL), Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH), Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL), Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), Bob Pfloderer (Sis. Ellie, Morton, IL), Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH), Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL), retired Bros. Walt Steffen (Sis. Dorothy, Milford, IN),

Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton, IL), Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Lloyd Kraft (Sis. Nadine, Lamont-Gridley, KS). Several of the churches represented also helped by serving lunch. That was awesome! We really didn't expect it.....but it certainly was appreciated! May the Lord bless you in a rich measure for all your love, kindness, and care to share in the physical needs as well. We're truly thankful for each of you, your dear families, and all those who traveled with you for your many efforts and labors of love.

A hearty welcome is extended to anyone who may be in our area or traveling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions to the church are:

**From Lexington:** I-75 exit #110(US 60), east about 6 miles to Road #1923 (Combs Ferry Road), right about 5 miles to Road #3371 (Becknerville Road), left approximately one block on the right.

**From Winchester:** Road #1958 (Bypass) south to Road #1927 (Colby Road), west about 3 miles to Road #3371 (Becknerville Road), left 2 miles on the left.

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### MEXICO, IXTLAN Matt Gerber

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night..."

*Psalms 92:1-2*

We have so many things to give thanks to God for in 2009! To mention just a few: Our Savior's death, resurrection, and coming return  
New converts and interested people



Baptisms in Ixtlan and Barra Vieja  
 Services started in Queretaro  
 New babies (born and on the way)  
 Protection on the highways  
 New elementary school started in  
 Ixtlan  
 Challenges and struggles that make us  
 grow spiritually  
 For keeping us faithful another year  
 by His mercy  
 Our families  
 Those from home who support and en-  
 courage us in mission work

We were joined by a number of visi-  
 tors for a thanksgiving meal this  
 weekend to remember how much God  
 has done for us; Bro. Dwayne and Sis.  
 Anne Wulf (Lester, IA) and their five  
 children were studying Spanish in  
 Guadalajara and driving to Ixtlan on  
 weekends for fellowship. They re-  
 turned to Magdalena, Mexico, to start  
 a meat business there to provide em-  
 ployment for the boys at CVE as they  
 get older. Bro. Daniel and Sis. Tamara  
 Caughlin (Detroit, MI) were studying  
 Spanish in Morelia before going to  
 CVE to serve. Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat  
 Beer (Milford, IN), parents of Bro.  
 Regg Beer, also were with us on  
 Thanksgiving weekend.

*Meet Sis. María  
 de la Paz Salinas Manzanares...*

*(The following is an abbreviated ex-  
 cerpt from Sis. María de la Paz's testi-  
 mony)*

I read and read the Bible but I did-  
 n't understand it. My life didn't  
 change; I was still the same person.  
 For a while I studied with [a religious  
 cult]. But I stopped because I saw  
 other people studying but at the same  
 time continuing to get drunk.

Later on I prayed to God and said  
 that if He would give me a baby girl, I  
 would start studying the Bible again.  
 God answered my prayer and I gave  
 birth to a beautiful baby girl! God's  
 undeserved goodness opened my

heart to start seeking again.

When the brethren [from our Apos-  
 tolic Christian Church] arrived to  
 teach us from the Bible, I felt like my  
 eyes were opened, and I began to un-  
 derstand for the first time the differ-  
 ence between good and bad. The other  
 groups I had attended never talked  
 about the Holy Spirit, nor had I ever  
 understood why Jesus came until the  
 [Apostolic brethren] came and ex-  
 plained to us.

My life finally changed when I real-  
 ized I was a sinner and needed to re-  
 pent and turn to God in faith. I  
 understood that Jesus came to die and  
 shed His precious blood for my sins.  
 Only by God's grace could I be con-  
 verted and be a changed person.  
 Thanks to His grace I've seen my life  
 change. I used to be aggressive, always  
 fighting; I smoked, but not anymore.  
 I'm more patient now.

My greatest desire is for my chil-  
 dren and my husband to obtain eter-  
 nal life.

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Rose Watson**  
**Terri Huber**

We want to remember and pray for  
 our hospital patients and shut-ins,  
 Sisters Loretta Steffen, Jane  
 Grawburg, Linda Koehl and Margue-  
 rite Blough.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro.  
 Wally (Donna) Gerst at the passing  
 away of his mother. Sis. Liberty Gerst  
 has gone to be with her Lord. The fu-  
 neral was held in Oakville, IA.

The Alto Young Group had a  
 mini-invite and enjoyed fellowship  
 with brothers and sisters from Toledo,  
 OH, and Bluffton, IN. It always takes  
 a little bit of planning, but the effort is  
 worth it!

Our annual Christmas Shoebox  
 packing night was more productive  
 than usual. We wrapped and filled 84  
 boxes. It is a project that we try to let  
 the Sunday school kids handle accord-

ing to their ages and abilities, and we  
 hope that they are influenced to have  
 servant hearts by doing and giving to  
 others.

It is our pleasure to welcome a new  
 family to our congregation. Bro. Mike  
 and Sis. Lilly Baumann have relocated  
 to Portland, Michigan, for Bro. Mike's  
 work. We are also glad to have their  
 two daughters, Sis. Andrea and Sis.  
 Becky, in the young group.

The church chartered a bus to  
 travel all the way to Kentucky to  
 spend a day at The Creation Museum.  
 About 60 (I wasn't the one counting  
 heads after each stop!) of the Alto  
 church family and friends (many chil-  
 dren) were educated and affirmed in  
 our belief of the supremacy and truth  
 of the Bible. This is a great field trip  
 and resource to counteract what is be-  
 ing taught in our schools and culture  
 today.

*Note of Thanks:*

Dear Loved Ones,

Aaron and I wish to express our  
 gratitude for all the special gifts and  
 acts of love during my surgery and re-  
 covery: cards, flowers, meals, and  
 many other acts of kindness. Thank  
 you and God bless each of you.

In Christian love,

*Aaron & Loretta Steffen*

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Sarah Knochel**  
**Janelle Ramseyer**

Greetings of love in our Saviour's  
 name!

Our sympathy is extended to Sis.  
 Ella Schlatter's family as she passed  
 away at the end of October. Our  
 prayers are with her daughter, Sis.  
 Mary Gudeman (Bro. Don, LaCrosse,  
 IN), and all of her grandchildren as  
 they mourn the loss of their dear one.  
 Sis. Ella spent the last years of her life  
 living at Woodhaven in Livonia; how-  
 ever, the funeral service was in Bay  
 City.



We trust the Lord's healing hand will be with Bro. Dean Pashak (Sis. Connie) and Sis. Margaret Schlatter as they both underwent surgery in the recent weeks. Our prayers are with them as they recover.

On the October 24-25 weekend, several from the Alto congregation traveled to Bay City to package beans for World Relief. We are thankful for their assistance and may the Lord be their rich rewarder. Ministering Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi) traveled with the group and we're thankful for his willingness to serve.

The following weekend Bay City hosted the Eastern Regional Elder conference. On Saturday evening, Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) stayed to assist the reading of the Memorandum. May the Lord richly bless each of these brothers who labored on our behalf.

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

*Luke 2:14*

May each one have a blessed Christmas and God's richest blessings in the New Year.

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## MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kay Rauhe  
Manuela Denes**

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

*I Corinthians 15:57*

Our beloved Sis. Ella Schlatter achieved her victory and passed from this life to eternity on October 24. She will be missed by us all! Our prayers and sympathy go to her daughter, Sis. Mary Gudeman (Bro. Don) of LaCrosse, IN, as well as her grandchild-

dren who are here in the Detroit area, Keith and Joanne Gudeman and family and Eric and Joanne Gudeman and their family.

We also extend our prayers to Sis. Cherise (Bro. Brian) Blume in the passing of her aunt, Sheila Steffen, of Morton. May they seek comfort from the assurance that can only be found in the Word of God and from their friends and family.

We need to be prayerful for those who have been struggling with their health or who have loved ones that need extra prayers. Sis. Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben) has returned to Woodhaven under hospice care. Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz was in hospital and is now in the process of recovering. Sis. Sanche Denes was also in the hospital but has been at home now and continues to recover from a serious illness.

We spent a special evening with Bro. Byron Gerber of Roanoke, IL, as he shared a special evening speaking on the faithfulness of God with our church brethren and visiting with our young people.

Amber Kay Rauhe was born on October 23 to Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie. Excited to have a new baby sister are Tyler, Stephanie, Trevor and Joshua. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay Rauhe and Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol Gress (West Bend, IA). And even though they are far from us while in language training for their upcoming Mission work in Magdalena, we continue to pray and think about Bro. Dan and Sis. Tamra Coughlin and their unborn child. May the Lord bless and keep them in His care until we may meet again.

Although the times are troubling and there may be uncertainty around us, as we enter into the blessed Christmas season let us remember that we have been promised and given the greatest gift of all, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

*John 14:27*

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## MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Mary Mogler

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 dear Sis. Millie Schmidgall was called from this life to rest eternally at Home. Sis. Millie was a second mom to many of us when we moved here as single brothers and sisters or newly married couples, welcoming us in, sharing recipes and calling often to keep us from getting lonesome. We extend our love and sympathy to her family as they experience the loss of their mother and grandmother.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) share the Memorandum with us and also bring forth God's Word on Sunday.

As we read in Luke 15:10 of the joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents, so it is as Rick Tilbury turns his life over to the Lord in repentance. We trust God's boundless mercy and loving forgiveness will be felt by Rick as he begins his new walk.

We rejoice with Sis. Marti Schlatter, who assembles with our congregation, and Bro. Matt Saurer (Columbus, OH) as their engagement was recently announced. We wish them God's blessings at this special time, and as they make plans to follow God's will for their lives.

We warmly welcome Kendra VerBeek (Tim and Sis. Becky) from Lester, IA, to our congregation as she has found employment in the Austin,



MN, community. We look forward to having her presence among us.

Services are being held in Rochester the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The location is Sis. Anne Wagenbach's home at 310 16th Ave SW. We welcome all who are in the area to worship with us.

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## MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Susie Wulf**  
**Sheila Reuter**

There were many visiting ministers here to share the Word this month. Elder Bros. Wayne Grimm, Doug Schock, Dave Graf, Lawrence Luthi, Paul Messner, Rod Bajema, Bill Schlatter, Duane Rocke, and Bros. Duane Metzger, Jim Koehl, Wes Moser, Donald Miller and Kevin Banwart spent time with our congregation.

We had a blessed weekend as Bro. Roy Koehl was ordained to be the Elder in our Morris congregation. We pray God's Spirit will be upon him that he may shepherd us in the way of truth and righteousness.

We rejoice with Bro. Taylor Gramm (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen) and Sis. Tanya Wulf (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra) as they became one in the Lord. May God bless and provide for them in the days to come.

David and Heather Quiram (Bro. Todd and Sis. Kim Moser) welcome their first baby girl, Mona Geraldine. We congratulate Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner on the birth of their new granddaughter, Kelsey Ann. Kelsey is the daughter of Bro. Derek and Sis. Annie Knapp (West Bend, IA). Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger welcome another grandson, Justin Daniel Bradle. Parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly Bradle (Eureka, IL).

Sis. Hazel Moser passed from this life unto a new life. Our condolences are with her children, Paul and Renae (Lindsey, Jordan and Michael) and

Larry Moser.

Our condolences are with Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill (Bro. Benjamin, Sis. Jilaine, Daniel and Anna) Furrer in the passing of their mother, Sis. Eileen Furrer. May the Lord comfort and give strength in the days ahead.

We're sorry we missed reporting that Sis. Kim Moser had spent time in the hospital. May God strengthen her in the days to come.

### *Note of Thanks:*

A very sincere thank you to my family and many dear friends for your love and support during my heart surgery and recovery. Thank you for cards, gifts, your kind telephone calls, all the wonderful food brought into us and the many good wishes and prayers on my behalf. Gilbert and I feel truly blessed by your care and generosity and we thank you so very much. May God bless us all.

*Sis. Barbara Schmidgall*

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## MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Julie Schmidt**  
**Lindsay Schmidt**

Our Sunday School students hosted the annual 55 and Over Supper. Guests shared their stories on coming out from the world and the call to repentance. The reflections shared by the guests were greatly appreciated. Thank you to the students and teachers for their efforts in making this a memorable evening.

Carter and Braden are excited to welcome a new baby brother, Andric, on November 16. Happy parents are Vanesa Isaacson and Kent Rubendall. Andric's grandparents are Jerry and Melissa Isaacson and great-grandmother is Sis. Dorothy Jacobson.

We always welcome Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Don Miller (Sis. Bernadine, Minneapolis, MN) when they come "home" for a visit. We appreciate their labors of love and look forward to their

visits. May they always feel welcome here.

We're thankful to have had Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lila, LaCrosse, IN) here to share in the reading of the Memorandum. We were warned and encouraged of our heavenly calling and concerns of our times. We also appreciated Elder Bro. Curt bringing forth God's Word for Sunday services.

"And I...came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 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 2:1-4*

Our congregation has sought the Lord's direction to add another brother to the ministry. This duty fell on Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel). We lift up this couple and their family in prayer as he begins this new responsibility. We're thankful Elder Bro. Curt Frank was able to assist in this occasion while here for Memorandum. The congregation was reminded of their responsibility to pray for the leadership in our home congregations and across the land.

"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

*James 5:16*

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## MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

**Brittany Fehr**

We would like to thank Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) for ministering to our congregation this month. May God continue to guide and bless all of our ministering brothers.

We are also thankful to have con-



verts Tony and Tracy Shivley and their children worshiping with us! Their children are Sam, Olivia, Elizabeth, Joe, Gabby, and Ben.

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Rebecca Dotterer  
Dana Kellenberger**

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) here this month to assist with the reading of the Memorandum. May God bless these Brothers for their many efforts on our behalf.

On November 12, Bro. Mitchell and Sis. Renee Schultz, along with big brother, Treyton, welcomed a new little girl to their family, Larae Rose. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schultz and Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz (all of Oakville, IA). We wish them God's direction as they seek to raise their family in the fear of the Lord.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Ben Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) as he spent some time in the hospital. We are glad to see he is recovering from surgery and will continue to be prayerful for him in the coming months. How thankful we can be when we know that all is in God's hands!

We want to extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy Schmidgall and their family on the passing of his mother, Sis. Millicent Schmidgall (Minneapolis, MN). May God comfort them in their time of loss.

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Meagan Wuethrich**

We would like to thank Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) for their love and ministry over this past month. We so appreciate our

visiting ministers, whether it's with a large group, a Wednesday night, or a small gathering; every one of our visitors is a blessing and an encouragement.

We have recently finished listening to the Brotherhood Conference recordings, and with the passing of Thanksgiving and the fast approach of Christmas, we have been reminded of how much we have to be thankful for; our precious church, our spiritual and physical freedom, and the love and sacrifice, the perfect example, of our Savior Jesus Christ.

"So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations."

*Psalm 79:13*

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Kathy Eberhardt**

As I was going to work through Quincy, I noticed a sign that said "Jeremiah 1:5, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee ..." Our congregation was reminded of this verse with two babies born this month. Bro. Neil and Sis. Leann Banwart were blessed with their first child. Their little girl, Letty Paige, was born on November 2. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS). Our second birth was to another first-time parents, Bro. Kenton and Sis. Heidi Snyder. They named their son Ridge William; he was born on November 11. His grandparents are Bro. Rodney and Sis. Barb Heimer and Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara Snyder (Kansas City, MO). God is still in the miracle business with these blessings from Heaven. May God be with these new families.

A special thank you to Bro. Dennis Kaufmann and wife, Sis. Bonnie, for traveling the miles on a Wednesday

from the Bloomington, IL, congregation to deliver an inspiring Bible Study entitled "Worship". He told us about the four levels of worship starting with gratitude, admiration, wonder and adoration. Bro. Denny, you certainly have given us a lot of new thoughts to think about in our quiet times with God. One other thought, was worship starts in the heart and breaks out in the flesh. Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen (Belvidere, IL) also spent a Sunday with us. Thank you so much for being a messenger of God's Word.

With Christmas approaching, may we always remember that the birth of Jesus is the reason for the season.

We thank God for being with Vernon Huber during his hospital stay.

We welcome back Sis. Lucille Schmidgall from Morton, IL, to our Taylor congregation.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were blessed to have two visiting ministers over the last month. Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) was with us on November 1 and Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou, Rockville, CT) was with us on November 15. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors in bringing forth God's Word to us.

Aaron and Sarah (Farney) Fuller were thankful for the healthy new arrival of their son, Evan Wilfred, on November 13. Evan joins big sisters, Kayla and Breanna, at home. May the Lord be with them as they raise their growing family.

Let us continue to have thankful hearts as we near the Christmas season and celebrate God's most precious gift to us, His Son.

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**OHIO, AKRON**

**Mara Henico  
Rachel Pamer**

Our prayers are with those who have recently said an earthly goodbye to loved ones. Our Bro. Jacob Rufener's grandfather, Bro. Chet Rufener (Sis. Roma, Rittman), recently passed on. Also, Sis. Joyce Schamback (Bro. John) laid her mother, Sis. Elizabeth Beery (Rittman), to rest. May God grant comfort and peace to all who look to Him.

We are blessed to hear God's Word so often, and are thankful to the Lord for willing brothers who speak the truth in love. We trust that God will provide His guidance and peace each time one of our brothers stands to minister. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield) was able to be with us for the reading of the Memorandum letter and the following Sunday. What a blessing it was to be reminded of our calling as we walk this pilgrim path of life! We also were thankful that Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Debbie, Milford) was also able to be with us over Memorandum weekend, and help with the labors on Sunday. Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson) also was willing to minister to our congregation. May God richly bless him for his service.

We rejoice with Bro. Tim and Sis. Angie Zarkovacki as they welcome home their new baby, Katelyn Joy. Alex, Rebekah, Heidi, and Evelyn are the big brother and sisters to little Katelyn.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS**

**Julie Grimm**

May the Lord richly bless Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer (Bluffton Country, IN), and Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters (Mansfield, OH) for traveling to share the precious Word of Life with us.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:"

*Matthew 7:7*

Recently announced to our congregation was the engagement of Bro. Matt Saurer and Sis. Marti Schlatter (Minneapolis, MN). Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Saurer (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky Schlatter (Latty, OH). May the Lord guide and bless them as they prepare for their upcoming marriage.

The Lord provided a beautiful day for us to work together at our annual fall leaf raking and cleaning day. It was a blessing to labor together to care for our church house.

**OHIO, JUNCTION**

**Vicki Boroff**

Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz are happy to have another grandchild; Zackary Alan was born to Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Steidinger (Fairbury) on October 31.

We are pleased to share that Greg Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) and Vickie Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera) have peace with God and man. We wish them God's many blessings as they look forward to baptism in the near future.

We also would like to thank Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington) and Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North); and Bros. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis), and Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman) for bringing the Word to us. We appreciate the efforts of our home and visiting ministers.

We pray for His healing hand upon our hospital patients and those that are ailing.

**OHIO, LATTY**

**Amanda Wenninger  
Carmen Eisenmann**

Greetings of love! We were once again privileged to have visiting ministers with us this month. They were Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Smithville, OH), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, OH), and Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ). May God bless these brothers for their service to us.

We rejoice with Sis. Marti Schlatter as she was announced as being engaged to Bro. Matt Saurer (Columbus, OH). Sis. Marti is the daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky Schlatter and Bro. Matt is the son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Saurer (Smithville, OH). We wish this couple God's blessings as they prepare for their marriage.

We rejoice with retired Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn as they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to bless this dear couple and family circle.

Our congregation was thankful to have the Memorandum letter read to us on Saturday evening, November 7. Retired Elder Bro. Ray Sinn assisted our Elder Bro. John Laukhuf. We were certainly blessed by their efforts that evening.

We continue to lift up Sis. Deb (Bro. Dave) Wenninger in prayer as she has recently undergone surgery. We also are praying for this family as their grandson, John Kalen (son of Todd and Shanna Wenninger), died suddenly in his sleep. He was only 2 months old. May God fill this family with peace, grace, and strength and may He give healing as only He is able.

**OHIO, MANSFIELD**

**Esther Baumann**

We were blessed to hear the reading of the Memorandum on the evening of November 14. We thank Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen,



Sabetha, KS) for assisting our Elder Bro. Mark in the exhortation. We also appreciate that retired Elder Bro. Gene Marti and his wife, Sis. Mary (Kansas City, MO), were able to join us for the weekend.

On the weekend of November 7-8, we held our annual Invite-a-friend weekend. Each one who attended was a blessing to us. Special thanks to the ministering brethren who joined us: Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Richard Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN), and Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL).

Continue to pray for two of our sisters who have recently been hospitalized: Sis. Marilyn Beer (Rex) and Sis. Betty Beer.

*In this Christmas Season:*

“Be not content this Babe to know,  
Nor stay at Bethlehem,  
But go with Christ to Calvary’s brow,  
Beyond Jerusalem.  
‘Tis 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, v. 3*

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Heidi Rufener**  
**Laurie Winkler**

Thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Julie Steiner (Bro. Andrew), Sis. Mary Jane Winkler (Bro. Andy) and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler (Bro. Dan) who have spent time in the hospital recently.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have recently said good-bye to their loved ones. Bro. Chet Rufener (Sis. Roma) passed away on October 19. His children are Bro. Larry (Sis. Susan, Smithville), Ellen Johnson (Richard), Bro. John (Sis. Janice, Smithville), Bro. Darrell (Sis. Shirley), Joan and Bro. Kevin (Sis. Marsha). On October 22, Sis. Elizabeth Beery passed away. She leaves behind

Sis. Joyce Schambach (Bro. John, Akron), Bro. Stan (Sis. Karen), Bro. Walt (Sis. Lynda) and Bro. Earl (Sis. Susie). Roger Hessidence (Evelyn) passed away on October 27. Roger and Evelyn’s daughters are Janice Beeman (Paul), Rita Hornlein, Mary Hessidence, and Joan Hessidence (Rick).

We were thankful to welcome new lambs into the fold on October 25. They were Sis. Kristina Rufener (Bro. Dave and Sis. LeAnn), Sis. Wendy Hartzler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer), Bro. Javan Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie) and Bro. John Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy). Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Merle in this work.

Also serving us in the ministry recently were Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH).

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**OHIO, SARDIS**  
**Faith Beard**

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*

Logan David started his life in this world on October 30, to join his sister Mallory and parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Dawn Brake. Loving grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach (Smithville, OH). We pray for God’s blessings and guidance for this family as they raise their children

in His ways.

As we were reading the story of Christ’s birth with our daughters recently, we wondered about the understanding of the baby Jesus as He lay there in the manger. Did He have the limited and immature understanding of a normal baby, or did he actually have a complete knowledge of Who He was, but within the limitations of a baby’s body?

“‘Tis not the manger, but the cross,  
that sets the spirit free...”

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**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**  
**Ruth Gasser**  
**Lydia Stoller**

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?

Satan loves to bring busyness into our lives, sadly making it hard to find time to come to the mercy seat – yet there’s always so much to pray for. There are several in our congregation who have been hospitalized in past days. Bros. David Maibach and Denny Nieman were both in, but are assembling with us again, for which we are thankful. Sis. Shelly Beery is also in the hospital, and I’m sure she and her family would appreciate our prayers.

Prayer makes the darkened clouds  
withdraw,  
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw,  
Gives exercise to faith and love,  
Brings every blessing from above.

We also want to pray for those families who have lost loved ones. Pam Hartzler’s (Bro. Bill) mother, Jo McIntyre, passed away. Also, Bro. Joe (Sis. Lilas) Rufener’s brother, Bro. Chet (Sis. Roma), was called home. Although a victory was won, our Bros. John (Sis. Janice) and Larry (Sis. Susan) are bereft of their dear father.



We are thankful for those visiting ministers who were willing to preach the Word to us recently. They were Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ) and Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL). Bro. Duane was here to assist Bro. Andy in the reading of the Memorandum. May God bless him for his efforts. Hopefully, each of us pray that the truth will always be spoken and that we could, in turn, apply it to our lives.

Restraining prayer, we cease to fight;  
Prayer makes the Christian's armor bright;  
And Satan trembles when he sees  
The weakest saint upon his knees.

Many prayers have already been offered for those souls who have just been brought into this world. On October 20, Titus Paul was born to first-time parents, Bro. Brad and Sis. Nicole Klotzle. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle and Jeff and Treva Davis. Bro. Larry and Sis. Edie Miller have become grandparents again. Bro. Seth and Sis. Lori Miller (Lester, IA) happily welcomed Josiah Paul into their home on October 24. Rosanna and Owen are excited to have a new little brother. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach are thankful for another new little grandchild. Logan David was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Dawn Brake (Sardis) on October 30. He joins his big sister, Mallory.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Saurer's son, Bro. Matt, was recently engaged to Sis. Marti Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky, Latty). Bro. Matt attends our Columbus congregation and Sis. Marti is currently attending our Minneapolis congregation. Though miles separate them, we pray they can feel God's presence as they seek to do His will in their lives.

Were half the breath oft vainly spent,

To heaven in supplication sent  
Our cheerful song would oftener be  
"Hear what the Lord has done for me!"

As we've been exhorted recently by our Elders to refrain from gossip, if we're tempted to do such, let's pray instead!

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Teresa Rywalski**  
**Rebecca Beard**

Greetings of love to each of you!

Once again God has provided for His children. Joining us on the pulpit this past month were Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). We thank these brothers for their willingness to proclaim the true Word of God.

Sharon Harris is thankful for the safe arrival of Rhiannon Michele Harris. Happy parents are Jake and Danielle.

As the Christmas season is upon us, may we all take the time from our busy schedules and reflect on the true reason for this season.

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**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
**Renee Angstrom**

The Portland congregation has been given a blessing in the selection of a new minister. Elder Bro. Ronald Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) in the selection and installation of Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) for the ministry. Our prayers are with Bro. Mike as he takes on his duties.

Our visiting ministers this month from Silverton were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie). We are always thankful for the support of the brethren from Silverton and always welcome the

beautiful Word that is shared across the pulpit.

We were blessed with the Communion exhortation brought forth by Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty). It is always beneficial to reflect on our spiritual walk.

Our prayers went out to Bro. Garth Steffen (Sis. Connie) this past month as he had surgery. We are thankful he has been healed and is worshipping with us once again. Our prayers are also with Bro. Ray Cooper (Sis. Ginni) as he has had surgeries to replace his Pacemaker and to repair an aneurysm of the aorta and is still hospitalized. We miss Bro. Ray and Sis. Ginni and pray for his continued healing.

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**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
**Kris Luthi**  
**Deb Roth**

To break Thy bread we now have gathered,  
In covenant to drink Thy wine;  
As brethren we unite together,  
That unto death we might be Thine.  
*Zion's Harp #25*

We assembled this month to partake of Holy Communion and be reminded of the great sacrifice that our Lord and Savior made on our behalf. We were encouraged to begin anew in our service to our great God who has given us the most important gift to ever be given - eternal life. We thank Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL) for assisting in this most solemn occasion.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this month. We are grateful for the efforts of Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ), Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton, IN). How blessed we are in our country that we can travel and worship freely, without fear of man.

Surgical patients this month were Bro. Loren Dettwyler (Sis. Marlene)



and Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda). We remember them in our prayers and wish them the Lord's healing.

We extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Fred Leman, who has moved here from Denver, CO. As he continues his flight training and begins teaching, we wish him the Lord's blessings, and hope he feels the love of the Silverton congregation. Where God leads, He will provide.

Bro. Dick Gudeman's (Sis. Jan) mother, Eunice Gudeman, passed away at the age of 101. We extend our sympathy to him and his family. What a joyous reunion there will be someday in those Heavenly realms of glory. May we all labor on heartily for the Lord.

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## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

*Romans 10:15*

Our Philadelphia congregation has been blessed this month by willing brothers to come and to preach the Word of truth. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and family with us for a weekend of fellowship. Bro. Dan helped our local Elder, Bro. Ben Wiegand, share the Conference letter to our Church. We are thankful for the clear trumpet message that was sounded, and trust that it will be a constant encouragement to each one that had ears to hear.

We are also thankful that ministering Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH) and his family, as well as Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and his wife, Sis. Betsy, included us as part of their trips to the East Coast. We are always glad to make new acquaintances and renew old ones and continue to appreciate the blessed fellowship that we have as part of our beloved faith.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

### Mike and Monica Fritz

For several years, Austin (Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice; Latty, OH) and Kate Wenninger have occasionally gathered with us. Recently, they were blessed with a precious daughter, Nora Rose, and we all rejoice for the blessings on their family. Now they have made the decision to move to the Latty, OH, area. We will miss them in our midst, but we pray that the Lord will bless them as they make this transition and throughout their future.

At the end of October we held our annual business meeting. We are thankful to the Lord for continuing to provide for the physical needs of our congregation, as well as our spiritual needs. Bro. Mike Fritz was elected to serve as a trustee.

We have been greatly blessed by the recent messages from God's Word and are thankful to our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa; Indianapolis, IN), Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah; Bloomington-Normal, IL), and Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose; Bloomfield, IA), and Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia; Latty, OH). We have also appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bloomington-Normal, Eureka, Morton, Tremont, IL; Indianapolis, IN; Bloomfield, IA; Akron, Latty, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Bluffton, IN (1/3); Bluffton North, IN (1/10); Francesville, IN (1/17); Sardis, OH (1/24); and Milford, IN (1/31). We do not have visiting ministers scheduled for December 20 or December 27, but if local brethren are in the area we will gather for worship. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are

heartily welcome. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

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## TEXAS, AUSTIN

### Serenity & Jasmine Ringger

The birth of a precious baby reminds us of Christ the babe, who grew to become our Saviour and Redeemer. Bro. Caleb and Sis. Laura Schafer welcome their daughter, Liliana Lee, born on October 21. Grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val Kipfer, and Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer (South Bend).

We do enjoy our visitors and ministers and look forward to more. Our visiting ministers were Bros. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville), Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago), Jerry Baumann (Sis. Martha, Rittman) and Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville). Other visitors were from Indianapolis, Wichita, Bay City, Elgin (IL), Sabetha, Bern, Prescott, Phoenix, Akron, Latty, and Junction.

We appreciate the many visitors that come to help with building projects at the church. The two outbuildings on the church property are being converted into dorms for the World Relief work teams this winter.

The following is the minister schedule for January: (3) Morris, (10) Minneapolis, (17) Chicago, (24) Altadena, and (31) Winthrop. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, on Sundays or mid-week. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch. Also, because visitors add much to our local fellowship times, it helps if we know about your visit well in advance, so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. In addition to the contacts in the minister book, you may also contact our local minister, Bro. Dennis



(Sis. Diane) Rassi at 309-275-7775.

Directions to our church are these: from the intersection of Hwy 71 and 21 on the west side of Bastrop, go east on Hwy 71 about 1/2 mile and take the first exit (by the Ford dealership), proceed on the eastbound frontage road about 4/10 mile. The church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 W. Highway 71, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with a limestone façade, and the church sign in the front. Quite a few people have tried using the GPS system to find the church; but they found out that GPS took them to the east side of town, rather than west. We advise following the directions herein instead of GPS.

In the church, there are two furnished bedrooms for the ministers to use when coming for services. When you contact someone about coming for services, please let them know if you would like to use the bedrooms during the time you are here.

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### TEXAS, McALLEN Joyce Nohl

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA). We would like to thank them for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (Dec. 20, Smithville, OH), (Jan. 3, Rittman, OH) and (Jan. 24, Sabetha, KS).

Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street. Turn 1 1/2 blocks off the Expressway on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' directory for local contact information.

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We appreciate Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend) spending some time in Zapata and sharing the Word with us.

We welcome Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joann) back for the winter months and appreciate his willingness to share God's Word while here. Our winter residents have been returning and we look forward to them being with us for the winter. We certainly welcome anyone coming to South Texas to spend some time in Zapata.

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### VERMONT NORTH CLAREN- DON/NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

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

*1 Thess. 5:18*

As we approach this season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the Pilgrims of old and how they blessed God for His provisions for them. Let us not give thanks only in this season but that we would have a thankful heart every day for the wonderful abundant life He has provided for us through Christ Jesus.

The Word was preached through many willing servants this past month. They were Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN); Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL); Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay), Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae), and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), all of Rockville, CT. Also, this past weekend we were blessed to be able to come together as brothers and sisters to hear the reading of the Memorandum. This was expounded upon by our willing shepherd, Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) and Ordained Deacon, Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), of

Rockville, CT. We thank all of these dear brethren and their wives for their love for us and willingness to be used in service for Him.

Some sad news that we were all made aware of was the upcoming move of Bro. Kirby, Sis. Areli and Isaac Reutter. Feeling God's direction, Bro. Kirby has accepted a job offer at Gateway Woods in Leo, IN, beginning at the start of the New Year. This dear family will be greatly missed. We trust that God knows our needs and where He leads may we always be willing to follow.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations and dates, please contact Bro. Chad & Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-293-2724). We love to fellowship with believers, whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you. Service times are as follows:

Mid-week services

(Contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service

10:10 AM

Sunday Afternoon Service

12:15 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

If anyone is interested in purchasing beautiful head-coverings handmade from our dear Sisters in Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at Home: 802-862-0830 or Cell: 860-878-9346 or by email at [asreutter@gmail.com](mailto:asreutter@gmail.com). Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).





*Sermon continued from page 2*

faith in the Word of God. We are able to go forth and to know that Jesus Christ came to this earth. Not only did He come, but He lived and walked and breathed. He fulfilled a ministry that the record has been preserved for centuries. There are perhaps books that are old. There are hymns that are old that are written centuries ago. Nothing has been preserved as this, the very Word of God.

Here we can see the desire of God, that He gave unto us. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder..." Isaiah 9:6. We read of the re-prophesying of it there through what we read in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1, verse 32. How it was that He was to be on the throne of King David. What a blessing, beloved, when we think, unto us that which God has given. Something that God has given so that we could have salvation.

Only begotten of God. Everyone of us have begot, who are fathers and have begotten children. But the only begotten can only be done by God. Jesus Christ is declared by God to be the only begotten Son of God. He didn't bring Him forth in the way that we know a father begat. We can read in St. Matthew 1, so and so begat so and so, all the way through. That physical lineage that goes through is from man to man. But here, Jesus Christ was born of a virgin. The one who was conceived of the Holy Ghost and here we have the prophesy for it. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. We can see, loved ones, that Jesus Christ is different.

What would happen if Jesus Christ was fathered by Joseph? Would it be harder for us to see that the perfect lamb of God came from impure flesh? Would it be harder for us to accept the work of God on the cross of Calvary? It would, beloved. Because salvation would be of man. But He was conceived of the Holy Ghost. He was born of a virgin. Prophesied all the way back from the Garden of Eden, that God would put enmity between the seed of the woman and it shall bruise the head. We can read it there in Scripture (Genesis 3:15).

Oh beloved ones, when we look at

this Word of Life together, man sinned so God designed and desired and declared a Savior. Are we willing to acknowledge who God is in manifesting Himself through Jesus Christ? This is one of the ways that God revealed Himself. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and our Savior.

Here we read of how He was born and the details of it. Then it goes to, the government shall be upon His shoulders. King David will reign again through Jesus Christ, perhaps. Again in Jerusalem. It is prophesied elsewhere. Is it there in Jeremiah or Ezekiel perhaps, that the throne of David will be again. We read in the Gospel of Luke, he shall sit on the throne of David (1:32).

"...the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God..." Isaiah 9:6. Think of it. God, who can fill the vast heavens and the universe, and yet live within the heart of man who trembles at His Word and is of a contrite spirit. God, who manifested Himself in the form of Jesus Christ for a purpose and for a time. God, who has given unto us Himself revealed. The mystery of godliness is revealed. Christ in you, the Scripture says (Colossians 1:27).

So here we have that opportunity to consider what God wants *from* us in response to what He did. Here, the Word, the mighty God, the everlasting Father - God with a capital G, Father with a capital F - God revealed Himself for us. What is our response? What are we doing with Jesus, so to speak? Is there not a hymn that reminds us, what will you do with Jesus? (*What Will You Do With Jesus*, Tabernacle Hymns # 6) Another place in Scripture that reminds us is in Hebrews, consider Jesus (3:1). It is just a simple phrase. Consider Jesus. Then it goes on to describe, who was a high priest and transcended to the heavens above, although He was here upon this earth. Consider Jesus.

The Scripture says, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Yet He Himself said, He comes not to bring peace but division, in order to arrive at peace (St. Luke 12:51). There is a difference, loved ones. When God came to save mankind in reconciling the world through Jesus Christ, He came, yes,

the Prince of Peace, but He came to bring it through division. What is the division? Right and wrong. Evil and good. We read of the Scripture there where He ate so that He could discern between good and evil and choose. Perhaps we could just read that again so that we get it right. "Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good." Isaiah 7:15. Isn't it a blessing, beloved? Jesus Christ our example.

What do we do with Him? These are accounts that are familiar. These are accounts that are wonderful for us to think about and to consider, to sing about, to praise God about. But in the final analysis, what will we do with Jesus? The answer to that is really, what are you and I today doing with Jesus? Some of us are doing without Him. That won't work in the long, everlasting course of time. But in the final, last trump, last analysis and the final end, when all of our earthly work is done, what we will do with Jesus will have been revealed by what we are doing with Him today. Or against Him. Or without Him. Whatever it is that our life experience is. What are we doing with Jesus that makes a difference here for us?

"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. We read of the zeal of the Lord of hosts in the Gospel of Luke. How the zeal of the Lord of hosts performed it all. Yet what are we doing in response? What is our life response to these accounts that we read? Because, if it wouldn't have been for the death of Jesus Christ, we wouldn't have anything.

As we look at it here, beloved ones, when we look at the prophesy that was set up, Mary's response was, "...My soul doth magnify the Lord," St. Luke 1:46. First, when the angel came, she was troubled. But then what was her response? "...Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word..." St. Luke 1:38. Is not that the response that we should have? Behold thy creation, oh God. Here we can see, be it unto us according to thy



Word. It will be according to God's Word, our life, our end, our death.

The life that we live is according to our faith. When we stand in baptismal waters, we experience the words in the Covenant that we make: 'may it be according to your faith'. Because the just shall live and walk by faith. Mary was willing, though she was troubled at, how shall these things be, and knowing not how it will happen, Be it according to thy Word. Behold thy handmaid, oh Lord.

That's the response that you and I want to have. That's the response that we want to give unto God. Here am I. Send me. It was how Samuel was taught, was it not? We can see here for us, another pattern, example. The handmaid of the Lord. That God will do with us what He will.

Here, the second time - this is Elisabeth speaking to her - "...blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." St. Luke 1:45. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform it. In your life and in my life, the zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform, if we are willing. If we are obedient. If we say, here am I Lord. Send me. If we say, may it be according to thy Word. Behold, Lord, here I am. Because Jesus came and He was willing. He grew. We read, "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him." St. Luke 2:40. Are you and I filled with wisdom and waxed strong in spirit? Is the grace of God upon us?

This is why Jesus came, beloved ones. Isn't it a blessing that we have a pattern? It can be done here upon this earth. It can be done that mankind can wax strong in spirit, be filled with wisdom and the grace of God be upon us. It *can* be done. Jesus did. We call ourselves His disciples. In the final end, what did we do and what are we doing with the Lord, with what He has done?

Here in verse St. Luke 1:46, the second response that Mary had, "...My soul doth magnify the Lord," Think of that for a moment, loved ones. We can give all the alms we want. We can make all the noise abroad and sound things forth. But we are magnifying the Lord in whatever works we do. Not to diminish the works, because the

Scripture has said that we are saved unto good works (Ephesians 2:10). Here, it says, my soul doth magnify the Lord. Psalm 103 reminds us of that, does it not? Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

Now here we are not visiting on the physical. We are visiting on the inner man. Not the one that the people see, necessarily, first hand. Not the one that everyone has observation of and perhaps some level of insight into the inner man, based on what they hear and what they see. But here she said, my soul doth magnify the Lord.

How does our soul magnify the Lord, beloved? Jesus came so that He could have mercy on them that fear Him from generation to generation. "He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from *their* seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away." St. Luke 1:50-53. Is it not, beloved ones, that our soul magnifies the Lord when we allow Him to scatter our proud imagination? When we allow Him to feed our hunger and thirst for righteousness. When we allow Him to shew His strength with *His* arm, not His strength with *our* arm. Is that not when we present ourselves before the Lord? Is that not when our soul magnifies the Lord? Is that not when we have His mercy, when we fear Him from generation to generation?

We are here this evening twenty centuries later from the time that this occurred. Yet, across the ocean, other continents of the earth that God has created, from peoples of every tongue and nation, tribe and creed, so to speak, different places and lands and distances, yet God has united and desired that there would be a small band of believers, sitting around and reading and under the sound of God's Word. Are we just as willing as Mary was, to magnify the Lord in our soul? My soul does magnify the Lord.

We can say that with our lips. Of course, that would be true if our heart is right. We can say it to others - my soul doth magnify the Lord. But beloved ones, she was simply making a statement. It was a condition of heart.

It was a state of being for her, that she simply declared, my soul doth magnify the Lord. Are we willing, beloved ones, are we really willing to allow God to scatter our proud imagination in our hearts?

To put down the mighty from their seats. Does our soul magnify the Lord when we are up on our high horse on something or another, of an issue or topic or something that is our pet whatever? God causes a way for it to be knocked down. Because we grew too haughty in that regard. We grew too focused and too tunnel visioned and focused upon the things of this earth and our soul wasn't magnifying the Lord. But when He knocked us over, whatever experience or person or loving Brother or Sister or word or Scripture or through His Holy Spirit - however it may have been - through hymns, we have been convicted. Jesus came so He could put down the mighty from their seats.

Beloved ones, it doesn't just end there. It is not just the knocking down from the seat of the high place, so to speak. It is not just the ones who are put down or those that are scattered - the proud in their imagination. But as much as God exalts those of low degree, God giveth grace to the humble.

Oh, He resisteth the proud, as we read here. But it says, and exalted them of low degree. Our soul blesses and magnifies the Lord when we condescend to men of low degree. When we are not high minded, our soul doth magnify the Lord. As we referred to, in Psalm 103, Bless the Lord, Oh my soul.

How do we do that? To magnify the Lord in our soul, to bless the Lord in our soul, they are very, very similar. The same inputs go into blessing the Lord oh, my soul or my soul magnifying the Lord.

We often think of a blessing as something that we receive. But here now we are visiting on something entirely different. Mary said, my soul doth magnify the Lord. That is different. That is being a blessing to God. Picture that for a moment, loved ones. That God is blessed by your life and mine. That we would so live that we can be a blessing to God. Jesus came to be a light to the Gentiles. Are we al-

*Sermon continued on next page...*



*Sermon continued from page 41*

lowing God to be enlightened by the Father of lights, in whom is no variableness, nor shadow of turning? When we do allow ourselves to be enlightened by the Word of God, not by vain philosophy or intellect, regardless of the label in front of it, then we are blessing the Lord. Then our soul is magnifying the Lord. Then the reason why Jesus came is a blessing to us and to God almighty. For He shall be the mighty God, the everlasting Father, all in the form of Jesus Christ.

Of course, heaven was not empty when Jesus was born. We can see there when He was baptized, how it was that the Father said, in a voice come from heaven, this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him. Again, considering Jesus; and the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him and Jesus, of course, was revealed, manifested. (St. Matthew 3:16,17) He was baptized to fulfill righteousness and perfection. To be that example, that first fruit.

Here we can see, beloved ones, all that He came to do, His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation. He shewed strength with His arm. Do we continue to allow God to show *His* strength with *His* arm in each of our lives? Or do we want to step in there and muscle in, so to speak, and try and get some of that credit? Our arm compared to His is nothing. But beloved ones, if we want to take the example of Mary, in magnifying the Lord, we'll want to allow God, as David did. The battle is not mine. How do the children sing the hymn? The battle is not mine. The battle is the Lord's. And he came in the name of the Lord. Not in his own armor. Even though it was tried and true by someone who had a much greater position than him.

Here we have King David, so to speak, in a different form: Jesus Christ. The one who is the example for us. He hath filled the hungry with good things. Beloved ones, with the very same action, God does one thing and He condemns another. He fills the hungry and the rich hath He sent away empty.

Think of that! How can the rich be sent away empty by Jesus Christ? He

came to this earth and He came in a lowly manger. He came and there was no room for them in the inn and all the humble beginnings that we read about. The details are preserved by God that we read. Is our beginning humble in faith? Has our walk with God continued to be humble as in all humility He walked, even unto the end? Making a beginning in repentance and making restitution and all that God would want of the conversion experience for us, that it would be patterned after the Lord and why He came.

He fills the hungry with good things and the rich sent away empty. The rich seemingly don't have a need. But here they were sent away empty. Jesus Christ came to fulfill all that were hungry and thirsting after righteousness. Do you and I love righteousness? Are we thirsty and hungry after righteousness? Really to live - righteousness - we think of it often. The state of being - not just being right on one account and then we are therefore haughty and declared justified after that. But righteousness every day, every aspect, every experience, every moment. From the humble beginnings of God by His grace given to those that repent, right until the very last breath that we take.

Oh beloved ones, the Word of God to be so fulfilled; the rich he sent away empty. Who are the rich? The ones that didn't see their need. The ones who were not poor in spirit. Jesus was poor in spirit. Not lacking or absent of spiritual vitality. That's not it. Being poor in spirit from beginning till end. He was poor in spirit.

Beloved ones, as we look at these words, why He came, these were all prophesied of what He would do. We read of it and part of it was as Simeon also said, that He would be a light to lighten the Gentiles. The glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him. (St. Luke 2:32,33) As we look here, beloved ones, as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever. The father of faith. We have faith in His Word, faith in His record. Oh, may God ever grant us the grace to desire to bless the Lord and to be a blessing unto Him. That our soul would mag-

nify Him! That is what really counts.

We might magnify the almighty dollar for a time period. Get caught up in something or other. We might magnify the office of something or another in this life: at work or the church or at home or wherever it might be in society. We might magnify many different things. But beloved ones, all that really counts is, are we willing to bless the Lord with our inner man; the soul? Are we willing to magnify the Lord with our inner man; the soul? To make a statement such as this, my soul doth magnify the Lord, that really tells us a lot about what her faith was.

And for us, beloved, it is no different. We desire to fulfill the very reason that Jesus came. Blessed is she that believed. This verse applies to any of us that read it. Blessed is he or she that believe. For there shall be a performance of those things that were told her of the Lord. What God has said He will do with your life and mine, He will perform it. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform it. Are we zealous? Are we willing? Are we interested?

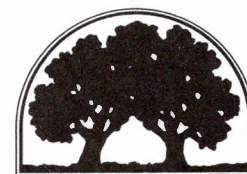
What we do with Jesus is really answered by what we are doing today. And what we have done yesterday; with, for, against, without, all of those possibilities. God's grace would be only to do with and for. But not without or against Jesus Christ.

Here, beloved ones, the blessings of God to each one that follows His ways. But God expects of us is that we would magnify the Lord in our soul. God expects of us that we would bless the Lord in our soul. He expects of us that we would fulfill all the prophecies that we read, of why Jesus came and what He would do. None of it was to stay in a manger, as a babe, though with humble beginnings. The details of which God preserved for us to read and to know. He wants us to go on to perfection. He wants us to magnify the Lord. He wants us to live right and to desire and to hunger and thirst after righteousness. This is why He came. May God grant us the grace to this end, to live that way. To be to His honor, praise and glory. Amen.



## Child Placement Manager Opening

As Gateway Woods expands our Christian Adoption Services into Illinois, we are in need of an IL Child Placement Manager. Applicants for this job must:



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2. Have at least a Master's Degree in Social Work from an accredited school and three years work experience in social work administration OR a Master's Degree in a human services field from an accredited school and five years of work experience in human services administration.
3. Have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families.
4. Possess good motivational, organizational, teaching and communications skills.
5. Have ability to establish positive working and interpersonal relationships and use a team approach.
6. Have treatment philosophy compatible with the mission of Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.
7. Have commitment to ongoing personal and professional growth.

*This position offers a competitive salary and generous benefits. For further information and a job description, please contact:*

Bro. Jeff Schumacher  
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 Leo, IN 46765  
 1-888-443-4283 (GATE)  
 jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz  
 Counseling Elder  
 15417 Doty Rd.  
 New Haven, IN 46774  
 260-657-1033  
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## Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

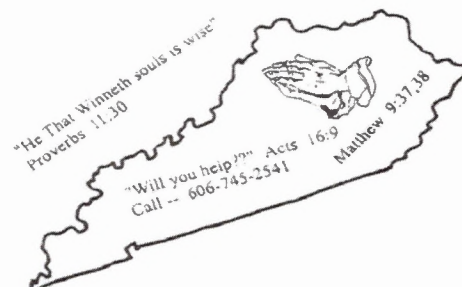
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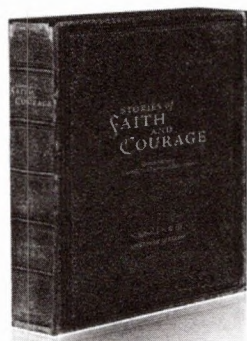
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### Grief/Loss - Part 3

Grief/Loss, Part 1 was written for those who are grieving and was printed in the September, 2009, Silver Lining. Part 2 was focused on how to help grieving people soon after their loss and was printed in the November, 2009, issue. This article, Part 3, is also focused on how to help grieving people in the long term—in the following months and years.

Isaiah 40:1 *"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God."* How can you extend comfort? How can you understand what grieving people go through in the months and years following their losses?

Some people need more time to grieve than others. In the months after the loss, life for grieving people gradually starts to fall into a different pattern—a pattern that now has to include the absence of their loved one. This pattern, however, is interrupted by the changing seasons, by important family dates—anniversaries, birthdays, vacations, baptisms, weddings, etc. Some people experience great sadness during these special times because they are reminders that their loved one is not with them. Grieving parents who lost babies or very young children may need more time to grieve than society "allows." Their intense grief period usually averages 18 to 24 months. These parents will go through ups and downs during that time. The future holds many milestones that will be missed, such as the first day of kindergarten, Sunday School programs, or getting a driver's license. Each event may bring tears to parents. Yet these milestones may have disappeared or been forgotten to others.

How can you offer your support at these times? Extended family, close acquaintances, and others who have gone through similar experiences need to know the grieving people. Do they want to be alone during those special, now sad times? Do they want to be with friends away from their home? Do they want to be with just their own family but not alone? Ask them to find out.

Grieving people need a safe person and/or place to talk about the feelings

they are experiencing. They need to be heard without being judged or receiving unwanted advice. Allow them to talk openly. Acknowledge their grief and remember with them.

There are other practical things to do. It is ok to send "thinking-of-you" cards with short encouraging notes every now and then for a very long time. It makes grieving people feel they are not forgotten. It is also good to send poems or Bible verses offering comfort and hope or comments on special memories of the departed one. Many grieving people welcome phone calls. Sometimes the house gets too quiet for them. They want to hear that the calling person is thinking of them and praying for them. Don't assume that because your grieving friends are having a good day that it means they are over their loss. They may be ok one minute but the next minute may hit bottom. Grief work takes time—sometimes much longer than anyone wants it to take. The second year may be difficult for them, too. It continues to be wise NOT to ask, "How are you?" or "How are you doing?" Rather make a comment such as, "I haven't forgotten your loss," or "I'm continuing to pray for you." If you have not gone through a loss, please do not say, "I know how you feel." Grieving people stated that they can sense from the handshake or hug whether the supporting person has also gone through a loss. Just tell them you will continue to pray for them. Even though ahead of time couples may try to prepare for death, until death actually occurs, there is no way to describe the tearing apart of the "oneness" of a marriage union. One widow stated that you cannot visualize what is ahead. After the loss she felt like she was functioning as "1/2 a person." The grieving person feels as though he/she is in a lost world for many, many months. One grieving person stated that the word, "comfort," took on a whole new, deeper meaning during her grief period.

What are other things you can do? Periodically, invite grieving friends on outings with you—a trip to the library, to a restaurant, to the grocery store, on a bus trip, to go shopping, etc. Extended family may want to include them on family va-

cations. Monthly outings give them something to look forward to. Some widows have included others in their groups. One widow stated that she was in three groups and looked forward to the conversations and just doing something different. A widower stated that he felt blessed that he could go to work and had something to look forward to regularly. Even after eight months since his loss, his friends were still inviting him for meals and then sending the leftovers home with him for three more meals. Even 20 years after a loss, one widow stated that still did not feel comfortable attending a large function alone. She wanted to walk in with someone she knew and sit with someone she knew. She particularly mentioned attending benefit dinners. Yes, she calls others; but it is very comforting for her to be called. No matter what your status is, single brother or sister, widow or widower, married couple, you could invite a person living alone to attend a function with you.

When a grieving person starts visiting other churches, it is comforting for those he/she meets to mention something about the departed loved one. The grieving person appreciates hearing, "I thought about you," or "I was praying for you." One widower stated that it was a humbling experience and very welcome.

How do widows and widowers feel about seeing other couples engaged in conversations or walking hand in hand? It may remind some of their loss. One widower stated that he is happy for that couple—that they still have each other.

Use your imaginations to find other things to do with and for grieving people. Open your day in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit for direction. Include grieving people in your list of those you pray for regularly. If God lays on your heart something to do for a grieving person, do it in love. Luke 6:31 *"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."* We do not know when it will be "our turn" to be the receiver of comfort.

*Some comments taken from: "Ways to Support a Parent Whose Baby Has Died," Pamphlet, 2004, National SHARE Office, St. Joseph Health Center, 300 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles, MO 63301-2893.*



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2. U.S. Passport Card
3. **Enhanced** Driver's License
4. any Trusted Traveler Program (*ex Nexus card*)

U.S. citizens under the age of 16, or under the age of 19 if travelling with a school, religious, or other youth group, may present a birth certificate, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a naturalization certificate. Birth certificates can be original, photocopy, or certified copy.

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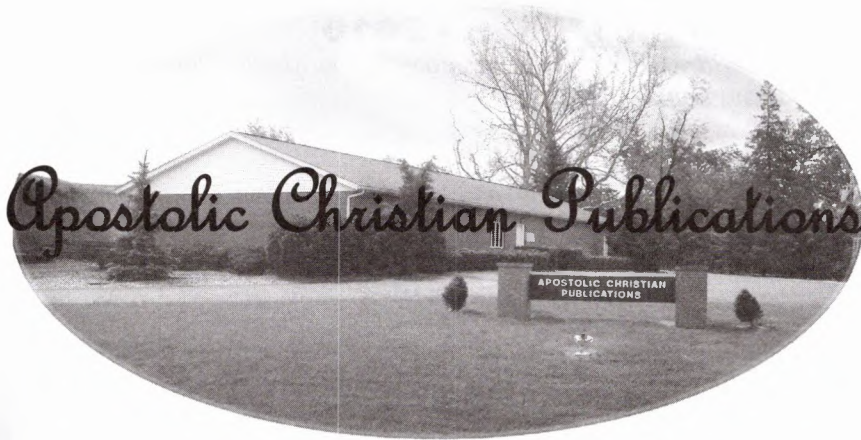
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## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2010

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Rich Bertschi, Ph. 309-467-6110, E-mail [lemangm@mtco.com](mailto:lemangm@mtco.com).

### HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)

Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 8-15	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 <a href="mailto:Ronp@palittoconsulting.com">Ronp@palittoconsulting.com</a>	12	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Feb 22-Mar 1	Randy Kieser 309-695-6340 <a href="mailto:kieser84@geckoct.com">kieser84@geckoct.com</a>	12
Haiti Palm Grove Construction	Jan 15-23	John Aberle 785-459-2423 <a href="mailto:jraberle@hotmail.com">jraberle@hotmail.com</a>	12	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 3-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 <a href="mailto:rick@wuethrichfarms.com">rick@wuethrichfarms.com</a>	4
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 22-29	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 <a href="mailto:troystuber@verizon.net">troystuber@verizon.net</a>	4	Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Mar 12-19	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 <a href="mailto:rick@wuethrichfarms.com">rick@wuethrichfarms.com</a>	12
La Higuera - D/R Lifeline Construction	Jan 26-Feb 2	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 <a href="mailto:jmkoehl@yahoo.com">jmkoehl@yahoo.com</a>	12	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 19-26	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 <a href="mailto:lemangm@mtco.com">lemangm@mtco.com</a>	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 29-Feb 5	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 <a href="mailto:dwpashak@charter.net">dwpashak@charter.net</a>	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Mar 26-29	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 <a href="mailto:lemangm@mtco.com">lemangm@mtco.com</a>	12
La Romana - D/R Lifeline Construction	Feb 2-9	Ted Steidinger 815-867-6452 <a href="mailto:tsteid@route24.net">tsteid@route24.net</a>	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 26-Apr 5	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 <a href="mailto:jzeller@mtco.com">jzeller@mtco.com</a>	12
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 5-12	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 <a href="mailto:dtfrank@louisacomm.net">dtfrank@louisacomm.net</a>	12	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 23-30	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 <a href="mailto:troystuber@verizon.net">troystuber@verizon.net</a>	4
Croix De Bouquets Lifeline Constr/Medical	Feb 9-16	Neil Bahler 815-692-2370 <a href="mailto:nbahler@gmail.com">nbahler@gmail.com</a>	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 7-14	Keith Knepp 309-467-4691 <a href="mailto:kknepp@mchsi.com">kknepp@mchsi.com</a>	8
Haiti Palm Grove Construction	Feb 12-20	John Aberle 785-459-2423 <a href="mailto:jraberle@hotmail.com">jraberle@hotmail.com</a>		Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 4-11	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 <a href="mailto:rick@wuethrichfarms.com">rick@wuethrichfarms.com</a>	4

### Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

**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

### USA World Relief Committee

For area work or disaster projects, please contact the following USA committee member:

* Bro. Kent Heimer	<i>Counseling Elder</i>	Taylor, MO	Cell# 573-248-5701
* Bro. Paul Kaeb	<i>Chairman</i>	Bern, KS	Cell# 785-547-5269
* Bro. Chuck Kellenberger	<i>Sec/Treasurer</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 224-629-6531
* Bro. Les Schambach	<i>Administrator</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 630-247-5271
* Bro. Bill Leman		Roanoke, IL	Cell# 309-241-0257
* Bro. Tom Neuenschwander		Bluffton, IN	Cell# 260-307-6026
* Bro. Ray Slagel		Fairbury, IL	Cell# 815-848-3714



## JAMAICA

*Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)*

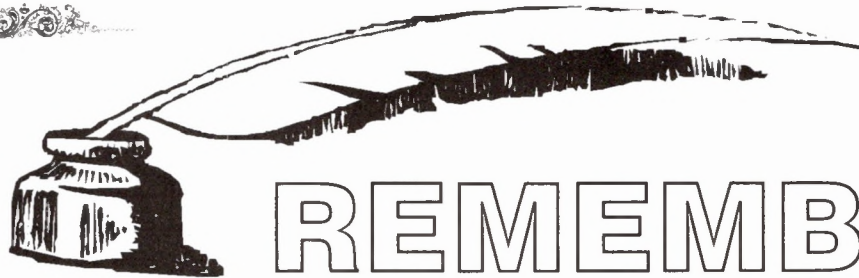
Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCD	Jan 2-9	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	40	Kingston School CCCD Peoria SS	Jun 5-12	Dean Thomas 309-243-2216 dathomas@mtco.com	Peoria Bible Class Only
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Feb 27 - Mar 6	Brian Huber 219-253-8304 bwhuber@urhere.net	40	Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Jun 11-19	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40
Kingston School CCCD	Mar 20-27	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	40	Knockpatrick Schl CCCD Mansfield SS	Jun 26 - Jul 3	Peter Webel 419-564-5691 wpw47@aol.com	40

## MEXICO

*If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or [mfiechter@onlyinternet.net](mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net)  
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/)*

Location	Year 2010	Coordinator					
Magdalena Construction	Jan 2-9	Denver Rassi 815-867-2196 drassi2@gmail.com		Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 20-27	Aaron Beery 330-927-6926 beeryaaron@embarqmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jan 9-16	John Teubel 815-657-8721 jteubel@maxwire.net		Magdalena Construction	Mar 27 - Apr 3	Curt Hodel Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 cjhodel@juno.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jan 16-23	Steve Kaeb 217-379-4707 kaebbs@illicom.net		Reynosa Medical	Apr 7-14	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net	
Magdalena Construction	Feb 6-13	Mike Zimmerman Congerville/Eureka 309-467-5464 mzimmerman004@gmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 5-12	Stan Schick Princeville Sunday School 309-243-9281 schickfam@juno.com	
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 6-13	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 kevgerber@yahoo.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 19-26	Benj Knapp Washington Sunday School 309-467-5274 benjknapp@homewayhomes.com	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 6-13	Adam Adrian/ISU Illinois State University 573-231-6433 adam_adrian@hotmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jul 17-24	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 bcstahl@aol.com	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 13-20	Sam Kaufman/Purdue Purdue University 260-494-8733 sjkaufma@purdue.edu		Magdalena Construction	July 24-31	Scott Bahr Detroit Bible Class 248-924-7547 spbahr@yahoo.com	
Reynosa Construction	Mar 20-27	Tristan Herrmann/U of I University of Illinois 309-712-6902 tristanherrmann@gmail.com		Reynosa Medical	Oct 6-13	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 20-27	Linc Rinkenberger Bluffton Senior Class 260-565-4155 rinkfamily@adamswells.com					





# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

*In light of our nation placing troops in many areas of the world to protect the strategic interests of the United States, it illustrates that as the centuries unfold and societies evolve, the placement of armaments along with ongoing conflicts persist. Surely, war and its resultant hardships are not God's will, and many of our forefathers came to America to avoid the military adventures of leaders in Europe.*

### **Military Hardships**

The Virkler family came to the United States from Switzerland and settled in upstate New York. *Marching To Zion* recounts some of this family's history, and their experiences in the military. John Virkler had fifteen children, of whom Rudolph Virkler was the youngest. The family settled in Lewis County and eventually came into our faith, being the first church of our belief in America. Excerpts from our church's history book make reference to the terrible conditions of serving in the military:

"Several of John Virkler's sons were conscripted into the Grand Army of Napoleon Bonaparte and served during the Napoleonic Wars of 1799-1815. Some of these boys served during Napoleon's ill-fated invasion of Russia in 1812. An army of 400,000-500,000 men invaded Russia during the winter and, in the most horrible winter conditions imaginable, were forced to retreat with only 50,000 survivors, among them the Virklers.

Napoleon lingered nearly a month among the blackened ruins of Moscow in hopes of making peace with Tsar Alexander. This hoped-for peace never materialized, and Napoleon was forced to retreat amidst impossible conditions.

The roads were soon churned to liquid mud, rain alternated with snow and ice, the horses that drew cannon and

baggage perished, diseased multiplied, and food failed. To all these miseries were added the incessant raids of swift-moving Cossacks, who harried the outposts and killed the stragglers.

Late in December, a few thousand starved, broken, and half-crazed men, the miserable remnant of what had been called the Grand Army, tottered across the Russian boundary into the comparative safety of a German area held by French reserves.

Among these survivors were some of the older brothers of Rudolph Virkler. In his later years, Rudolph told many stories of his older brothers' experiences under Napoleon.

To fully understand why the ancestors of the Apostolic Christian Church came to America, it serves a very useful purpose to review some of the terrible military encounters as those just described. It was because of such pathetic situations associated with war and killing that followers of Christ wanted to flee to a land where they would be relatively free of forced military service, and not be subject to the arbitrary whims of military adventurers that ruled European governments." (from the First edition, page 17)

### **Resist Not Evil**

In the second edition of *Marching To Zion* (published in 2008), a three-page section entitled "Resist Not Evil" is shown that describes our church's position on not bearing arms in warfare. The experiences of Napoleon's army, along with the untold suffering of broad multitudes during warfare over the ages and yet today, surely make the teachings of the Lord Jesus comforting and the very answer to peace on earth and good will toward men. The Apostle Paul underscored the Lord's teachings as found in Romans 12:17-21:

*"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth within you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourself, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."*

The section on not bearing arms also goes on to say: "Many believers in Europe suffered deprivation and long prison terms because of their refusal to bear arms. Our members and friends in America likewise would not bear arms because this would place them in a position where they would be expected to kill the nation's enemies. Such would be in conflict with loving our enemy — and would constitute disobedience to the Bible's teachings. Perhaps the greatest of all sin (in warfare) lies in the fact that taking the life of an unsaved human being terminates forever his chances to find salvation." (Second edition, pages 654-656).

Our brothers and friends surely have not shirked their loyalties to our nation, or their duty to give their time and talent to America. They have served as non-combatants, mostly in medical units to aid the wounded and dying. For instance, during World War II, more than 1,200 men from our congregations served in the military. Many of our brethren served in World War I as well, and also in Korea and Viet Nam. Thanksgiving should be accorded to God that our government allows us to serve, yet not to take life by bearing arms.

*By Perry A. Klopfenstein*

**Next Issue:** Historical Topics



# The Light Of Hope

## “God Became One Of Us”

*Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, formerly of Shioda, Japan*

When we get to heaven, who do you think we will recognize first, God the Father, God the Son, or God the Holy Spirit? I have heard that people who have left the body, have first of all, recognized the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe it is because the eternal, creator God became one of us, when Christ was born in Bethlehem. Animals and human beings are most comfortable with their own kind. When Japanese people travel to a foreign country, they like to travel in a group which has a leader who carries a flag designating their group. It is so nice to be with your own kind.

Man has always wanted to know God but He is somewhat abstract, out of our sphere of existence. The ceremonial law of Moses was very strict so that people would realize that God is indeed to be reckoned with. You must not go about your daily life as if there were no living God.

However, Christ was born and at that time, God in the person of Jesus Christ, came to live in a human body. In this way, God became one of us. II Corinthians 5:19, “To wit that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.” Jesus also said, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.” (John 14:9).

We know that Christ came to

earth to give His life a ransom for us. Matthew 20:28, “Even as the Son of Man came....to give His life a ransom for many.” In this we greatly rejoice because there is no other way to be redeemed and to be ready to meet God. However, when God became one of us He identified Himself with us in the strongest possible way, he became just like we are, except without sin. I Peter 2:21,22 reads, “Christ.... who did no sin.” Hebrews 4:14,15 reads, “Jesus the Son of God....was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews....I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” I Corinthians 9:20,22. This is a similar concept to what God did for us. He became a human being so that He might save human beings. This puts us in a very close relationship with God, if we repent and embrace that relationship. It is not forced upon us.

In Matthew 2:12, we read that the wise men were “warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod.” The question might be asked as to how God could be in Jesus and also be guiding the wise men, who had come to visit Jesus. God is no or-

dinary entity or being. We must not limit Him as if He were a mere human being. We tend to do that and it causes problems. God spoke and things came into existence.. “God said, Let there be light and there was light.” Genesis 1:3.

God chose a very humble setting for His appearance as a human being. Luke 2:16 tells of the shepherds going to see Jesus. It is written, “And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.” We celebrate Christmas more than we celebrate Easter but we must not forget the words of “The Babe of Bethlehem”: “Tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free.”

God became one of us when He became a human being, when He lived in a human body, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, we should not only realize this but also realize that in so doing, He is teaching us that if we hope to influence others to repent and live for Christ, we must become as one of them, yet without their sin. We must identify with them which is to put ourselves in their place.

希望の光



