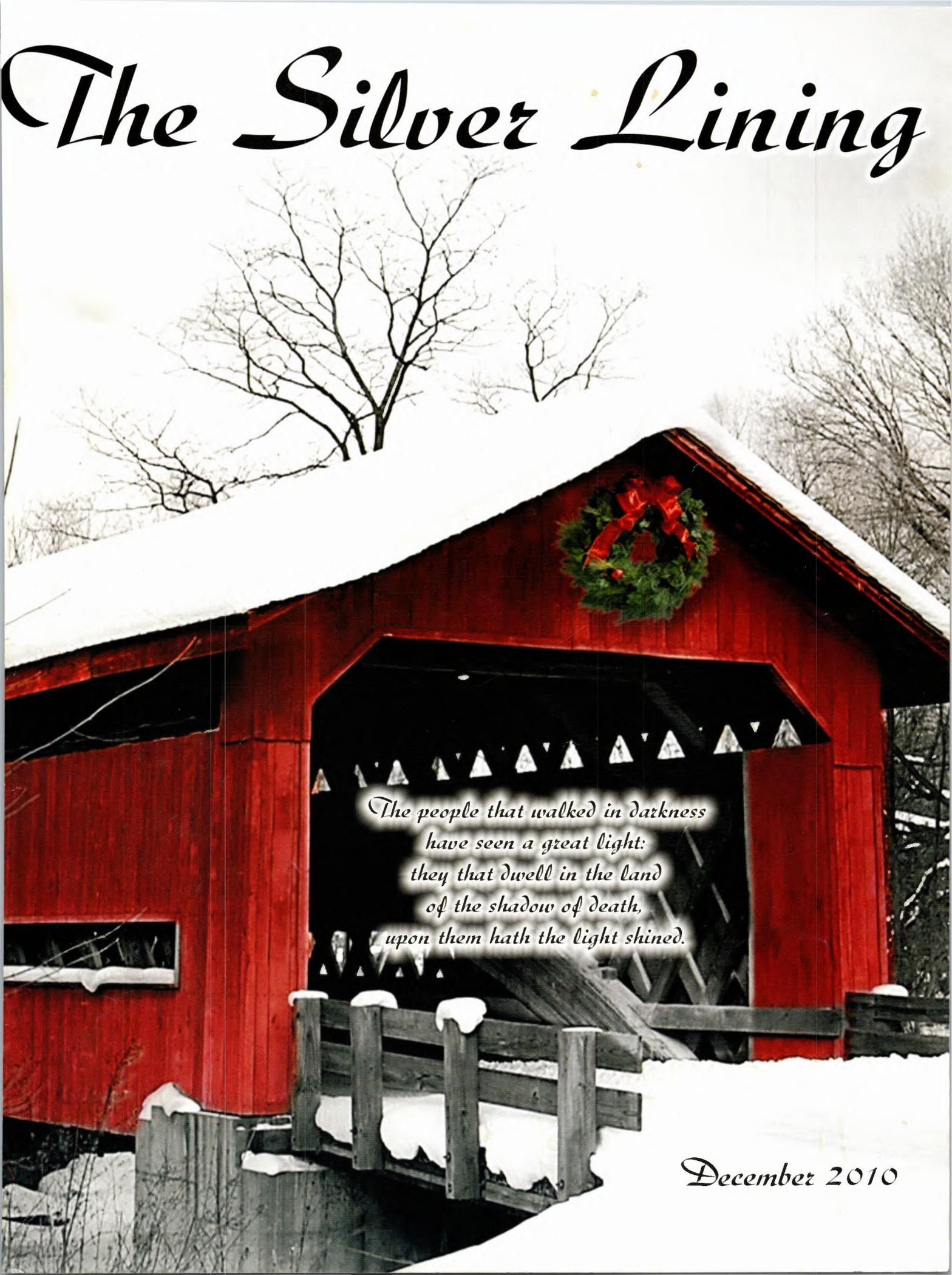


The Silver Lining



*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.*

December 2010

Sermon by Bro. Mark Wettstein, LaCrosse, IN

St. Luke Chapter 1:1-4 & 26-38 and St. Luke Chapter 2:1-40

The first few verses of St. Luke chapter one lay out the purpose of why Luke wrote. To whom Luke wrote should be a particular joy to us because he was, to my understanding, the only Gentile author of a Gospel. He wrote this epistle to Gentiles of whom we are. That should give us particular joy. We read in verse thirty-two, "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." This is to us. This was a gift to all mankind and for that we can be thankful. Luke wrote this to a man known as Theophilus, whether that was a specific individual with that name or whether that was a general greeting. The name Theophilus means one who loves God or one loved of God. Certainly, each one of us have a certain amount of love for God just seeing that we have come into God's house today to hear His Word. This is specifically to you and to me here in this day.

If we would have read all the way through chapter one we would have read that the angel Gabriel was the one who appeared to Zacharias in the temple. We know him to be one of the archangels along with Michael, a very high rank of angels to my understanding. Gabriel was given the responsibility of bringing this message to Mary, "you are going to have the Christ Child, the Son of God." "To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary." (St Luke 1:27)

To my understanding, in Jewish culture when two people were going to get married there was a process that is somewhat different than ours today. First off, the families would agree that these two individuals were going to become married. There was a meeting where the deal would be sealed. It was like an engagement but yet it was more serious than an engage-

ment because at this point even though they were not married and living together it would take a divorce to separate them. Just knowing that, we can understand the predicament that Joseph found himself in when Mary was found with child. What would he do with her? He had two choices that he knew of. The first was to privately divorce her, and the second would be to take her to the Jewish leaders to have her stoned. Obviously there was shame involved on the part of both Mary and Joseph if this situation would have come into the public eye in such a manner. But God gave another option. He said marry her. Sometimes that is the way it is in our lives when God gives us a situation to deal with, maybe through prayer and seeking Him out, there's another option that we haven't considered that would be a far better option.

"And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." (St. Luke 1:28) We might consider that as a simple definition of grace is to be highly favored and to have that kind of acceptance from God. Besides the help that He gives us which we recognize that we do not deserve, it is the idea that grace is that facet of the favor that we receive from God. In verse thirty the last part, "...thou hast found favour with God." Verse thirty-one, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." Jesus meaning literally Savior. So we are learning a little bit about what Jesus' life is supposed to be about. Verse 32, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his fa-

Cover Verses

Front: Isaiah 9:2

Back: Zions Harp #7, verse 2

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Sermon continued on page 41

*"We love him because
he first loved us"
(1 John 4:19)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

December 2010

Because He First Loved Us

We often hear the phrase "put first things first" in relation to establishing priorities. The New Testament uses the word "first" in several instances which clearly describe where our hearts and lives should be focused.

When Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment in the law, He responded with the same "thou shalt" statement which Moses spoke as He summed up the law for the children of Israel (Deut. 6:5). "*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*" Then Jesus underscored this by saying, "*This is the first and great commandment*" (Matt. 22:37-38). Jesus went on to command: "*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*" He then summed up the entire subject by stating: "*On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets*" (Matt. 22:39-40).

How can we come closer to fulfilling these two great commandments? Jesus expanded on these truths when He said to His disciples: "*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*" He then explained the significance of obeying this commandment: "*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another*" (John 13:34-35). Jesus set a very high standard with this "new" commandment, but He asks of us no more than what He has freely given to us: unconditional, self-sacrificing love. We might also ask, "How can we come closer to loving as He has loved us?"

One of the key elements in answering these questions is found in 1 John 4:19: "*We love him because he first loved us.*" We cannot as humans ever come close to fulfilling the love commandments unless we have received Christ's love into our hearts. Christ-like love cannot be produced independently in the heart of man. It can only be experienced and shared once it has been received from Him through repentance and rebirth.

Every believer has experienced a time in life when it was recognized that the only answer to his hopelessly lost condition was to be found by grace through faith in the sacrificial death and shed blood of Jesus Christ. This required es-

tablishing a deep personal relationship with Christ as one's Saviour, which can be described as our "first love." Grasping the reality that the kindest, most loving individual who ever lived, the sinless Son of God, was willing to die a horrible death for the sins of rebellious human beings, allows one to be immersed in a love which is beyond description. This "first love" provides a foundation for the believer to build upon and return to for his entire life. When Jesus taught the importance of His disciples abiding in Him so that they could bear much fruit, He entreated: "*...continue ye in my love*" (John 15:7-9).

When we take time to reflect upon the marvelous truths that our sins have been forgiven and that we are God's children and joint-heirs with Christ, it should bring sincere thankfulness and refresh our first love. We are strongly warned in Romans 2:4-5 that we could become hardened and forget the "*goodness and forbearance and longsuffering*" of God. We are reminded that it is "*the goodness of God (that) leadeth thee to repentance.*" We are blessed to have so many relevant examples and warnings in the Old Testament to help us avoid the same pitfalls that were a snare to the children of Israel (1 Cor. 10:6). The word "remember" is used countless times in the Old Testament for obvious reasons. When the Israelites were being prepared to enter the Promised Land, Moses gave some very strong warnings about not forgetting how God had been so good and merciful to them. He spoke of how their appreciation might fade when they would have plenty to eat, goodly houses and the blessings of a fruitful land. "*Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day*" (Deut. 8:10-17). Instead of love and thanksgiving towards God, they were forewarned that they might say: "*My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth*" (Deut. 8:17).

Again, we might ask, "How could this ever happen to me?" Let us consider carefully the example of a church in the early years of Christianity which was directly addressed by the Lord Jesus and chastised for having lost its "*first love*" (Rev. 2:4). We quickly learn that this church was fruitful in many areas. They were commended for

good works and for patience. They were diligent in identifying and addressing sin and false teachers. They had a spiritual stamina in their labors and "*had not fainted*" under the pressures of their time. The crucial element which was missing is revealed when Jesus pleads with them to repent and "*remember therefore from whence thou art fallen*" (Rev. 2:5). They had fallen "away" from the keen remembrance of what Christ had done for them and thus had blurred their identity as His disciples. They were doing many right things, but not for the right reason. They were not motivated by the love of Christ. The Apostle Paul taught that we could be eloquent teachers and prophets, understand mysteries, have great faith to remove mountains, give abundantly to the poor (good works) and live a life of ultimate self-denial—but without charity all of this would profit nothing. (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

We should now come to the moment of truth and undertake sincere, personal self-examination. As we look deeply into our hearts, do we see a faded, flickering ember of that first love, or is there a bright flame of passion which drives everything that we do? The Apostle Paul spoke often of this vibrant love and commitment. One of the phrases he used gives a wonderful picture of being motivated by Christ's love. He said, "*the love of Christ constraineth us*" (2 Cor. 5:14).

How thankful we can be that the message to the Ephesians included a clear path for regaining what had been lost. That path is repentance. Repentance is an acknowledgment of heading in the wrong direction, humbling oneself in godly sorrow and, by God's grace, having a change of mind and turning around. One of the indications of putting "first things first" will be how much our thought life revolves around remembering what Christ has done for us. Much of the evidence of being refreshed in our first love for Christ will be fulfillment of the "new commandment," by obeying the beautiful exhortation found in Hebrews 13:1: "*Let brotherly love continue.*" This we can do "*because He first loved us*" (1 John 4:19).

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 Committee

A little over three years ago, the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee formed the Outreach Committee, a subcommittee with the purpose of addressing several specific tasks:

- Developing and defining a unified selection/preparation/sending process for those who are called to serve as missionaries.
- Documenting and communicating that to one extent or another, we are all called to be witnesses of Jesus Christ and to share the "Good News" of salvation.
- Sorting through how to better coordinate World Relief and Mission Committee activities

Since the first meeting in August of 2007, more than 30 brethren from over 20 of our churches have diligently contributed to this effort in various capacities. Four subcommittees have collaborated to produce a clearly documented process to Select, Send, and Nurture brethren sent to share the Gospel and perform humanitarian service in various regions of the earth.

- A rigorous interview process is intended to help assure that the church sends faithful, spiritually mature brethren into such a challenging service. The development of this process is complete and a group of trained Brothers have been chosen to administer it.
- While only the Lord can adequately prepare anyone for service in His army, an equally rigorous preparation program is designed to work hand-in-hand with the Holy Spirit to equip those sent to serve with a better idea of the cultural challenges they will face, with better lan-

guage skills, and a deeper knowledge of the living Word of God, in short, verifying that the "whole armor of God" is in place. The development of this portion of the process is nearly complete.

- As the Antioch church, through the Holy Spirit, called out Saul and Barnabas, sent them, and then provided follow up communication and nurturing, so guidelines have been developed for our local congregations to have a better sense of the Scriptural instruction for sending and for nurturing those who are sent.

The Outreach Committee has sought counsel and accountability for every step. Each of these three primary tasks has been fulfilled in light of the Word and reviewed by an independent subcommittee, then the Mission Committee, and finally submitted to the Elder body for approval in order to ensure that all is done according to the Word and to God's glory. These guidelines are nearly complete and will be tested and refined as needed.

The task of discerning how to better coordinate the planning and operations of the Mission Committee and World Relief has also been delegated to the Outreach Committee. The OC has enlisted past and present members of the World Relief Board and the Mission Committee in order to have the clearest picture possible. An initial meeting was held September 13 in Remington, IN. The resulting first draft proposal that came out of this meeting will be shared with the Mission Committee and the World Relief Board in the near future.

As the Brothers of the Mission Committee and the Outreach Committee devote time and energy to the

task of keeping our efforts aligned with the Holy Bible, it becomes very apparent that in all things we must submit ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. These are easy words to acknowledge, but not always easy to do. Submission to the Holy Spirit includes:

- **Patience**... submission to His timing. Sometimes moving forward when we are uncomfortable with moving, and sometimes waiting when we are ready to move forward.
- **Trust**... submission to His method of providing our needs. We so often take ownership of financial and other decisions, rather than allowing the Lord to provide as he sees fit.
- **Faith**... submission to His guidance in our outreach efforts as a church. Sometimes that may mean an entirely fresh approach that hasn't been the norm among other Christian groups. Sometimes it may mean acknowledging methods developed by other groups that have been successful (spiritually fruitful).
- **Perseverance**... In our society of instant gratification, we so often desire results overnight. It is easy to tire of trying to work through the human element in any undertaking.

As a brotherhood of faithful and committed believers in Jesus, let us humbly seek to be His witnesses in an increasingly dark and condemned world. Whether through the formally sanctioned efforts of the church, or through our personal testimony, let us testify by our life and our words of His salvation, profound peace, and the overcoming power of the Holy Ghost.



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

Hope for Orphans in Africa and Haiti

Many of our brethren have adopted children from around the world who have been orphaned and many more have a heart to support orphan care. The Apostolic Christian Child Sponsorship Committee (ACCS) recently received approval from the World Relief Board to initiate two pilot programs to expand our child sponsorship opportunity to help orphans receive a Christ-centered education in Africa and Haiti. James 1:27 specifically charges Christians to care for orphans, *"Pure religion... is this... to visit the fatherless... in their affliction."* Global estimates put the number of orphans at over 147,000,000, with tens of millions more who are fatherless.

Sponsor orphans in Africa

As in most African countries, the orphan problem in Zambia is great, with an estimate of over 1,000,000 orphans (8-10% of the population).

Some other stunning statistics:

- 1 out of every 5 individuals is HIV+
- The average life expectancy is 30.5 years
- 50% of Zambia's population is under the age of 15
- Only 10% of all children attend school regularly

Child Sponsorship is working through a recently built school in Zambia with a vision of caring for 230 orphans fostered and educated by Christian caretakers. The ACCS program has decided to support this vision on a pilot basis, committing to help bring joy and purpose to

orphans in these ways:

- Set a foundation of solid Bible-based teaching, curriculum and mentoring
- Provide two nutritious meals to each child every school day (only school in city to do this)
- Care for health of orphans and vulnerable children through an on-site medical clinic and full-time health nurse

Since many of our brethren have a special heart for the substantial needs of Africa, Child Sponsorship is now seeking sponsors to support the Christian education and other services that are being provided to the orphans at this school.



Sponsor orphans in Haiti

With all of the worthy causes that are available today, why support orphan care? The answer is that orphans hold a special place in the heart of God. In over 40 places in the Scripture, God commands us to defend the cause of the orphan. What else would we expect from a God who calls Himself a "father to the fatherless" (Psalm 68:5)?

The orphan and vulnerable children crisis in Haiti started many years prior to the January 12th earthquake. Several ministries have been active in Haiti for many years to bring orphaned and vulnerable children into Christian Haitian families; this effort has

intensified since the earthquake. These ministries working directly with Christian-based families hold the key to solving Haiti's orphan, restavek (child slaves) and vulnerable children crisis.

Apostolic Christian Child Sponsorship already has a major effort to provide a Christ-centered education for the poorest of the poor in Haiti (serving nearly 100 schools and over 800 students). The ACCS committee feels it is a natural next step to expand this service to specifically work with our Haiti Christian education partners to provide a Christian education and other services for orphans.

You can help through Child Sponsorship

If you are interested in participating in either of these programs, you can visit us at www.acworldrelief.org and select "Child Sponsorship" on the home page of the website, or you can email us at childsponsorship@acwr.org. You can also write our ACCS office at:

ACWR Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550

Of course, we still offer child sponsorships for needy children in four distressed areas of the world: Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico and Jamaica. For \$25 per month, you can make a difference in the life of a child by providing a Christ-centered education, which gives that child an opportunity for a better life here on earth and hope for all eternity. Please prayerfully consider this act of love and service for you, your family or your Sunday School class to get involved and make a difference in the life of a child.

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

“... Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself...”

Matthew 6:25-34

Planning for tomorrow is time well spent; worrying about tomorrow is time wasted. Sometimes it's difficult to tell the difference. Planning is trusting in God's guidance; Worrying consumes us with fear and difficulty trusting in God. Are you a planner or a worrier? Please take time to read this whole passage and make a list of worries that you have truly given to Christ.

The holidays are coming up and surely snow is on the ground or on the way. What will you worry about over the next month?

-Slipping on the ice/snow

-Being lonely

-Gifts for everyone for Christmas

-Enough food for the guests

Or will you pray and plan for a worry free month?

Worry - Slipping on the ice/snow

Prayer/Plan - Take your time and watch your step

Worry - Being lonely

Prayer/Plan - Take time to visit someone else who may be lonely

Worry - Gifts for everyone for Christmas

Prayer/Plan - Give the gift of time if you can't afford monetary gifts

Worry - Enough food for the guests

Prayer/Plan - Don't try to do it all yourself, have others help you

We know there have been many prayers lifted up on behalf of ACHH because each worry, whether big or small, has been taken care of as God has seen fit. The residents and staff appreciate everything you have done; donation of time, monetary donation, gifts and

goodies donated for the holiday season and throughout the year and prayers on our behalf. God has truly blessed this ministry that was a vision so many years ago.

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME**
Ross Feller

Exhausted, sore, and apprehensive, Joseph and Mary arrived in bustling Bethlehem. As Joseph sought out lodging, Mary must have known that the Son of God's arrival was near. What a long journey, what a hard task still ahead! Young and naive, Mary must have felt lonely and frightened thinking about her approaching delivery and the motherhood role she would soon play.

Working at the Oak House, we see over and over again what it is like for a young, naive woman to contemplate motherhood. Of course, these girls are different than the Mary we know in so many ways, but walking with them through their journey, makes us wonder what Mary must have felt as she walked through hers. We pray that these young women will develop a pure-hearted willingness to do God's work, as Mary had. We pray that they will see the sin in their lives and turn to the redemptive blood of Mary's Son, born that night in Bethlehem.

Recently, we were privileged to witness one of the young women in our house come to faith in Christ. Her life had been full of horrors before Gateway, and she struggled with feelings of anger towards her family. The innocent child inside her was unwanted, but she saw the baby as someone that would love her unconditionally - something her family had failed to do. As she became accustomed to life here, she began to develop positive relationships with the Houseparents and other believing adults that she interacted with. She was a friend with another resident at the Oak House who enjoyed asking questions about the Bible and God. So,

she quietly listened in on those conversations and slowly developed more of an understanding of Christ. One evening, she got into a conversation with our Assistant Houseparent, and expressed a longing to become a Christian before her child was born. After a long discussion, she prayed with the Houseparent and sincerely asked Christ into her heart. She has started the journey, and has a deep desire to know Christ better. This young woman's trials are undoubtedly far from over, but we pray that she continues to cling to the Cross as well as teach her family about Jesus, God's own Son.

Mary's son ate and drank among sinners. He taught harlots and thieves the way to heaven. He spent time with people like the young men and women we see come through Gateway Woods. We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge that He spent time with people like us. "There is little difference between you and us," we will sometimes tell the girls, "except for the blood of Christ." Sin is sin, no matter how big and obvious or small and hidden. Christ's blood covers any of it, all of it.

Please continue to pray for the mission at Gateway. Pray that we as Houseparents do not hinder God's Word but listen to the Spirit and teach as He directs. We are "sowers" here, and occasionally we get to be "waterers", but we rarely see the end fruit of God's work in the hearts of the residents. We covet your prayers, for Oak House and beyond. The task is daunting, but His blood is sufficient.

News:

- Gateway Woods welcomed two new residents to campus this past month. Please pray with us as these two young men become accustomed to their new homes in the Cypress and Pine Houses. It can be difficult for new residents as they experience a very different living situation than that which they have experienced before.

- It was a sad day for many on campus as we said goodbye to Sis. Abby Klopfenstein. Sis Abby has decided to

pursue new opportunities with the family business. We are very thankful for her years of service here at Gateway Woods as an Assistant House Parent and we wish her well and offer our support in her new ventures.

- Gateway Woods held its annual retreat this past month in Fort Wayne. It was an excellent time for the Staff and the Board to fellowship, plan and discuss several critical upcoming decisions. We are thankful for God's travelling provisions on all who attended.

- 2010 Christmas Wish List:

Gateway Woods depends on the generosity of our supporters to provide the funds we need for daily operation, as well as new and gently used items for our five group homes.

- Bocce ball set
- Razor Scooters
- Wal-Mart and Meijer gift cards
- Aerobie Superdisc
- Restaurant gift cards
- Outdoor basketballs
- Blender
- Griddle
- Volleyball
- iTunes gift card
- Pizza pan (dishwasher safe)
- New or slightly used grill
- Adult size bikes (new or gently used)
- Baby supplies
 - crib sheets
 - mattress pad covers
 - baby bath towels
 - wash cloths
- Dick's Sporting Goods gift cards
- Computer games
- 10" skillet with lid
- Scented candles
- Card games
- Teen girl curtains
- Pool Sticks
- Money to purchase any of these items

- 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 and our Facebook page at facebook.com/gatewaywoods often for updates, and make sure that you are 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

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Louise Hall**

"Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God."

Psalm 147:1

Here at the Preschool, it was a sad time as we said goodbye to Sis. Cassie Bertsch. She has been teaching here for almost 1 ½ years and helping us at the Preschool. We want to say "Thank you" for all that she did for us here. She shared her love with all of the children, teachers and parents. We will keep her in our prayers and ask that you keep us in your prayers. Please keep Cassie's family in your prayers as they deal with illness. We will always remember her big hugs!

Our Theme for the month of November is Nutrition, Health, and Bodies. Our color is Brown. We will be doing activities to show what we are Thankful for. Our Bible Verses are: "God is Love" (I John 4:8), "For whither thou goest, I will go" (Ruth 1:16), and "I will sing unto the Lord" (Psalm 13:6).

As we were learning our letters, one of our teachers asked, "How high can you jump?". One little girl replied "I can jump up to Jesus!". We also asked a little boy "How old are you?" He replied, "I am three years old, but I'm going to ask my Mom if I can be seven!"

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalm 106:1

On November 7, we said goodbye to Sis. Cassie Bertsch, as she will be returning to Bluffton to be with her family. She has been a big part of our young group and Church family here and will be missed by all.

In our Sunday School, we have been studying about Prayer. Let me share a Prayer with you, "God's Stairway": Step by step we climb, day by day closer to God, with each prayer we pray. For "The Cry of the Heart" offered in prayer, becomes just another "Spiritual Star" in the "Heavenly Staircase" leading us to a Beautiful place where we live anew. So never give up, for it's worth the climb, to live forever in "Endless Time". Where the soul of man is safe and free, to live in love through Eternity.

We were so thankful to have Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hope Stoller and their children, who now live in Gridley, IL, back in Athens to visit us. It was a joy to share time with them once again.

We thank Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and his wife, Sis. Jan (Taylor, MO), for taking the time to spend the weekend with us November 6 and 7. We also had visitors from Washington, IL, Fairbury, IL, Tremont, IL, Goodfield, IL, Gridley, IL, Rockville, CT, Remington, IN, Bay City, MI, Altadena, CA, and Bluffton, IN.

We also thank Bro. Charles Kellenberger and his wife, Sis. Debbie (Elgin, IL), for spending the weekend of November 13-14 with us; we enjoyed the fellowship.

Our prayers go out to Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter, as their daughter, Kendra, will be moving to Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped in Morton, IL, this month. Please keep them in your prayers, as this will be a difficult transition for them.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen**

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley),
Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington)

and Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City) ministered to our congregation this past month. We thank them for opening God's Word and sharing with us the message of salvation.

Many in our congregation have undergone surgery and medical procedures and there are those who because of age or health can't come to worship with us on Sunday. We want to remember them in our daily prayers: Sis. June Tooley (Bro. Jerry), Sis. Deanna Beyer (Bro. Clarence), Sis. Toni Bentley, Bro. Jim Beres (Sis. Lois), Bro. Jacob Hoerr (Sis. Wanda), Sis. Louann Klopfenstein (Bro. Dave), Sis. Bertha Miller, Sis. Shirley Mohrmon, and Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Connie Hay left Oakville, IA, and have made Phoenix their new home. We look forward to getting to know them and worshipping with them as part of our Body of Christ.

Elder Bros. Earl Ringger and Ron Messner aided our congregation in the placement of a co-elder to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich. After prayerful consideration, our congregation voted Bro. Herb and Sis. Laurie Knochel to that position. We continue to lift Bro. Herb and Sis. Laurie up in prayer as they look forward to the mid-winter Conference in Junction, OH, where Bro. Herb's position will be voted on by all the Elders.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Denise Steidinger

We are so thankful for the willingness of ministering brothers to come share God's Word with our small congregation. This past month, we were visited by Bros. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson), Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville), Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix), Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin), Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City), Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) and Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis). May God bless each of you for your willingness to serve.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our friend, Bee Schmidt, continues to recover from hip surgery and has not been able to worship with us. We miss her smiling face in her usual seat and are praying God's will will be accomplished in her life. We would love to see her again on Sundays, but for now we will have to be content with visiting her and leave the rest in God's hands. We miss you, Bee!

Our Elder, Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), and his family visited us recently for which we are very thankful. It is always good to see them, and we are enjoying getting to know them better. May God richly bless their efforts to be with us as it's not a short trip! Bro. Ben shared the Memorandum with us on his visit.

Our winter visitors are starting to appear as we get the cooler temperatures we were waiting for. It's fun seeing who has "arrived" each Sunday. Our daytime highs are in the high 70's which is a little warm for mid-November, but the days are bright and sunny and the evenings cool and crisp, so we really can't complain.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle had a safe and successful trip to India, which is an answer to many prayers! May God continue to bless the work there! While on their trip, they received news of their new granddaughter, Karlina Jean, born on 10-20-2010, to Bro. Jim and Sis. Krissa Klotzle of the Minneapolis congregation. The first-time parents and grandparents are praising God for the wonder of new life and another generation!

Our congregation was able to celebrate with dinner and singing, at the new home of Bro. Steve Cser and his family, at the end of October. He and Aggie are living in Orange County with all their children at home. Scripture says God ordains the bounds of our

habitations, and we are thankful for His provision for the Cser family.

The Association for the Care and Housing of the Aged had their annual meeting in Los Angeles. Brothers from several church skilled nursing facilities were here, including ministering Bro. Ed Strahm and Elder Bro. John Lehman from Bern, KS, and Bro. Randy Gasser from Detroit, MI. Our congregation was blessed by their ministry and the fellowship of all the visitors that weekend.

Lord willing, a work team from Altadena will make their annual trip to Magdalena for Thanksgiving week. They will join teams from Denver and Morris North this year. We hold them up in prayer and look forward to reports of the ongoing work there.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Yasmin Koehl

We approached Thanksgiving season with grateful hearts for the labors of brethren from Ohio and Texas who came to volunteer their time to assist us in replacing our old carpet. Humbly we thank them for sharing with us some of their most precious gifts: love and time. May God be their great reward.

As cold winter winds blow, we begin to anticipate the warmth we find in fellowship from the many brothers and sisters who make San Diego their winter destination. We look forward to greeting brothers and sisters whom we have the privilege of being with each year and to meet new brethren as well. What great spiritual joy we can find in one another when we all make the Scripture our roadmap and obediently follow the Word of God with humble hearts. Together then, we can walk hand in hand toward the pearly gates of our heavenly home.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

We are so happy to have a new baby

girl, Ruthann Rose who was born October 28. Her parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Melanie Tomic. Her brothers are Christopher, Brian, Jonathan and Matthew. Unfortunately, Sis. Melanie developed a high fever after the birth and was hospitalized. She recovered in an amazing time for how severe the fever was. The head doctor came into her room and told her, "The Lord was surely watching over you". Thankfully she is at home now and doing well.

After being here for half a year, Silvija Ursu left Canada to go back home to Serbia. What a joy this lady is! She always shows such love and kindness to everyone.

Our Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr came one Wednesday night like they do so often. All of us are so blessed by their coming. Other ministers that came this month are Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser (Detroit) and Bro. Garry and Sis. Diann Tonner (Bluffton). As I get older, I find it's harder to just get up and go for a short weekend, so I can really appreciate ministers and their wives who come to Kitchener for a weekend. God bless you with strength and give you wisdom. "God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." (Psalm 46:1) We can so easily write or say a verse, but having the faith to believe it is the key.

**REGINA, SK
CANADA
Myrna Shipley**

"The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried by the fire in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."

Psalm 12:6

There was one minister on the rotation schedule from Sabetha, Bro. Dave and Sis. Beth Hartter, along with Bro. Kevin and Nita Grimm and 14 other young people. All the visitors as well as

the Shipleys with our grandson, Austin, had a delicious supper at Kaisers. It was a blessing to sing some songs after and encourage each other. Having these visitors willing to come from so many kilometers away was such a blessing to us here.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki**

Faith is a living pow'r from heaven
Which grasps the promise God has
given:

Securely fixed on Christ alone,
A trust that cannot be overthrown.
Gospel Hymns #711, vs. 1

We are thankful to Bro. Willis Ehnle for coming to Colorado to share topics of commitment and his experiences living in Japan. May God bless him for his encouragement!

In November, Bro. Fred Leman (Denver) and Sis. Jodi Kieser (Roanoke, IL) were united in marriage. We wish them God's nearness in their lives together.

We have been blessed by the testimony and baptism of Tyler Blair. We wish Tyler God's richest blessing as he continues his walk in Him.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found.
Was blind, but now I see.

Hymns of Zion #97, vs. 1

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Bonnie Bahler**

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalm 100:4-5

There are so many reasons we have

to be thankful people! May we count our blessings often, not just this time of year when we formally celebrate Thanksgiving.

Early in the month we enjoyed a midweek visit from ministering brothers, Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA). We trust God will bless the efforts of those who preach His Word.

We enjoyed a beautiful day to share in the wedding of Bro. Duane Zahner and Sis. Beth Wagenbach. Many visitors came from far and near to show their love and support for this new couple. It was a blessed weekend and we wish this Brother and Sister God's blessings as they begin a life together in the Lord. Parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner, and Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Wagenbach.

Our thoughts and prayers extend to those that have been sick or hospitalized this past month, namely Bro. Roy Schneider (Sis. Joyce), Sis. Aline Ballasy, Bro. Ron Bahler (Sis. Bonnie), Blane Moser (Eric and Donna), Sis. Marilyn Lanz (Bro. Ed), and Lillian Lanz (Michael). Whether old or young, scheduled surgery or accidental, the time spent out of commission is rarely easy or comfortable! May God be with each family circle, provide for each individual need, and give comfort and healing to all.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sandy Conner for the loss of her brother Tom in the past weeks. May God comfort and provide for this family circle and others that grieve the loss of loved ones.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for the first part of November were Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane Lanz from Rittman, OH. There are still several months needing caretakers in 2011. If you have a desire to support our small church in this way, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen for

more information at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 301-681-1502. We have been richly blessed by our caretakers over the past four years, and we look forward to getting to know and fellowshiping with more in the coming year. We also encourage past caretakers to come again!

We are so blessed to have ministers from around the country come serve us each week; may we never take it for granted. Our ministers this month were Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA). The Sunday Bro. Brad and Bro. Ben were here we were blessed to partake of Holy Communion. Other visitors were Elgin, Forrest, and Peoria, IL, and Francesville, IN.

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 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services.

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Renee Mangold

We are enjoying the return of some of our winter residents as the year end approaches. We are blessed to have a congregation that includes those who make this their winter home.

This is Thanksgiving week and we are grateful to live in a country where being thankful is recognized as an important remembrance of our forefathers. We are also thankful of our family forefathers for establishing and holding to a very special faith that creates the tie that binds in Christian love.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) and our Elder Bro. Earl

Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL). Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie's visits always elevate our faith and create a desire to be more true and faithful in our walk. The time passes quickly and while we appreciate everyone who comes, having our Elder with us is always a special time.

We are beginning to see the signs of the commercial attention to the Christmas season, and we always find the meaning and real reason to remember this time very comforting and warming to our hearts. Please be sure and visit us if you are in the area this winter, as we have a real joy in meeting everyone from across the land.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Victor Beer

It seems the cold and otherwise inclement weather of the northern states is a blessing to us as vacationers and winter home owners are starting to come south. What great weather we're having.

We are thankful for the ministry of Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen) sharing with us from his Bloomington, IL, pulpit. Lots of good memories of old times were discussed, during our fellowship. We are so blessed to have many years of times that we knew each other in our church relationship.

It was a loss to all of us to hear of the death of Bro. Chuck Anliker of Francesville, but an all winter member of our North Fort Myers church. We sincerely wish Sis. Margaret God's love and strength at this time. Bro. Chris Huber brought us many remembrances of our time of fellowship and worship together with him, following hearing of Chuck's going to be with his Lord Jesus.

Our church was again blessed this last month as our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) shared the Conference letter with us. As he and Bros. Marvin Steffen and Bill Masters shared this with us, we were all reminded of how great God has been

to our church, through these many years.

On that Sunday, we also had our annual potluck supper at our church. This has been our custom for about 25 years now. This brought to mind, too, how the many years of fellowship we've had, and how God has blessed us in many ways. When we have our many winter time folks with us, it makes us all thankful.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Kim Ott

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

II Corinthians 9:7

October 29 marked the annual Sarasota Make A Difference Day where a large turn-out from our congregation joined together in the church kitchen to make homemade applesauce for those in need. The event was special, not only because we were laboring to provide for others, but also because many people of all ages were paired together working towards a common goal. What a blessing for the older and young ones alike to spend time getting to know each other better while working side by side in service for the Lord.

We were thankful to have Retired Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) assist our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter in both our fall Communion and on the following Sunday in the reading of our Memorandum. What a blessing it is for us, as brothers and sisters, to sit united in quietness as we remember our Lord Jesus Christ's death and suffering on the cross.

On the evening of November 20, a special retirement dinner was held for Retired Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and his wife, Sis. Judy. We appreciated so much the wonderful evening prepared by so many where we could gather together with our church family

and express our thankfulness for Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy's labors of love throughout these past years.

Our prayers are with Sis. Jean Earley (Bro. Clyde) as she has recently undergone surgery and is now recovering. We trust that God will give Sis. Jean full strength and healing according to His perfect will.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister, along with their children, Katelyn, William, Seth, Kendra, and Silas, as they join our assembly for several weeks. While Bro. Rich, Sis. Amber, and their family have been serving in the mission field in Haiti, their daughter Katelyn was recently diagnosed with an illness which brought them back to the United States for medical treatment. Katelyn has made large improvements since the first day she arrived in Florida and her family hopes to return to Haiti in the near future. We will continue to pray for young Katelyn that the Lord would grant her a full and healthy recovery. We also pray for her family that they could remain under God's protective hand wherever He may lead them.

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

1 Thessalonians 5:18

As we gather together with family and friends this year on Thanksgiving day, let us remember to give thanks to God in all things, not only on this special day, but throughout each day of the year. Although we may endure hardships or trials for a season through the course of our lives, we can truly be thankful for the many promises God has given to us, one of which He has assured that He will never leave us or forsake us. What a loving and faithful God we serve that will always keep His promises. For this we are thankful.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Our church family looks forward to our annual bonfire each year hosted by Bro. John, Sis. Mary, Bro. John Jr., and Sis. Michelle Brewer. The evening of November 6 was quite chilly for us southerners but we were warmed by the fire, good food, and encouraging conversation.

We enjoyed getting to know Lydia Zimmerman (Bloomington, IL) who was a nanny for two months for Bro. Philip and Sis. Lana Steidinger. We will miss you and hope you come back soon to visit.

On Sunday, November 21, we filled 60 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We have done this for a number of years and each family buys 60 of an assigned item. We then have a big assembly line and when they are done each box is filled to capacity along with a picture of our church family. It is a neat way for everyone in our church to be involved in this ministry to bring a little bit of Christ to children in other countries.

Thanks to Bro. Doyle Frauhiger and Sis. Jane (Bluffton North, IN) for your visit and inspiration. We always enjoy your stories of God's work and protection in your life.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Shayla Steffen**

In God's calendar of days there are times for prayer and praise and the joys we find in services are as golden holidays;
Not a "blue day" on the list, Every cloud by sunshine kisst,
Dwelling 'neath hopes beaming rays
In God's calendar of days.

In God's calendar of days there are times for prayer and praise:

In our earthly calendar of days many found time to gather from our home congregation and loved ones from far and near gathered at the an-

nual fall festival for times of prayer and praise and fellowship.

And the joys we find in services are as golden holidays:

The Bible class and alumni gathered together on a beautiful Saturday to do service for others. The time they spent in fellowship with one another and helping others to do what they can no longer physically do, blessed all. After the work was done, they also enjoyed a mystery dinner together.

Bro. Art Mueller spent time in Haiti this month doing service where one is not sure who is blessed more – those that serve or the ones that are served.

Not a "blue day" on the list, Every cloud by sunshine kisst:

Our Belvidere congregation spent a Wednesday afternoon and evening quilting and fellowshiping for World Relief. Hopefully we have sent the love of God to others and if there is a blue day, they will feel that the clouds were lifted and a ray of sunshine sent their way.

Dwelling 'neath hopes beaming rays...In God's calendar of days:

Bro. Tom Troxel (Lacrosse, IN) and his wife were in our midst this month and Bro. Tom shared God's beaming rays of hope for this lost world in Sunday school and on the pulpit. Thank you, loved ones, for including us in your travels.

May we make every day a day of Thanksgiving and the story of Christmas the center of our everyday life! May our calendar of days reflect the love, peace and joy of our precious Savior and king!

I found Thanksgiving days were all along
Each day that passed not merely once a year
Should be composed of happiness and song
Some other lonely heart to aid – to cheer
I saw a Christmas time – in fact the first
That told the story we today repeat
Of how the Christ was sent the stem

the curse

A tale that's never new - that's ever sweet.

In God's calendar of days there are times for prayer and praise and the joys we find in services are as golden holidays;
Not a "blue day" on the list, Every cloud by sunshine kists,
Dwelling 'neath hopes beaming rays
In God's calendar of days.
Melodies of Praise #116

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Heidi Rinkenberger
Jacki Masters**

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

Luke 10:2

We are so thankful that our Bible class students will be able to labor in the fields of harvest this next summer as they travel to Jamaica on a mission trip. Our congregation recently held an auction for our Bible Class students to raise money for their trip to Jamaica. The auction was a huge success and we are so thankful to all who gave of their time, money, and resources in making the auction such a success.

The ISU Bible class has been such an important part of our congregation, and we were also thankful to share in a Benefit Dinner for their mission trip to Magdalena, Mexico.

Thank you to our Bradford, IL, congregation for hosting an evening singing this month — what a blessing it was to all who attended.

We continue to pray for our dear Sis. Bonnie (Bro. John) Traub, as she continues to recover from a serious accident this summer. What a blessing they both are to our congregation!

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Philip and Donna Nenadov**

On November 27, Madison Rae entered into the family of Bro. Brad and Sis. Rachel Kieser. Awaiting her arrival at home was her older brother Blake. Grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Ron and Sis. Deann Baer. We wish God's richest blessings on this dear family as they raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago) and Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington). We wish them God's blessings for their labors of love on our behalf.

We welcome Sis. Elizabeth Conzo back to our congregation after her work took her to the Kansas City area for a period of time.

Kayla Shernak and Stacy Wagenbach (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara) have made it known that they have found peace with God and man and desire to be baptized in the near future. We are thankful for each of our converts and encourage them to seek Him earnestly every day of their repentance.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our deep appreciation for your love, support, and prayers upon the passing of our dear mother. Mom had a deep love and concern for her Bradford church family. She now awaits the day when she can be reunited in all eternity with her beloved brethren from Bradford.

The Family of Doris Guingrich

God be with you 'til we meet again.

**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Jackie Eisenmann**

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! Our congregation has had the opportunity to remember several of our loved ones in prayer this past month. Many have lost loved ones and had the experience of saying good-bye. Bro.

Sam and Sis. Pam Furrer and their son, Bro. Joel, lost Sam's stepfather, Bro. Les Zimmerman (Sis. Louise) of Forrest. Bro. Josh Schmidgall mourned the loss of his uncle, Bro. David (Sis. Janet) of Morris, MN. Bro. Brent and Sis. Janelle Young said good-bye to Janelle's grandmother, Sis. Oleda Menold (Morton, IL). Sis. Sarah Drake lost her dear grandmother, Mary Anne Beagles of Springfield, IL. May God comfort and bless all those that mourn a loss.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

Our congregation is enjoying getting to know two new families who are new to Champaign. We welcome converts, Eric and Marissa Bahler, and their son, Elliot. We also welcome Bro. Shane and Sis. Sarah Aberle and their children, Seth and Addie. We are always glad to welcome new families into our congregation. We know they will be a blessing to us and we thank God for them.

We want to thank the visiting ministers who came and preached God's Word to us this past month. Bro. David Obergfel (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) spent Wednesday evenings with us. Elder Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) was here Sunday, November 21, for Memorandum. We thank these Brothers for their time and willingness. May God bless them in their ministries.

Especially at this time of year, it is good to remember those less fortunate. We have had that opportunity this past month. Sunday, November 14, we gathered for a hymn sing and afterwards packed Operation Christmas Child boxes that will be taken overseas and given to children who most likely will receive no other Christmas gifts. The next Saturday, our Sunday School children shopped and packed Thanksgiving Food baskets to give to several local hurting families. We are

thankful to have this chance to reach out to those in need and help in a small way, while being thankful for blessings God bestows.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We were blessed this month to have visiting ministers, Bro. Loren Schrenk, (St. Louis, MO), and Bro. Kevin Banwart, (West Bend, IA), share God's Word with us. May God bless you.

Sis. Lucille Koehl is struggling with some health problems. Our prayers go out to her and those taking care of her. How thankful we are that God sees each of us in our need.

We extend sincere sympathy to our Bro. Ben Funk upon the passing of his mother, Sis. Shirley Funk. Our prayers are with him and his family during this time of loss.

Our annual Sunday School Wiener Roast was held October 23 at Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter's home. Thank you to everyone involved in making the event a success. It was a blessing to be together.

On October 24, the engagement of our Bro. Rick Kaisner (son of Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice, Peoria, IL) to Sis. Michelle Knapp of Goodfield (daughter of Sis. Judy Knapp and the late Stan Knapp) was announced. We rejoice with these dear ones and pray God will lead them as they make decisions for their future. Congratulations!

Our Learning Together Topical Bible Study continued Wednesday evening, October 27. We enjoyed discussing our need for the vine and what that means for each one.

On October 29 we commemorated Christ's sacrifice during our Fall Communion Service. He died so that each one may live. What a blessing.

A retirement dinner was held for Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy Eisenmann on October 30. Many memories were shared, along with songs and deep gratitude for this dear couple's service. We love them and thank God for His provi-

sion.

A Topical Bible Study was held November 10 titled, Why "Bad" Things Happen to God's People. We thank Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) for taking the time to teach from God's Word.

We are pleased to welcome Sis. Maggie Schrenk from Gridley to our Chicago church family. Sis. Maggie is studying Midwifery at UIC and we pray she will feel at home with us.

Finally, I recently received a text from a dear friend who was in great distress. She wrote that she had no words to say and requested prayer. How many of us have felt the same? Overwhelmed and in distress...fightings within, fears without...dare I say hopeless with no solution in sight? God knew His children would face times like these. In His Word it is written, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Romans 8:26)

May God be with each one.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Vickie Maul

Marilyn Maul

We thank Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington) who willingly came to feed our flock this month.

November 12 was our World Relief family night. It is such a blessing to see young and old working together in the service of the Lord.

We extend our sympathy to Jim and Betty Hofbauer in the passing of her mother, Geraldine Bement.

We are so thankful that Adam Kaeb (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise) has answered God's call and has come to Him in repentance. May the Lord continue to lead and guide him.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Holly Zobrist

We have been blessed with a num-

ber of visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman) was with us for the Memorandum. Other visiting ministers include Bro. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield), Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington), Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka), and Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield).

November 7 was the wedding day of Bro. Arlen Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine, Eureka) and Sis. Marisa Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary). May the Lord be near them as they walk the road to Heaven as one in Christ.

Doug Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne) and Michelle Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ellen) were also married this past month. May God richly bless them as well as they start this new stage in their lives.

Ring the bells of Heaven There is joy today,
For a soul returning from the wild;
See! The Father meets him out upon the way,
Welcoming His weary, wand'ring child.

Tabernacle Hymns #202

We were thankful to hear that Nathan Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie) has answered God's call and has decided to start repenting. Our prayers are with him as he starts this journey to Heaven.

Our hearts go out to Sis. Glenna Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake) as her mom, Lois Marquadt, has passed away. May she and her family feel God's nearness during this time. Lois's husband, Dave, has moved out here from Indiana and is living with Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna. It's nice to have him in the area.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and

Friends,

Once again we thank you for all your prayers, love, sympathy, and support, but this time, because of our Mother and Grandmother's sudden passing from this life. There was no time for all the family to gather around her bedside to say goodbye or sing to her or have a prayer. Thanks for the gifts, cards, flowers, and memorials. Thanks to all who took part in the funeral or graveside services and the meal at the church. May God bless each of you for any act of kindness you bestowed upon us.

Love in Christ,

Sis. Susan Funk, Ruth Funk, Connie Hasty, Bro. Roger and Sis. Bonnie Funk & family, Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Funk & family, Doug and Sis. Miriam Kath & family, Bro. Larry and Sis. Sara Gerber and Kylie, Bro. James Funk and Bro. Ben Funk

May the good Lord watch over the graves where our Dad & Grandpa and Mom & Grandma now lay with a blessed hope awaiting the glorious resurrection.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

"I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Rev. 22:16-17

We thank Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), and Nathan Walder (Cissna Park, IL) for serving us through their recent ministry.

Sis. Brienne Martin (Ben) gave her testimony and was baptized the weekend of October 23-24. May the joy of her salvation be precious to her life-

long.

We rejoice with Bro. Greg Schambach and Sis. Heather Steffen, whose engagement was announced October 31. Their parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois Steffen and Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach.

Our sympathy is with Chuck Feucht, whose mother-in-law passed away November 6. Sis. Oleda Menold had been a resident of Apostolic Christian Restmor in Morton.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier

Three marriages were performed this month: Bro. Arlen Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine) to Sis. Marissa Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary, Congerville); Bro. Evan Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris) to Sis. Emily Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie, Silverton, OR); and Doug Schmidgall (Bro. Mikel and Sis. Dianne) to Michelle Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ellen, Congerville). "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Bro. Mark and Sis. Kate Dotterer, Reagan and Bailey welcomed Claire Isabelle. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer and Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine Frank. Bro. Jeffry, Sis. Allison and Esther Huber welcomed Leah Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber and Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole Ehnle. First-time parents, Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Becca Leman, also welcomed Travis Dale. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman and Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene Leman.

Hospitalized and in our prayers this month were Jonathan Blunier (Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine), Bro. Roy Hangartner (Sis. Norma), Bro. Ben Blunier (Sis. Wilma) and Sis. Frieda Gerber.

Bro. Maury and Sis. Joyce Crawford grieve over the sudden loss of their daughter, Sis. Dianne Crawford

(Roanoke). Sis. Lisa Schmidgall (Bro. Mark) also was saddened over the death of her stepmother, Carolyn Fenner (Bill) of El Paso, IL.

We appreciate the visits of visiting ministers, Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield), Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Bro. Rich Gramm (South Bend) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO).

We were blessed by God's Spirit as the Letter of Memorandum was read and expounded on by our Elder Bro. Steve and Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL).

Robbie DeSigne (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy) was deployed to Afghanistan. Prayers on his behalf are appreciated.

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express the overwhelming love we have felt from others since Dianne's passing. Thank you to everyone for the food, monetary memorials, cards, PRAYERS and other acts of kindness shown to us. We will miss her, but we know she is in a better place and we look forward to seeing her again. God bless you.

Maury and Joyce Crawford
Steve, Lynn, Chris and Ashley
Ron, Terri and Ryan

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Angela Herr
Kay Steffen

On October 31 our Bible Class hosted Bible Classes from the Bradford, Roanoke, Remington, and Wolcott congregations. We were thankful to have Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) in our midst and then with our Bible Class for this occasion.

Other visiting ministers serving our congregation this month were Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. Troy

Leyse (Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). We thank each of these brothers for sharing God's Word with us and pray that He will richly bless them.

"...there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

We are thankful for four souls who have recently answered God's call and made a beginning in repentance. Our prayers are with Timothy Hartman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy), Thane Zehr (Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan), Lynette Waldbeser (Jim and Sis. Renae), and Walter Moser (Sis. Julia and late Bro. Doug) as they each begin their walk with the Lord.

We also rejoice with our new sister in the Lord, Sis. Luella Stephens, who shared a testimony of her faith and was baptized on November 8.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those recovering from recent surgeries, including Bro. Warren Zehr (Sis. Dolores), Sis. Ione Broquard (Bro. Donald), and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen). Bro. Melvin Zimmerman, Bro. Harvey Schieler (Sis. Jan), and William Fehr (Helen) have also spent time in the hospital. May God heal and provide for each one.

On November 14 we sang a farewell hymn to Sis. Anna Lou VanAntwerp who is now, due to illness, making her home in Missouri with her daughter. Even though the miles separate us, we continue to lift Sis. Anna Lou up in prayer.

Our prayers also continue to be with Sis. Renee Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys) who has felt God's leading to stay in Haiti longer than originally planned. She has now accepted a teaching position at the missionary school on the MEBSh compound. May she feel God's nearness and grace as she works in Haiti.

Several in our congregation have recently experienced the loss of a loved

one. We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Mike and Sis. Jen Feuchtenberger in the unexpected death of their brother-in-law, Bro. David Schmidgall (Sis. Janet) of Morris, MN, on October 26. Bro. David was also a nephew and cousin to many others in our congregation. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family as they grieve the loss of their loved one.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Elsie Bachtold (Bro. Willis) and Sis. Louise Hartman (Bro. Warren) in the loss of their sister-in-law, Sis. Oleda Menold of Morton, who passed away on November 6. May the comfort of the Holy Spirit be felt amongst each one.

Note of Thanks:

We want to give special thanks for the love and prayers and the food that was brought to us while we were both laid up. May God richly bless each and every one of you.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Colleen Walter

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lisa Aberle
Lynn Dotterer**

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

Eph. 5:20

Elizabeth Kaeb (Morris Kaeb and Brenda Mueller), Anna Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill), Rollin Wenger (Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill), Philip Zimmerman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stephanie), Arlen Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Joel Steidinger (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sheila), Matthew Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy), and Karla Edelman (Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany) have begun their repentance. We are thankful to God for His call and the grace He provides!

Thankful for God's provision are Sis. Kathy Dotterer and Bro. Dan Banwart as they announce their engagement. They are looking forward to a December 19 wedding. Jason Leman

(Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol) and Brooke Young (Mike and Mary Young) have announced their engagement.

Thankful for the safe arrival of Braden Jeffrey are Bro. Brett, Sis. Jennifer, and Mitchell Gutwein. Braden's grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein and Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn Martin (Eureka, IL). Brock Allen Schmidgall is welcomed home by his parents, Bro. Trent and Sis. Tiffany. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schmidgall and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman. Bro. Gary and Sis. Betsy Leman are thankful for Peter Wayne. His grandparents are Bro. Phil and Charlotte Leman and Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly Steidinger.

Sis. Viola Metz (Bro. Chris), Beth Ann Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary), Sis. Velma Jean Ifft (Bro. Harvey), and Teri Wenger (Sam) were our hospital patients this month. We can be so thankful God hears and answers prayer!

Bro. Lester Zimmerman passed away, and we grieve with his wife, Sis. Louise. Also surviving are his children and step-children: Steve (Patsy), Jay (Roberta), Sam (Karla), Cal (Ann), Peggy DeFries (Alan), Julie Cotter (Jack), and Bro. Sam Furrer (Sis. Pam, Champaign, IL). Sis. Doris Kachelmuss has our sympathies also as Bro. Les was her brother.

Sis. Donna Leman and Sis. Ruth Roth suffered a loss this month. Their sister, Sis. Oleda Menold (Morton, IL), passed away. May God comfort each heart!

We thank Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL), Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL), and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) for ministering to us. We are thankful God provides brothers who are willing to teach us.

Feeling God's direction, Bro. Shane, Sis. Sarah, Seth and Addie Aberle have decided to make Cham-

paign, IL, their home church. We will miss them, but we wish them God's richest blessings!

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Kayla Wiegand
Donna Wyss**

Two couples became first-time parents on November 17! Harvey Keenan was born to Bro. Jared and Sis. Angie Schieber. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber (Congerville) and Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy Schmidgall. Herman and Sara (Baer) Glueck were blessed with a daughter, Miriam Joy. What a blessing babies are.

Our prayers and sympathy go to Sis. Helen Bauman (Bro. Les) since her sister, Sis. Shirley Funk (Congerville), passed away.

We are very thankful that Tyler Rocke (Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha) has begun his repentance. May we all be prayerful for him and each convert.

The Lord has worked in the lives of four dear souls. Sis. Michelle Knapp (Sis. Judy) and Bro. Rick Kaisner of Chicago (Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice, Peoria) had their engagement announced on October 24 and they plan to get married February 13. The next Sunday, Bro. Craig Wiegand (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kary) and Sis. Marla Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam) became engaged and they're planning their wedding for January 30. May God bless each of these families.

We need to lift up each one in prayer who have had accidents or illness. Our Sis. Carol Martin, Sis. Vi Wagner, Bro. Wilbur Heinold, and Mark (Sarah) Wirtz (son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila) would appreciate it.

May God bless Bro. Michael Rieker (Sis. Carol Anne, Peoria) for ministering unto us on our Wednesday night Bible Study. He spoke to us about David's sins and his repentance.

Notes of Thanks:

Our precious church family has been so gracious to us by such an out-

pouring of special prayers for my healing and for my family to carry on. It's amazing what the Lord can do with the help of His children. Thank you and God bless each one of you near and far. My cancer is in remission and I completed my first maintenance treatment. It went well.

Sis. Carolyn (and Bro. Donnie) Ott

Words cannot say how much we appreciate all of our dear church friends and friends from a distance that sent us cards on our 60th wedding anniversary. We appreciate each and every one of you and thank you for making it such a special memory.

Love, Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla Wiegand

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

The Word of God teaches us to pray without ceasing. It also says to "abound" with thanksgiving. While pleading and beseeching are both a part of many of our prayers, we are nonetheless supposed to "abound" in thanking God. Surely, we have many, many reasons to continually be thanking God, as He blesses us richly in many ways each day.

Our church hosted the Detroit, MI, choir on the weekend of November 6-7. Visiting ministers were Bro. Randy Gasser and Bro. Jesse Bedolla who also sang with the choir, and Bro. John Rassi (Tremont).

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) who were here on November 14. May God bless their efforts.

We are sorry to report the death of Sis. Oleda Menold, 93, of Morton, the mother of Sis. Mary Witzig and Sis. Twyla Schlipf.

Bro. Brock Wiegand and Bro. Roy Hodel had surgical procedures this month. Scott Kiefer suffered a broken heel in a fall from a scaffold. Mercy Stoller, 2, suffered a broken leg in a fall. She is the daughter of Bro. Jeff and Sis.

Cynde Stoller.

On November 21, Sis. Mindy Campbell was married to Bro. Joel Stickling of Peoria. She is the daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Marcia Campbell. He is a son of the Chris Sticklings of Peoria. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Tim Funk and Bro. Craig Stickling (both of Peoria).

The funeral of Bro. John E. Schlipf, 80, was held on November 18. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Carolyn, Bloomington. Also, a son, J. D. Schlipf, Colorado Springs, CO; and three daughters, Sis. Susan Schlipf, Bloomington, Ann Benson, Cascade, CO, and Susan Schweigart, Tremont. Five grandchildren also survive him. We offer our sincere sympathies to this family.

Sis. Betty Klopfenstein, 78, passed away and her funeral was held on Friday, November 26. She is survived by three children, Bro. Paul Klopfenstein, Bloomington, Sis. Patti Klopfenstein, Gridley, and Gary Klopfenstein, Evanston, IL. Also, two grandchildren survive her, Lane and Joel Klopfenstein, Evanston. She is survived, too, by one sister, Sis. Hazel Huette, Normal, and one brother, Clyde Koehl, Tarpon Springs, FL, a sister-in-law, Velma Koehl, Forrest, and a brother-in-law, Ronald "Bump" Steidinger, Forrest. Sis. Betty was married for 25 years to Bro. Carlton "Carsh" Klopfenstein, who passed away on March 24, 1981. Sis. Betty will be remembered for her gentle disposition, and for her meek and quiet spirit.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr**

I heard of a young child that commented to his family that one of the reasons he looked forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas was because the whole family had to be "stuck together!" No one had to go off to work, school, or activities! Isn't this just like our Father in Heaven would want us to be with Him, "Stuck together?" No

busyness - just sweet devotional fellowship! As the Christmas season approaches, take time for the most important PREPARATIONS. Prepare your heart to worship the King - KING JESUS.

Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley) so graciously came to Morton to give our Family Worship topic "The Story of the Fiery Furnace". The courage Almighty God imparted to those three young believing men in that day is the same awesome courage He offers us today. Is it our desire to develop this kind of intimate relationship with our God so that we will know, without a doubt, this same courage?

We appreciate our visiting ministers. Our thanks to: Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North), Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington), Bro. Ron Allenbach (Sis. Lois, Kiowa), Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha).

Sis. Oleda Menold (late Bro. Herman) was called Home on November 6. May the Lord bless and comfort her three sons, Thomas (Sheryl), Greg (Linda), and Brad (Jacquetta) Menold; and also her four daughters, Sis. Elizabeth (Bro. Dennis) Feucht, Sis. Mary (Bro. Jerome) Witzig, Susan (David) Chadwick, and Sis. Twyla (Bro. Arthur) Schlipf.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

October 24 was a special day for Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner, as their son, Bro. Rick Kaisner, Chicago, was announced to Sis. Michelle Knapp, daughter of Sis. Judy Knapp and the late Stan Knapp (Goodfield).

Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Elizabeth Calame welcomed their first child, Jordan Daniel, on October 23. His grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker, and Bro. John and Sis. Jody Calame (Rittman). Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie Hoerr became grandparents on October 30 when Obadiah William Steffen was born. His parents are Bro.

Brett and Sis. Olivia Steffen, and Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen (Cissna Park) are his paternal grandparents.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Peter (Sis. Mabel) Weber, whose sister, Margrit Rentsch, Zuerich, Switzerland, passed away October 26. She is survived by her husband, Walter Rentsch, and Harry, Ronny, and Brigitte Rentsch.

We rejoice with Bro. Frederick and Sis. Jodi (Kieser) Leman, who were united as one in the Lord on November 7. Parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Kieser, and Dennis and Sis. Karen Leman (Roanoke). The couple is making their home in Denver.

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver) and Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver) who were visiting for the wedding; Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton) who ministered on our Wednesday night family night, November 3; and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley) who preached the Word on Sunday, November 14.

The pre-k, kindergarten, first, and second grade Sunday School students, and the Mortonaires sang for and with us at our family hymn sing November 7. What a blessing to hear young and not-so-young sing praises to God!

Apostolic Christian Skylines held a soup dinner and auction fundraiser November 13 at the Fellowship Hall. Lighthouse Academy held their annual fundraiser November 4. Many thanks to all who participated to help our dear youth and elderly family and friends.

Many in our congregation are in need of prayer for various health issues. These include Sis. Mary Swadley, Mae Thomas, Sis. Ella Plattner, Sis. Barb Schafer, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Dave) Obergfel, Bro. Mel (Sis. Margaret) Getz, Bro. Verle (Sis. Vonnie) Kieser, Bro. David (Sis. Rita) Sauder, Bro. Bill (Sis. Joyce) Waibel, and Dave (Sue) Diggle. Also remember to pray for our missionary families, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, and Bro. Isaac Funk, Haiti, and Bro. Jonathan

and Sis. Bere Aupperle, Magdalena.

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to all for your prayers and support shown to all of us during the difficult latter days of Bro. Bob's life here on earth and since his death. He had a special relationship with so many. We pray that God will bless each of you for all of the kindness shown in so many ways to all of us through the years.

Sis. Lorene Joos and family

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Linda Joos Connie Christ

"Speak the gospel of salvation, Boldly in the wilderness."

Zion's Harp #112, v. 4

We were privileged to hear the Memorandum letter read and expounded to us by our Elder Bro. Jim and Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) on November 6. May we continue to pray for our dear Elder Brothers that the Word can continue to be spoken boldly in this day and time.

We were also blessed with many other visiting ministering brothers this month. We thank them and their families for being willing servants in bringing God's Word. This month our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), and Bros. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL).

"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases:" (Psalm 103:3) We are so thankful we can commit all with physical infirmities to our Heavenly Father. Sis. Doris (Bro. Walter) Christ recently had knee surgery and Bro. Darin (Sis. Keri) Blunier was also recently hospitalized. We pray for them as well as many who find themselves in need of physical healing.

On October 1, Bro. Noah and Sis. Evalyn Herrmann were privileged to celebrate 60 years of marriage. May God continue to be very near and bless and provide in His love and kindness.

Our dear Sis. Janet Martin-Joos recently moved to an apartment at Sky-lines. We are thankful she is enjoying her new home, and pray that God will continue to bless her in her new environment.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jamie Hodel

Judy Sauder

Our congregation has once again been blessed in the birth of babies. On October 20, Kate Elizabeth was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Colleen Byrd. Older siblings are: Bro. Craig, Joshua, Jesse, Karen, Ryan, Benjamin, and Daniel. Grandparents of Kate are Sis. Clara Fischer and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sara Byrd. Bro. Drew and Sis. Amanda Leman welcomed home Simone Bay on October 20. Older brothers are Will and Miles. Grandparents of Simone are Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Zimmerman (Morton) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Jeanne Leman. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita Hodel became grandparents again on October 20 when Tenley Hope came to bless the home of Bro. Kirk and Sis. Wendy Prather (Washington). Big sister Ella and paternal grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene Prather (Washington) also welcome her. On November 6, Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy Hohulin welcomed a new grandson, Kobe Nash. Kobe was born to Jerime and Staci Barrett of Eureka and is welcomed home by older sister and brother, Reagan and Zion.

October 22 was the wedding date of Kevin Hodel and Liana Manlove, both of Indianapolis. Kevin's parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita Hodel. Liana's parents are Larry and Diana Manlove of Crawfordsville, IN. Sunday, November 7, Bro. Frederick

Leman (Dennis and Sis. Karen) married Sis. Jodi Kieser of Peoria (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy). We pray each of these couples can feel God's nearness as they begin their lives together.

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:4

October 23 and 24 were the testimonies and baptisms of Laura Fehr (John and Jane) and Seth Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty). We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria) with us for the weekend. November 13-14 we were able to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Hannah Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet). Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley) was with us on Sunday for the baptism.

Our young group has lovingly served our congregation this month. The annual Harvest Party was held on October 30 for the youth in our congregation. Then, on November 6, assistance in raking leaves was offered to the elderly in our congregation. We pray God will bless each who served for their kindness.

Our Bible Class was invited to Fairbury on October 31. We pray this weekend was a blessing to each student involved.

On October 27, Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield) joined us for our monthly family worship. His topic covered I Peter 3:8.

Also ministering to us this month were Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

Our congregation was reminded how fleeting life can be when our Sis. Dianne Crawford suddenly went to be with the Lord on November 4. Our prayers continue to be with her parents, Bro. Maurice and Sis. Joyce Crawford (Eureka), and brothers, Steve (Lynn) Crawford of Eureka and Ron (Terri) Crawford of Washington.

Bro. Randy Beer (Milford) was with us for the funeral. Our sympathy is also extended to others of our congregation who have lost loved ones in the past month. Grayce Haning (East Peoria), mother of John (Sis. Barb) Gastman passed away October 26. Bro. Dan (Sis. Kim) Maher's mother, Dorothy Maher of Princeville, passed away November 11.

Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington) was with us for our November family worship. His topic was, "At the Crossroad, Who Do You Love?"

On November 14, we welcomed back home to our Roanoke congregation Bro. Marty and Sis. Marti Rumbold who have been living in Monterrey, Mexico.

We rejoice with Bro. Glen and Sis. Carol Martin in the engagement of their daughter, Cassie, to Dustin Schumacher of Washington. Dustin's parents are Karen Schumacher of Washington and Mike and Deb Schumacher of Roanoke.

Psalm 34:17 "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth..." Our congregation is holding Bro. Rich (Sis. Janet) Knepp up in prayer as he faces a stem cell transplant.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell

Janice Sauder

We want to thank Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) for coming and sharing the gospel with us this past month. May God richly reward him and grant grace for his continued ministry.

We wish God's blessings upon Derek Kaiser (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy) and Meaghan Van Dyke (Nate and Jeni Troyer, and Jeff and Kathy Van Dyke) as they are engaged to be married. Derek and Meaghan are planning to wed in December of this year.

Our congregation has laid to rest two dear sisters-in-faith this past month. Our Sis. Emma Aberle's funeral was held on October 22. Sis. Emma had the privilege of serving the

Lord for 85 years—what a blessing. We extend sympathy to her children, Duane (Barbara) Aberle of Morton and Sis. Mary Jane (Bro. Dean) Leuthold of Tremont; five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. One sister, Sis. Wilma (Bro. Emil) Aberle, also survives her.

Isaiah 43:1-2 “But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

These words of comfort were read at the funeral service of our Sis. Nancy Koch on November 17. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Bro. Cleo; her three children, Sis. Rachel (Bro. Jim) Sauder, Bro. Nathan (Sis. Sandi) Koch, and Bro. Nelson (Sis. Mary) Koch; and fifteen grandchildren, all of Tremont; four step-children, Sheryl (David) Wingert of Atlanta, GA, Mary Lou (Herb) Fritz of Durham, NC, Gary (Marlee) Koch of Vashon, WA, and John (Dawn) Koch of Evanston, IL; eight step-grandchildren; and eleven step-great-grandchildren. Of her surviving brothers and sisters, four are from Tremont: Bro. David (Sis. Eunice) Beutel, Bro. Alvin (Sis. Carol) Beutel, Bro. Fred (Sis. Jeannette) Beutel, and Sis. Ruth (Bro. Vernon) Koch. May God continue to comfort these grieving families.

Sis. Kathy (the late Bro. Nelson) Rocke has a new granddaughter to love, Emma Sue. She is the daughter of Bro. Doug and Sis. Trisha Rocke of Elgin, IA. Bro. Aaron and Sis. Katie Ehnle also have a new daughter, Ali Kate, born October 27. Ali's big sister, Brianna, and grandparents, Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane Ehnle (Bradford, IL) also welcome her home.

October 31 was the last Sunday Sarah Miehle-Honecker assembled with

our congregation. Sarah is the fifteen-year-old daughter of Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel's cousins from Germany, who spent the first three months of the school year living with them and attending our local high school. God bless you, Sarah, and we hope you can visit in the U.S. again!

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Zuercher's son-in-law, David (Tammy) Callan, is expecting to be deployed to Afghanistan for six months on December 2. May we keep Dave, and all our soldiers, in our prayers, for God's loving, protecting hand over each one.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Linda Folkerts

Nancy Leman

What joy I feel, what peace is mine
as I my all to Thee resign!
Redemption, Lord, Thou didst achieve;
My Jesus I will never leave!

Hymns of Zion #259

Our congregation was blessed to share in the joy of our new brother-in-Christ, Dean Kellenberger, as he shared his testimony and was then baptized the weekend of October 30-31. He is the son of the late Bro. Gene and late Sis. Velma Kellenberger and the brother of Bro. Ron (Sis. Carole) and Bro. Randy (Sis. Ruth) Kellenberger of our congregation. We appreciated Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) sharing the Word with us that weekend.

Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka) and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton) on October 24, Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria) and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria) on November 14, and Bro. Jeff Niehouser (Sis. Susan, Morton) on November 17 for our monthly topical Bible study. We want to thank these dear brothers for their service in the Lord.

Bro. Kirk and Sis. Wendy Prather welcomed a precious baby girl, Tenley Hope, into their hearts and home on

October 20. Her big sister, Ella, and grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene Prather (Washington) and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita Hodel (Roanoke), are also delighted to welcome her.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa Beyer and their family have recently moved to Leo to serve as houseparents at Gateway Woods. We miss their loving presence here in our Washington congregation but are confident they are being warmly welcomed in Leo. May God bless them in this endeavor.

We are prayerful for Bro. Andy Mogler who recently had cardiac stents put in. May he feel our love and prayers.

On Thanksgiving Day, our dear Bro. Ed Teubel was taken from our presence into eternity after a long struggle with various health problems. He was a pillar in our Washington church and had a significant part in its beginning. May the Lord be with his wife, Sis. Louise, his children, Bro. Mark (Sis. Marti) Teubel, Keith (Jill) Teubel of Washington, and Marie (Thomas) Bertolon of Peoria, AZ, his grandchildren and extended family. May they feel our prayers of sympathy and love.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Kim Meyer

Suzie Fiechter

This past month, God has again faithfully fed us with the meat of His Word. We've been challenged to yield to Him as Master Sculptor, inviting Him to chip away anything that doesn't resemble His son or daughter. We've been reminded of the importance of the head covering, and its representation of God's ordained line of authority. Our dear Elder Bro. Lynn exhorted us to strive to be strangers and pilgrims, caring not what the world thinks, but only what God thinks. Our special service on church unity encouraged us to cling together under the headship of Jesus Christ, dying to self and sloppy living. We are so

thankful for each one who proclaims God's Word in truth! Now our responsibility is to joyfully receive it and apply it to our daily lives. We pray for His grace to do His will!

Our congregation has had many opportunities to rejoice together, weep together, pray and work together. As we grow together in the Lord, our desire is that we draw others to Him as we live to glorify Him.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

John 13:35

We rejoice in the miracle of new life, physically and spiritually. Bro. Jason and Sis. Joni Fiechter gave birth to Dane Jason on October 24. He is also welcomed by sister, Kinsey, and grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim Sinn (Latty, OH), Dave Fiechter and June Fiechter. Bro. Blaine and Sis. Tonia Isch, along with Ethan, Isabel and Simon, praise God for the safe arrival of Hadie Linae on October 24. Grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Raber and Bro. Les and Sis. Ann Isch. Case William has blessed the home of Bro. Alex, Sis. Shauna and Adler Neuenschwander. His grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean Neuenschwander and Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter. May God grant each of these families the grace to train their children in His ways.

"That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments."

Psalm 78:6-7

Abby Frauhiger (Bro. Chris and Sis. Sarah) and Austin Miller are seeking the Lord in repentance. We pray for His guidance in their lives as they seek Him!

God has also worked in the lives of Bro. Abe Habegger of Milford (Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane, Bluffton), and Sis. Julie Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb, Milford) as their engagement was announced.

We rejoice with Bro. Kreigh Aschliman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Bekah Yergler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg, Bluffton North), as they were united in marriage on October 17.

An incredible testimony of love and faithfulness, Bro. Earl and Sis. Marge Stucky celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. We've all been blessed by their life and marriage. Their children are Sis. Kathy Stucky (Bro. Rick - dec.) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Carol Stucky. Another wonderful example to us has been Bro. Bob and Sis. Evie Gerber, who celebrated their 60th anniversary. Bro. Bob and Sis. LuAnn Gerber (Wolcott), Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky Gerber and Bro. Kim and Sis. Lisa Troxel are their children.

Death is so bittersweet. We mourn the loss of loved ones, yet rejoice that they are "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Little Burke Tonner, 6 days old, went to be with the Lord on October 15. We lift up his family in prayer: Bro. Brent, Sis. Rachele, Brittney, Brendon, Sis. Kaitlin, Madison, Riley, Brody, Brayson and Ashlyn, along with grandparents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann Tonner and Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber.

Grieving the loss of their mother and grandmother is the family of Sis. Beulah Schwartz (Bro. Howard - dec.). We extend our love and sympathy to Gary and Sis. Sharon Merritt, Bro. Gary and Sis. Barb Schwartz, Bro. Dale and Sis. Joni Schwartz, their children and grandchildren.

Sis. Irene Reinhard (Bro. Aaron - dec.) went Home on November 10. Our prayers are with her children, Don and Sharon Reinhard, Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Reinhard, Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bro. Gerald (Shorty) Fiechter (Sis. Eunic) has been hospitalized, as well as

Bro. Zach Bertsch (Sis. Jenny) and Katelyn Pfister (Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber of Les Ceyes, Haiti). Our desire is that they would be healed, yet we pray for God's will in each of their lives. Bro. Zach is a young husband and daddy who's been battling cancer for almost a year. For anyone who would want to remember them, their address is: Bro. Zach and Sis. Jenny Bertsch, 1037 E. Spring St. Bluffton, IN 46714.

A church family our size has many opportunities and activities that signify a healthy growing body. Hosted by our young singles, a "Love One Another" supper and singing was held for all singles, widows and widowers. A topical presentation, "Learning more about why individuals do the things they do and pray the way they pray" was held on November 7. Loving Shepherd Ministries held its annual "Picture of Love" live concert on Saturday, November 13.

Family hymn sings, World Relief sewing, extra high school and middle school activities, work projects, adoption and troubled teen ministries, benefit auctions, mission trips and special holiday collections have all taken place this past month. We don't have to look far to find many ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus, while loving and serving each other!

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser**

We give Thee thanks, Oh Lamb of God,
that on the cross beam Thou hast bought
for us salvation, peace and grace.
Thanks and Prayer, Zion's Harp

We rejoice with the angels as another soul has accepted the blood of Jesus! Livia Frauhiger has begun her walk with the Lord this month. She is the daughter of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger.

On October 17, Bro. Kreigh Aschliman (Bluffton) and Sis. Rebekah Yergler were united in marriage. We rejoice with them and pray for God's blessings on their new life together.

Along with his family, our congregation mourns the loss of Bro. Paul Dotterer who went to be with the Lord on October 16. His wife, Sis. Phyllis, survives along with their four children, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Gordon) Gerber (Morton, IL), Sis. Susan (Bro. Doug) Dailey, Sis. Sally, and Bro. Jeff (Sis. Lynn).

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Mildred Clauss
Jacki Huber**

Thanks to God for my Redeemer,
Thanks for all Thou dost provide
Thanks for times now but a memory;
Thanks for Jesus by my side!

Thanks for pain and thanks for pleasure,
Thanks for comfort in despair
Thanks for grace that none can measure,
Thanks for love beyond compare!

These lines are excerpts from a song that was sung at our Thanksgiving Program. The message of the evening seemed to be: we want to be thankful for hard times as well as good times because God knows the path we take and He provides the needed grace for all that He allows to come our way!

Our congregation partook of Holy Communion on the evening of November 20 and we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) here to assist our own Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein. On October 31, we were blessed to have Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton) to share the Word with us.

This month our Topical Bible Study, "A House of Prayer", was given by Bro. Randy Gudeman. We cannot be thankful enough for the efforts put forth and for the prayerful concern that all of our ministers have for the

Body of Christ. May the Lord richly bless each of them.

Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein and their family have returned to their responsibilities in Haiti after spending time here and we pray that God will continue to watch over them and give them grace and strength to do His work.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber and their family have returned home on a furlough from Jamaica. We welcome them with open arms and hearts and pray they can be refreshed and encouraged while they spend time here with their families and with the brotherhood.

Bro. Bruce Wuethrich is now at home and able to worship with us again; making a good recovery from serious injuries he suffered from a fall. Surely the Lord has been gracious to answer many prayers! Our prayers continue for other loved ones who have recently undergone surgery: Bro. Chris Welker, Bro. Larry Leman, Bro. Andre Neihouser and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich.

On October 26, my own dear brother, Bro. Chuck Anliker (wife, Sis. Margaret), completed his earthly journey and went to be with the Lord. He is also survived by two sons: Kenneth C. Anliker (wife, Terri) of Chalmers, IN, and Kurtis J. Anliker of Denver, CO, and three grandchildren, Christopher Anliker, Joshua Anliker and Tai Kralis; four siblings: Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz of Latty, OH, and Bro. Earl Anliker, Sis. Eleanor Bogart and Sis. Mildred Clauss of Francesville.

It was comforting to hear his friends and neighbors recall many kind deeds and good memories. When others review our earthly walk, what a blessing it is when the Fruit of the Spirit has been evident. I'm thinking of a sermon from our own pulpit when mention was made of the brightness of the moon on a clear night. We may think surely the moon itself is a source of light! But no matter how brightly it shines, it is a reflection of a greater light: that of the

sun! May our own lives reflect the "light of the Son" that those with whom we interact may see and know the goodness of the Lord.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Penny Schroder**

** Special Note: During our remodeling process, Sunday worship services are being held at Heritage Christian School, 6401 E. 75th St., Indianapolis 46250. Sunday services begin at 9:10 am. We anticipate moving back to our remodeled church building sometime in December; so, if you plan to visit Indianapolis church, please contact one of our ministers, who can provide more details. Also, once back in our new church, Sunday worship will begin at 9:45. This time is different than the time printed in the Apostolic Christian Churches and Ministers book.

We offer our sympathy to Sis. Sally Dotterer and her family as they recently experienced the loss of her father, Bro. Paul Dotterer (Bluffton North, IN). May God comfort them at this time and in the days ahead.

A large group from our church enjoyed an invitation from the Valparaiso, IN, church to worship with them on Sunday, November 7. During their Harvest Day service many hymns and scriptures were shared, reminding us of the Thanksgiving season. We appreciated the Christian love and fellowship that was shared with us that day.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Heather Hoerr welcomed their first child, Beckham Eli, into their family on November 11. Beckham's grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer (West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg Hoerr (Washington, IL).

As our remodeling process draws to a close, we had the opportunity to share in a special service at the nearly completed building on November 14. Bro. Wayne encouraged the church as we look towards the future and others re-

mind us of the importance of a church family and thanked those who had contributed so much toward the remodeling efforts.

On November 17, we shared in a special Thanksgiving program. Our Bible Class sang hymns that reminded us to be thankful, several couples talked about how God has given them reason to be thankful and the choir also shared a couple of hymns of worship. We have so much for which to be thankful, beginning with the salvation God has shared with us through Christ Jesus.

We appreciate the efforts of the following brothers who shared God's Word with us this past month: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL).

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Bethany Johnson Julie Rocke

Children are such a blessing and we are thrilled to have another new little baby in church! Bro. Rudy, Sis. Rosario and Nathan Troxel welcomed precious Maryana Nicole into their hearts and home this month. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Bertha Carrillo de Gonzalez and the late Javier Gonzalez of Ixtlan, Mexico, and Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel. Sis. Bertha is visiting Bro. Rudy and Sis. Rosario for a period of time and we're enjoying having her join us in worship.

Several from our congregation have been in the hospital, had surgery or undergone treatment this month. We are praying for the swift recovery and healing of Sis. Sis Zimmerman (Bro. Richard), Sis. Connie Knobloch, Sis. Margene Peasley (Bro. David) and Sis. Evie Heinold (Bro. Gene).

Bro. David and Sis. Margene Peasley's niece, Sis. Betty Popkes (Lester, IA), recently went home to be with our Lord. We pray that God would be with their family during this difficult time.

We rejoice with Reid Schneider (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie) as he was announced for peace. We look forward to hearing his and his sister Lindsey's testimonies and witnessing their baptisms the weekend after Thanksgiving. What a reason to be thankful!

It is always nice to have visiting ministers on our pulpit. We wish to thank Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) for his service to us this month.

The second weekend in November brought a nice group of visitors to Lacrosse. Many of them were getting together as a reunion from a trip some young brothers took a number of years ago. What a blessing those young group years are—the friendships we develop, the memories we make and the lasting brotherhood ties that are formed. Several others were also present just passing through. We always appreciate our visitors.

INDIANA, LEO Kirby Reutter

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

John 10:10

Much has transpired within the Leo flock over the past month, and the prevailing theme has been LIFE! First, we experienced the physical birth of a new baby; secondly, two converts confessed spiritual rebirth in Jesus Christ; and thirdly, we celebrated the Lord's Supper to commemorate the birth of the Church through the death of our Savior.

On October 23, Caleb Hunter Reutter was born to Bro. Kirby and Sis. Areli Reutter. "A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world" (John 16:21). Caleb's grandparents include Bro. Duane

and Sis. Kay Reutter (Rockville) as well as Felix and Sis. Lourdes Sibaja-Leon (Ixtlan). In addition, great-grandparents include Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park), Sis. Anna Marie Reutter (Gridley), and Guadalupe Martinez-Jarquín (Guadalajara, Mexico).

On November 6, two precious converts (Gavin Fritz and Jeremy Stieglitz) gave testimony to their regeneration in spirit. "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Gavin's thankful parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carla Fritz, while Jeremy's thankful parents are Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz. Both souls were baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the following day. Serving us throughout the weekend, we were very blessed to have our dear Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen) from our beloved Champaign congregation.

On November 17, we convened again as a church family to share the Lord's Supper. Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra) from the beloved Bluffton congregation reminded us that it was both the bread AND the wine (both the body that lived AND the blood that was shed, both the life of Christ AND the death of Christ) which purchased our salvation. Christ lived and died that we may likewise die and live—die to the flesh and live in the Spirit. Thank you, Bro. Steve, for such a wonderful reminder!

Many other dear brothers served us in the work of the ministry over the past month. In no particular order, these brothers and their dear wives include the following: Bro. Matthew and Sis. Rebekah Kaufman (Bloomington); Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick (Magdalena); Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry Pfister (Bluffton); Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach (Smithville); Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz (Junction); Bro. Neal and Sis. Kristine Widmer (West Lafayette); and Bro. Ronald and Sis. Lois Allenbach (Kiowa). Just in

this past year so far, we have had visiting ministers from coast to coast (California to Connecticut) as well as out of country (Mexico), and even overseas (Japan). What a blessed fellowship is ours!

By the time this article is published, Thanksgiving will have passed and Christmas will be around the corner. With Communion, Thanksgiving, and Christmas all in scope, what better reminders to be thankful for One who came to die that we might live!

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Pam Beer
Paula Haab**

It has been a busy month in Milford. We have had company, a wedding, an engagement, and those who have had health problems.

On October 24, many of us were able to go to Junction, OH, to be present at the wedding of our Bro. Regg Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Beverly Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily). As much as we would like to welcome her to Milford, they will be making their home in Ixtlan, Mexico, where Bro. Regg has been teaching. We pray for God to bless their marriage and their work there.

It was exciting to hear of a new home that will be established in Milford, when Bro. Dan Beer told us of his and Sis. Deb's daughter's engagement to Bro. Abe Habegger. Bro. Abe's parents, Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane, live in Bluffton, but we have been fortunate to have Bro. Abe be part of Milford for a few years.

On October 30, Bro. Matt and Sis Deanna Steffen (Princeville) and most of their family came to Milford. Bro. Matt enlightened us on all the labors of love and ongoing needs at the various homes of Timber Ridge in Morton. It was an humbling experience.

On that same Sunday, Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard (Bluffton) and their family took time away from their "Get Away Weekend" to worship with us. He joined Bro. Matt on the pulpit.

May God richly bless them for bringing us the Truth.

One Sunday we learned to appreciate our home ministers a little more when we found one alone on the pulpit. One was called away due to an untimely death in the family. One got the flu. One was on a Work Team. God was still with us!

Elder Bro. John and Sis. Marcia Laukhuf (Latty) were here on Saturday night, November 20, to assist our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter in reading the Memorandum. We thank him and invite him back for a Sunday. We appreciated Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily being here on Sunday and having Bro. Bill rightly divide the Word.

Our prayers were answered when a group of fourteen from our congregation were able to go to Magdalena and arrive home safely. They were given a special welcome by our Sis. Jody Beer who lives there.

We had a very timely Bible Study on modern technology which changes daily, some for the good, and some for the not-so-good. We truly must seek God's wisdom in our choices.

It seems there are always those who need extra prayers. Sis. Mayedean Lehman fell and broke her arm. Sis. Kathryn Price had surgery which resulted differently than anticipated. Little Cade Beer (Bro. Brent and Sis. Pam) had to miss Sunday School once when he had his tonsils removed.

We are thankful that recently some improvements could be made in our Fellowship Center and church along with some brothers working together to make a nice play area for the children by the Fellowship Center.

When you read this, it will be Christmas. What more can I say than to ask you to turn to #36 in the Hymns of Zion where our late Bro. Henry Beer penned the true meaning of Christmas. How important it is that we understand that it is not the Baby or the manger, but the Cross and Jesus, the man, that sets our spirit free.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Our dear Bro. Edwin Bahler (Sis. Lois) has moved to the Mulberry Retirement Community. We ask for your prayers as Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois adjust to this new living arrangement. His new address is:

Edwin Bahler
Mulberry Retirement Community
Lighthouse – Room 9B
502 W. Jackson St.
Mulberry, IN 46058

We ask for your prayers for our hospital patients this month. Bro. Eldon Getz (Sis. Charlene), Bro. Andy Getz (Sis. Gina), Bro. Mark Waibel, and Bro. Earl Kilgus all experienced time in the hospital recently. We ask the Lord to comfort and heal them during their recoveries.

Bro. Glenn Stoller (Sis. Edie) of Latty, OH, left this world and went to meet the Lord this month. Bro. Glenn was the father of our Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb) and the grandfather of Sis. Amanda Scheitlin (Bro. Jeremy), Sis. Lea Nieman (Bro. Dana), Bro. Evan Stoller, and Bro. Jesse Stoller. Our prayers go out to Sis. Edie and the rest of the family as they seek the Lord's comfort during this sorrowful time.

We enjoyed many visiting ministers this month. Our thanks to Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH) for sharing the Word with us. Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) was also here for the reading of the Memorandum. We count it a joy and a privilege to worship with brethren from across the miles, and we appreciate you sharing your time with us.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Rachel Langhofer
Craig Langhofer**

We are saddened for the loss of Aline

Merkle. She was 94 years old. Her father was a minister in the Wolcott church when German was spoken. In 1945, she earned her Doctorate in Chiropractic Medicine and ran a practice in Plymouth, IN, for over 50 years. In her 80's she moved to Parkview Haven in Francesville, where she finished her life, full of years and grace.

During this time of year in the U.S. we hear people complain about gaining too much weight. There are very few people in the world who are so blessed with abundance that they can be concerned about gaining weight. God has certainly showered His blessings upon us. May we prove ourselves good and faithful servants with the wealth He's entrusted to us.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

Each month as I sit down to prepare my report for the Silver Lining I have a prayer on my heart. I pray that I can write something given to me for inspiration. Today my inspiration is what a blessing to have the right to vote. One of the privileges of citizens of our country is the secret ballot. Today is Election Day and I am grateful to God we have the privilege to vote and can vote a secret ballot in the United States of America. Today Bob and I could go the polls, cast our vote, without telling anyone else for whom we voted; without being fearful of retaliation because we voted for the wrong person. My father, Elder Bro. Theo Beer, cherished his right to vote, and told all of his children and grandchildren, "You ought always to vote." I took him to the polling place in our little Jefferson Twp. in Kosciusko County, IN, when he was well into his 90's. He had informed himself about everyone on the ballot. I've tried to remember the lesson he taught me, and to always be grateful to our God and to our founding fathers, that we live in a country where this is still a privilege.

We were richly privileged to have Retired Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler and

his wife, Sis. Frances, worship with us on the first Sunday of this month. Bro. Alfred said he was fulfilling a promise to come to Valpo to worship, and to sit beside Bro. Merle Bucher. We all benefited from his promise, and it brought back many memories of times when Bro. Alfred served to assist our Elder in the Milford congregation.

We drove up into the church lot on the day of our Harvest Program and Dinner, knowing that ministering Bro. Greg Stieglitz, and Indianapolis church folks had been invited. When we saw a bus parked in back, we both felt excited. Our excitement proved to be well founded because over 60 members and friends accompanied Bro. Greg and Sis. Lisa and their family. The rafters of our church rang with beautiful singing, and the Sunday school was filled with children. Bro. Greg provided inspiration to us both morning and afternoon.

We had our Harvest Day service during the afternoon. We especially thank the Indianapolis Choir and Bro. Greg for the inspiration they provided for our program. There were so many meaningful songs and poems. I want to share one with you. It was written by Bro. Merle Bucher years ago and was read by Bro. Jon Pratt.

Nothing But Leaves

The farmer was weary at evening time,
His work for the day now was past.
With anticipation he had started the day,
To gather the harvest, but alas —
He found many plants that were barren and frail,
As he set out to bring in the sheaves.
Few plants had come to fruition,
And many had nothing but leaves.
From spring through the summer he provided these plants
With his all, he had nourished with care.
And now at the time of ingathering,
Precious few of those plants fruit did bear.
He was physically tired, emotionally drained,

His countenance was sad and grieved.
As with fond expectation to reap of the harvest,
And many had nothing but leaves.
Now think of our Saviour, and our Father above,
And of we as their plants here below.
They have planted us, watered us,
Tended with care,
So we plants of honor may grow.
Think of the Saviour who died on the cross,
Think too how His loving heart grieved.
Would anyone here want to add to His burden,
By bringing Him nothing but leaves?
Remember the fig tree in St. Matthew's Gospel,
As the Lord came, some fruit to receive.
He cursed it and said, "Let no fruit grow thereon",
Because he found nothing but leaves.
The disciples looked on at the withered fig tree,
Their eyes they could scarcely believe.
The Master said henceforth no fruit grow thereon,
Because it had nothing but leaves.
Unlike the fig tree, let's come to fruition,
Be it thirty, sixty or one hundred fold.
Then when we come to that great Harvest Supper,
We'll walk on streets of pure gold.
How happy we'll be then, to be with the Saviour,
Of His blessings our hearts can't conceive.
Forever and ever to share in His glory,
'Cause we brought Him more than just leaves.
— Merle Bucher

The following weekend was another exceptional time for our church family. Tasia Weiss gave her testimony of accepting the Lord in her life and was baptized on Sunday, giving us the joy of having another soul added to our membership. Our fold and many family members shared in the joy felt by her parents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha; and by her grandparents, Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher. Among the family members were ministering Bro. Nile

Bucher and Sis. Phyllis from Bluffton North, who had the afternoon service before the baptism. We praise God for visitors like this. We are so grateful to Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna) for the love and service he gave us during this blessed weekend, and for the many times he has been our guide and stay.

We have more happy anticipation because the announcement was given that our very dear friends, Hannah and Rachel Feller, were announced for baptism in the near future. They are the daughters of Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie Feller. These girls are special to all of us and we were filled with joy at this news.

Thanksgiving Day is a day to give praises and thanks for His bounty in our lives. This Thanksgiving season will find us reminding ourselves of the love and favors He has shed on our Valpo church. We are thankful indeed.

We know Christmas will be imminent when you receive this bit of news from us. With that in mind, we want to send warm and loving wishes to all of our churches from those of us in our Valpo church. May His peace reign in your hearts and may you feel the joy of His birth. May God bless you all in the coming year.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

Beth Tonner
Katie Widmer

We are thankful for the visiting brothers who have served on the pulpit this past month. Their efforts have been a blessing.

On November 14 we held a community welcome day to invite friends and neighbors to visit our new facility and share in God's Word. It was a blessing to welcome guests to our church as well as be reminded of all the opportunities to serve and support one another in the various ministries of our church body.

Our Christmas program will be held on December 19. We welcome all to come and share in the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Please be aware our mid-week ser-

vices will be changing from Thursday to Wednesday evenings with the services beginning at 7 p.m. This change will begin January 2011.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Donita Edelman
Lynell Blume

We enjoyed a Bible Study presented on a Wednesday evening by Bro. Gene Lehman. It is a blessing to have those who teach us about Biblical happenings and how they affect our lives today. Thank you, Bro. Gene, for sharing with us.

The reading of the Memorandum was at Wolcott on November 6. We extend a special thank you to Elder Bros. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) for sharing these important teachings with us. May each of us plead for grace each day to keep our hearts pure and holy so we may live a sanctified life with heaven as our goal.

It was with joy we welcomed converts Eric and Marissa Bahler and family back to the Midwest. We would have enjoyed having them in Wolcott but the Lord has directed them to Champaign, IL. This is much closer to home than Hawaii was, so we will look forward to seeing them more often.

"Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace, coming down from the Father above;" This wonderful peace has been felt in the hearts of our converts, Katie and Mindy Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam). We are very happy for them and look forward to their baptism in the near future.

"Thus United and in Concord Let Us Walk the Path of Life." We rejoice with Bro. Tyler Earney (Bro. Todd and Sis. Teresa, Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Michelle Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) as they became one in the Lord on November 21. We wish God's blessings on this couple as they establish their home in Bluffton, IN.

There have been visiting ministers in our midst this past month. For the wedding service, Elder Bros. Lynn

Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and Bros. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) and Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN). On Thanksgiving Day, Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH) was here. We would ask God's blessings on each of these brothers for sharing of themselves with us.

The funeral of Aline Merkle was held in Wolcott on November 22. Aline lived in Wolcott as a child and attended church at that time. Most recently she was a resident of Parkview Haven in Francesville. We wish to extend our sympathy to her family.

As the Christmas season approaches, may we each one remember within our hearts the reason for the season and not get caught up in the commercialization of Christmas which the world would have us think about.

IOWA, AMES

Brett Wulf

We are thankful for the ministering brothers who have been willing to be used in the past month. They were Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelly, Burlington, IA), Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA). May God richly bless them for their labors.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Christy Wiegand

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, For his mercy endureth forever."

Psalms 136:1

Thanksgiving is a day for reflecting on all God has given us to be thankful for.

Special thanks to ministering Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago) for being with us and ministering unto us. We appreciate his efforts.

As Thanksgiving comes and goes and the Christmas season comes upon

us, we have to remind ourselves to not get caught up in the stressful Christmas hustle and to take some quiet moments to reflect on Jesus' birth and the events that surrounded His coming.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Marilyn Anderson
Karla Gerst

We are thankful to welcome a new Sister into the fold — 92 year old Samantha Meeker was baptized on Saturday, October 23, at the Burlington Klein Care Center. She is so happy to be a member of the Apostolic Christian Church!

She has fond memories of her Sunday School years at the Morton Church. We were glad that some of her relatives and friends from Illinois could attend her baptism, as well as some from the Burlington and Oakville churches.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA), Brad Funk (Garden Grove, IA), Jerry Wagenbach, and Mark Schmidgall (both of Oakville). We appreciated their service and bringing forth the Word. May they be blessed for their effort.

We pray those who have had their health issues this past month are having a speedy recovery.

IOWA, ELGIN
Maria Rocke
Brianna Strahm

Bro. Doug and Sis. Trisha Rocke were blessed with a daughter, Emma Sue, on October 21. Emma's big brother is Eli, and her grandparents are Sis. Kathy Rocke (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bradford, IL).

Our Bro. Bert Butikofer spent some time in the hospital. We pray that God would strengthen him.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Rhoda Plattner

We have greatly appreciated the many visitors we have had over the past few weeks from several Midwest churches. We are thankful for delivery of the Word from the pulpit by ministering brothers from Kansas City, MO; Minneapolis, MN; and Lester, IA.

We praise God for a completed bountiful harvest and look forward to the quickly approaching Thanksgiving holiday when we pause to thank God for His wonderful provision (Colossians 3:15).

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

Bro. Kris and Sis. Dixie Messner are the thankful parents of Hadley Jo, born October 18. Her grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy Metzger and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey Messner, all of West Bend, IA. Our prayers are with Bro. Kris and Sis. Dixie as they raise their precious daughter to know their Creator and Lord.

Visiting ministers this past month included Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA), and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL). We appreciate their willingness to minister to us by their visits and teaching from God's Holy Word.

IOWA, LESTER
Polly Metzger
Gloria Moser

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

St. Luke 2:11

As we are in the midst of the Christmas season, may we keep our attention focused on the beautiful story of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. How thankful we must be that through His redeeming blood salvation can be found for all who surrender their

hearts to God.

We are thankful that Kevin Oleson (Janet) has expressed a desire to surrender his heart to God and has begun his repentance. Our prayer is that Kevin will feel God's nearness as he begins his walk with the Lord.

My Lord, an offering do I bring;
 My heart I give to Thee.
 I gladly give this heart of mine,
 Which Thou dost ask of me.

I give my heart alone to Thee;
 Use it for Thy design!
 This vain world's I would never be,
 Dear Lord, but wholly Thine.

Zion's Harp #163

The weekend of October 30-31, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Morris and Sis. Tonya Metzger and Bro. Keith and Sis. Julie Moser. It is such a wonderful reminder to hear these young lambs express their desire to leave their old lives behind and walk an overcoming life in the Lord. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Rod in this important work. Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) was also here that same weekend.

Other visiting ministers this past month included: Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Elder Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). Their efforts of preaching God's Word are appreciated.

"Peace, I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

John 14:27

Our convert, Kayla Metzger (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana), has found that precious peace. May God continue to guide her every footsteps.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my

ways saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:8-9

Various people in our church family have had bodily afflictions and we commit them unto God whose thoughts and ways are much higher and wiser than our own. Hospital patients this past month have been Bro. Stan Knobloch (Sis. Dawn), Bro. Larry Knobloch and Kendon Knobloch (Bro. Marti and Sis. Martha). Even though we do not know what the future holds, we know Who holds the future and that God will lovingly guide us through the mountains and valleys of life.

Our love and sympathy is extended to Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe, Leroy and Shelley Van Wyhe and Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda Meyer as their mother, Jennie Van Wyhe, passed into eternity on November 17 at the age of 76 years. May God be near to them and provide comfort.

IOWA, OAKVILLE **Sharla Wiegand**

We are very thankful to report the birth of three precious babies!

A baby girl was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lindsay Frank on October 23. Laynie Claire was welcomed home by her older brother, Evan. Laynie's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti Wagenbach.

On November 8, Koyton Scott was born to Bro. Kyle and Sis. Deanna Wagenbach. Big sister Callie is excited to have a brother to love. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Jr. and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz.

Joseph Edward was born to first-time parents, Bro. Jacob and Sis. Katherine Montgomery, on November 15. His grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Vera Lindeen. Our prayers are with this family as Joseph has an extended stay in the hospital.

We wish to thank Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) for bringing forth the Word to us on October 17.

IOWA, WEST BEND **Janet Fehr** **Leona Fehr**

In this special bond as brethren, we rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Our prayers are with Sis. Ruth (Bro. Kurt) Zaugg in the sudden loss of her brother-in-law, Bro. David Schmidgall, from Morris, MN. We also extend our sympathies to Sis. Verda Bruellman in the passing of her brother, Bro. Gene Kellenberger of Sabetha, KS.

On October 19, Bro. Tim Mogler became a grandparent as his daughter, Heidi, gave birth to Kiyilee Paige. We pray God's blessings and nearness in the lives involved in the miracle of birth.

We are thankful to report, as of this writing, that Ashton Fehr (Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora) is back on the road of recovery after spending more time in the hospital this month. May God be near each one with health issues across the land.

October 31 was a beautiful Lord's day and we rejoiced with two dear souls, Bro. Darin Banwart and Sis. Amanda Knobloch, as they were united as one in holy matrimony. Parents of the couple are Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Banwart and Bro. Cameron and Sis. Tammy Knobloch. Ministering brothers present with us for the occasion were Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR), Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA).

We were also blessed with visiting ministers on November 7 as Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) encouraged us through the scriptures.

It is hard to believe that the Christmas season is upon us. Our prayer is that each one can reflect on God's gift

through the holidays and "Come to the Stable".

All come to the stable
And see the holy Child,
Sleeping in the manger
So peaceful and so mild.

See the star shining bright,
Hear the angel's voices ring,
While kings and shepherds bow
To the newborn-infant King.

So long ago, the Christ Child came,
Sent to all men here on earth,
And still with awe we visit the stable
To relive the Christ Child's birth.

—Virginia Luers

JAPAN, SHIODA **Carrie Ito**

We had a blessed time with our Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit). The first weekend, we shared Communion. How good it was to deeply ponder Jesus' sacrifice for us and how He intercedes for us each day despite our many failings and shortcomings.

We also enjoyed our fall fellowship day. We met in a beautiful mountain area for a day of Bible study, singing, and fellowship.

Many of our group attended the testimony and baptism in Tokyo the next weekend. We welcome our Yoko Suzurikawa as a sister in faith. (This standing as "sister" was something she really looked forward to being. It made me realize how much I take that term for granted. How wonderful to be a sister to our fellow believers and to our Lord!) The weekend was a special inspiration for all who attended. Please continue to pray for her unbelieving husband and her three children.

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

We have much good news to report from Tokyo this month! To start with, we had a baptism on November 7, exactly one year after our last two con-

verts were baptized. This is wonderful for our small church here! Our new sister in the Lord is Yoko Suzurikawa, wife to Kenichiro and mother to Chikako (12), Yukako (7) and Shotaro (5). "And we know that all things work together for good to them who love the Lord..." Romans 8:28. Sis. Yoko gave a very touching and meaningful testimony of her journey to belief in her Creator God and Saviour and this verse gives her special encouragement as she continues on her journey. Thank you for prayers for her and her family. Our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue was joined by Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and also Elder of our Shioda church to carry out the special duties for the weekend. Bro. Mark's wife, Sis. Bev, was also here for the blessed event, along with a couple carloads from our Shioda church. There were also three friends, neighborhood women who occasionally attend church, who came and witnessed a baptism for the first time. They all confessed they were touched in a special way, even though they don't completely understand. That's the Spirit of our living God and how we pray for Him to open the eyes of the spiritually blind all around the world! We warmly welcome dear Sis. Yoko and already have seen what a blessing she is to us, having a heart to pass on this wonderful saving faith that she has come to know.

And, it is with great joy that we announce that Kenichiro and Sis. Yoko's daughter, Chikako, and Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus' daughter, Rachel (both jr. hi students), have made a confession of faith in the living God and a recognition that they are sinners in need of the Saviour Jesus Christ. Please pray for these two young souls as they begin their Christian walk, and for those of us who are guiding and training them in the Lord.

The last bit of news is about our fall Shuyokai, which took place on November 3, which includes all who can come from both churches. Bro. Mark Bahr spoke on James 3, contrasting the wis-

dom of this world and the wisdom from above (heaven): "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." (James 3:14-18). I believe the Spirit spoke to every heart there and we thank Bro. Mark for his time and efforts. It was an absolutely gorgeous day, warm and sunny, so many could enjoy a good heart-pumping hike up a small mountain after a delicious Japanese style lunch in the restaurant there at Yuyake Koyake where the gathering was held. Beautiful day, inside and out!

We always miss our two precious sisters in the Lord, Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta and Sis. Shizuko Urushino, who cannot attend church or church functions these days because of poor health. Please continue to lift them up in prayer. Our Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki, whom some know in the US, who is 81 years old and comes to church in his power chair, cannot attend events like Shuyokai anymore, but he is always there in church on Sundays with a big smile and hearty handshake. Recently he gave a little talk during the afternoon Bible study of his childhood experiences and how he came to our church. It was a bit difficult for him to remember all the details anymore, but it was still a blessing for those to hear his testimony who hadn't heard it before. He contracted polio as a young child and lost his parents during the war, so had a rough childhood, but he came to know the Lord through the Brethren church and then afterwards, by the guiding hand of God, met Bro. Willis Ehnle (if I have the details right, a piece of Willis' mail ended up in his mailbox, so he delivered it to him), and that's why we're

privileged to know him and love him!

KANSAS, BERN Sheri Edelman Jill Meyer

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation..."

Zion's Harp #52

We are rejoicing with Leigha Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) as she has begun her repentance! May she ever look to our Heavenly Father who will always hear us when we call unto Him.

On November 7 we welcomed Bro. Peter Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy) as a brother in faith following his baptism. What a blessing it is for our congregation to see more souls come to the Lord. Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha) was here to assist for the weekend and we thank him for his service.

Our fall picnic and singing took place in October. It is always good to be with our home congregation and fellowship one with another!

Bro. Brady Strahm is assembling with the Kansas City congregation as he attends nursing school there. We miss him and hope he visits often!

We offer a special thank you to Bro. Clint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) for preaching God's Word to us this month. May God bless you for your labors.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Martin Hohulin Sr.

As I write this, I hardly know where to begin as there is both good news as well as cause for concern. We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Rick Kellenberger and his family on the passing of his brother, Bro. Eugene Kellenberger, from Sabetha, KS. I had the good fortune to attend school with Bro. Eugene as well as several of his siblings. I was also blessed to spend time at their home when I was growing up. Their parents were Bro. Art and

Sis. Marie (Steiner) Kellenberger.

Bro. Lyle Fischer recently celebrated his 87th birthday along with his grandson, Joseph Fischer. Bro. Lyle has had several hospital stays and is facing more medical procedures. Our prayers are with him and his family.

For many years we only had one local minister, so we were blessed with a rotation of visiting ministers. Some still visit our congregation and deliver a timely message. Recently, Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) arrived with two van loads of Brothers and Sisters as well as retired Deacon Bro. Russel Wuthrich. We were all invited to the home of Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie Bahr for a picnic and singing. It was a blessed evening of fellowship. Adding to the blessings of the day was an unexpected visit from Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodie) from Wichita, KS.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Janelle Wuthrich were blessed with the arrival of baby daughter Joanna Marie. She was welcomed home by her big sister, Abby. Grandparents are Sis. Valerie Wuthrich and Bill Wuthrich of Illinois and John and Sis. Carol Sinn of Fort Scott.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch**

Give me, Lord, for this life's journey
only
Truth to guide me through this world
so lonely
And Thy Spirit for to lead the way
Give a heart that willingly will follow
On the path so steep and straight and
narrow
Where Thy holy feet once led the way.
Zion's Harp #90, vs. 2

Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) traveled to our congregation to assist Elder Bro. Jay in reading the Memorandum to our congregation. May God bless our Elder Brothers for their labors on our behalf.

Also visiting our congregation this

month was ministering Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO). We appreciate those who are called to speak the Word of Truth from Sunday to Sunday.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Carrie Grimm
Sally Strahm**

We are thankful that Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City) fed us from God's Holy Word this past month.

Bro. Brett and Sis. Rosanna Kellenberger are thankful that Kallie Rose arrived safely on October 19. Big brother Quinn and big sister Alia are excited for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn (Silverton, OR).

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Bro. Gene Kellenberger as he has passed away. Bro. Gene is survived by his wife, Sis. Marian Kellenberger, and children, Bro. Jim Kellenberger (Sis. Ann) of Bloomington, IL, Bro. Jay Kellenberger (Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Art Kellenberger (Sis. Joy), Bro. Gale Kellenberger (Sis. Belinda), all of Sabetha, Janelle (Bob) Coleman of Merriam, KS, and one adopted grandson, Chris and Nicole Vela of Mission, KS.

Our congregation once again hosted an invite-a-couple the weekend of October 30-31. We were thankful for those who traveled the miles to be with us.

We enjoyed an evening of singing and fellowship during our annual Thanksgiving meal on November 7.

It is the time of the year when the recent recordings of the Brotherhood Conference are played. We appreciate the efforts put forth by our Elder brethren on our behalf. Our prayers continue to be with them.

Our thoughts and prayers were with Bro. Darin Grimm (Sis. Marci) as he was a surgical patient. May God continue to give him strength and heal-

ing. We also continue to pray for Bro. Frank Hertzell (Sis. Ruth) and Bro. Elmer Strahm (Sis. Phyllis).

Lord Jesus, honor, thanks and praise
Be to Thy goodness all our days.
Thy people in Thy grace rejoice,
In comfort they lift up their voice:
"Thou shalt remain in all eternity!"
Thus we repose in blest security.

In loving care stay by our side,
For none except Thee can provide.
Convert all who know not Thy name,
All evil workers put to shame!
And let the tempted feel thy wondrous
might,
That in the darkness they may see the
light.

The raging wolves, Lord, from us
keep;
A lion's courage give Thy sheep.
All those who foreign ways have
learned
Be speedily to Thee returned.
So draw and bind us closely unto
Thee,
Till in one flock we all united be.
Zion's Harp #14, vs. 1-3

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

This year, autumn came in looking shabby and lacking in enthusiasm. The trees were drab until we had a few short rainy spells. After the leaves lost their dusty appearance, they seemed to want to make amends for such a tardy start. Their blazing hues thrilled us into mid-November. Today another blessed rain sent the leaves falling. I am amazed at the Creator's master plan for the universe.

Elder Bro. Tim Funk and Sis. Debra spent the weekend of November 13-14 in Wichita. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and his family was also present. The two Elders read and explained the latest Memorandum. The Funks left for their home in Peoria by mid-afternoon Sunday. My thoughts and prayers centered on their safety as they traveled through the night.

The fourth section of the Memorandum

dum detailed why we are His. He made us, He redeemed us, He called our name, He protects us and we are safe because He is God, our Savior, the Holy One of Israel.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

“Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage forever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.”

Psalm 119:111

We have been encouraged again through God’s Word. Visiting ministers, Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL), Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH), and Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH), came and faithfully shared the wonderful Words of Life. We thank you, each one, and pray the Lord to bless you richly for all your efforts to further His kingdom here on earth.

Just as the Apostle Paul was bound in chains, we may suffer discouragement and the trials of this life. But, he continued to expound and testify of the kingdom of God to all, persuading everyone concerning Jesus. Some believed and some did not. He did not give up, however. He told the church at Philippi: “Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again, I say, rejoice.” (Phil. 4:4) As we begin another year, may we be fortified with the power of the Holy Spirit and may His testimonies be the rejoicing of our hearts as in Psalm 119:111 above.

We extend a warm welcome to come and visit us in Lexington. 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 Rd.), right about 5 miles to Road #3371 (Becknerville Rd.), left approximately one block on the right. **From Winchester:** Road #1958 (Bypass) south to Road #1927 (Colby Rd.),

west about 3 miles to Road #3371 (Becknerville Rd.), left 2 miles on the left.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Matt Gerber

Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk (St. Louis), together with Bro. Mike and Sis. Cherise Reinhard (Detroit), came for the bi-annual eye clinic. They checked a large number of people with eye problems and performed 10 operations.

Bro. Regg Beer and Sis. Bev Schlatter joined their lives in the Lord on October 24 in Junction, OH. They are now back in Ixtlan helping with the work.

During one of the recent young group activities, everyone was asked to take a few minutes to write down something God has been teaching them lately, and how they are applying that to their lives. Afterwards, we went around the room and gave each one the opportunity to share. Someone shared how God is teaching her to surrender control in all areas of her life; another shared about seeing the importance of obeying parents; others gave thanks for the people God has placed in their lives to help them make godly decisions; one sister shared how two times recently when she was in need of something, someone showed up at the door bringing the very things that were needed. It was very eye-opening and encouraging to hear each person share many ways that God has been working. Sometimes it may seem to us that God is not very active in our own life or in our church, but when we begin to hear from others, we are surprised to find out God is doing many things that we were totally oblivious to! If you want to be encouraged, try this spiritual exercise sometime in your family devotions, potluck group, or young group. You’ll be amazed at what God is up to, and it will help you to see people with a new appreciation of how God is actively involved in their lives.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Listyn Oesch Melissa Blough

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I am reminded of our Savior and all He has done for us...

Have I forgotten to thank Thee, Lord,
For all Thou has done?
Have I turned and walked away, Lord,
From all Thou has given?
Thou came as a man
Fragile and tempted,
To give the ultimate sacrifice
That I may be clean.
Why have I forgotten to thank Thee,
Lord,
For setting me free?
Thou as man, suffered all
And I cry and complain
I have never been betrayed and beaten
Never been accused falsely and sentenced to a death penalty
Never been whipped and spit upon
Never had a spear in my side and hung on a tree.
Why have I turned and walked away,
Lord,
From the cross of Calvary?
And while I disappoint and fail Thee,
Lord,
Never hast Thou turned from me.
For my sins went upon a man
A man who was pure and clean,
Never did He disappoint Thee
Or fail in service to Thee;
Yet He chose to wear my garments
And drape His around me.
His coat of righteousness I wear
That Thy eyes can look upon me.
— M.R.B

Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb are thankful for another God given addition to their family, a grandchild. Ruthann Rose was brought into life through Bro. Tim and Sis. Melanie Tomic (Kitchener). Her brothers, Christopher, Brian, Jonathan, and Matthew, are excited to have a baby sister.

Prayers have been lifted on behalf of those with illness and surgery this month. We are thankful to see Sis. Sharon Schlatter’s recovery from sur-

gery going smoothly. Denny Koehl has also had surgery, and we pray for strength as he works toward healing.

We don't usually understand the whys, but as believers we are given confidence in the how. Through God's grace each of us can travel through storm. Why the storm is present we do not know, but with grace and prayer joy will come again. And so we pray for Bro. Matt and Sis. Shelli Oesch as they are experiencing a health battle with their precious son Judah. "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (II Corinthians 12:9)

Serving God in teaching His children is a special calling. We are thankful for our dear brothers and sisters who are willing to be of service. This Fall the church gathered for the annual Sunday School Picnic. A beautiful evening of joy and fellowship was shared.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

Greetings in our Savior's name!

Our prayers have been with young Saylor McElrath (Jessica) as she spent several days in the hospital after an accident during a recent high windstorm. We are thankful she has been able to return to church and we trust that the Lord will continue to provide healing and strength.

Our Senior Bible Class had the opportunity to travel to Chicago, IL, to do a World Relief project at the Hased House (Aurora, IL). We appreciate the hospitality and fellowship that was shared with the Chicago congregation.

Know ye the Son, the sacred Son of
God?
The Hero great is born in Bethlehem!
He came to us from His exalted
throne,
As prince of peace, as God's eternal
Son!
Know ye this Son? Yea, He is known,
The dauntless Hero, God's own Son!
Hymns of Zion # 249

May God's blessings rest with each one throughout this Christmas season and into the new year.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Kay Rauhe
Manuela Denes

As I sit here writing, I can't help but be amazed that we are already nearing the end of the month of November! The days are shorter and night falls so very quickly reminding me of how short our time here on earth is. We are so blessed that Jesus Christ is the "...light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12) This verse is especially meaningful as we near the Christmas season!

We mourn with those who have lost loved ones over the last few months. Sis. Krista (Bro. Andy) Wieland's grandfather, Bro. Glenn Stoller from Latty, OH, and Sis. Lois Belsley's brother, Bro. Richard Martin from Sarasota, FL, were both taken into eternity. May God grant these families the peace that can only come with the promise we have been given of eternal life with our Lord!

Prayers for healing are being sent to those who have had to deal with illness or surgery. Bro. Jason (Sis. Carrie) Rauhe and Sis. Florence Wieland are both recovering after having undergone surgery. Sis. Sharon Schlatter, our Sis. Jennifer (Bro. Troy) Schrock's mother, is recovering from a broken arm. Further prayers and love are being sent out to Sis. Barb Johnson and her dear daughter Kyra as Sis. Barb is faced with the return of her cancer. There are so many of us who have been touched by loved ones who have had to face this battle. May Sis. Barb and Kyra find comfort in His Word and the promise of deliverance for "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." (Psalm 34:19)

A hearty "thank you" goes out to Bro. Ron Allenbach (Sis. Lois, Kiowa,

KS) who visited and ministered unto us. It is always such a joy to be able to have visiting brethren with us! We are also very grateful to the Lord for the traveling mercies that have brought Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr back home safely again after a visit with our brethren in Japan. It is so very important that we remember those brothers and sisters in prayer who live so far from us. Though the physical miles between us are great, we are close in the love that we have for each other in our dear Lord and Saviour!

A final note of thanks goes out to our brothers and sisters in Gridley, IL. They lovingly welcomed and hosted our Detroit choir. A beautiful weekend of fellowship and song was shared by all who attended. Please come and visit us in Detroit!

As we near the rush of the holiday season, let's all take a quiet moment to remember and be thankful for the greatest gift we could ever receive. Blessings and love to you all during this beautiful and holy season!

"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

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

Tim McMillan

"To thee O Lord do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion."

Psalms 71:1

This was the first reading in the Minneapolis congregation after learning I would be writing for the Silver Lining. What more need we ask? May it be so for each of us as well as our whole church body. The Word of the Lord will never confuse but always lead to righteousness.

We give thanks to Elder Bro. Tom

Stock for his visitation, prayers, and teachings in reading the Memorandum to us on November 13. Reminders of the roles of principles, doctrines, and traditions, the meekness and humility of a loving believer, the importance of maintaining purity, and who we truly belong to are lessons well spent in our daily walk. May we continue to pray for the Lord's guidance towards our Elder body.

The following Sunday, November 14, we were also grateful for the visit of Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody), as they enjoyed the weekend holding their new granddaughter, Karlina, newborn of Bro. Jim and Sis. Krissa Klotzle.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2) While we rejoice with the Klotzles, we also mourn with our Bro. Doug Messner (Sis. Sue) in the passing away of his mother, Sis. Geri Messner. May our prayers for the family be lifted up unto the Lord and be heard through His Son, our Savior Jesus.

"...Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me".

John 11:41

For those who gather with family this time of year, may we remember to give thanks to the Father for all things, as Jesus also gave thanks, every day!

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Kim Feuchtenberger
Susie Wulf

We're always thankful for visiting brethren, especially those that share the Word of God. Visiting our congregation this month was Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane) of Forrest, IL; Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), and Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA). May God bless and reward them as only He can.

The engagement of Bro. Darren Schaefer (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise) and Sis. Heidi Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice, Lamar, MO) was made known.

We pray God's blessings and direction upon them as they prepare to become one in the Lord.

We are thankful Drew Schmidgall (Bro. Rob and Sis. Kathryn) was announced as having peace with God and man. May God grant him grace and wisdom to labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

On October 18, Cora Jane was born to Bro. Joshua (Stephen and Vicki) and Sis. Marcy (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf) Sundheim. Welcoming her home are big brothers, Clint and Cayden.

Sis. Violet Wulf and Sis. Eileen Nohl have spent time in the hospital. May God strengthen and heal as He sees best.

Our prayers and thoughts have been with Sis. Janet (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger), Rachael and Martha Schmidgall as they have lost a dear husband and father. Bro. David Schmidgall (David J. and the late Sis. Alma Jean, Forrest, IL) suddenly passed away on October 26. May God grant this family faith in His will and grace to carry on.

Note of Thanks:

This is a time in our life when God has taken our emotions far beyond words. You have found it hard to find the words to express your sympathy and we also, as the family, cannot find words to express our thanks to you. Where we have been unable to express our gratitude, may the Lord bless you as we cannot. May all of us put our faith and trust in God, especially at times like this when we can't understand God's plan. We have certainly been able to feel the power of your prayers.

The family of Bro. David Schmidgall

The time flies on and death draws nigh;

Unite us, Lord, with Thee on high!
 Prepare us now to live with Thee
 Forever in eternity!

Zion's Harp #188

MINNESOTA
MORRIS NORTH
Lois Schmidgall
Wanda Gramm

Know ye the Lord, the gracious friend
 of Man

Who clothed Himself in pilgrim's garment plain?

He came to us the prince of David's house!

An angel's message did the world arouse!

The Son has come!

From heaven's dome, resounds the angel's joyous song!

Hymns of Zion #249

This verse of the beautiful hymn "The Son of God" has touched my heart. This past Sunday, our congregation enjoyed our first Thanksgiving meal together. Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger was with us and touched on the life of the pilgrims in the morning service. It's so amazing how much those Pilgrims went through to find a home in which they could serve God and grow in faith. We really do have so much to be thankful for as we continue our pilgrimage here on earth. We are so thankful that the Son of God came to this earth ... can we thank and praise Him enough?

Our Elder Bro. Paul Messner and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter was with us on a Wednesday evening to go through the Constitution and by-laws for our new church. God has been so good to us, and we just appreciate all that our Brothers do for us.

Other Brothers who have given themselves to further God's Word have been: Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton), and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL). Thank you being a servant to us, and we pray God will bless you richly.

A group of 35 students and adults left for Mexico on a work team. We wish them God's protection and blessings.

We are thankful that both Bro. Floyd Schmidgall and our friend, Deb

Gunderson, are both back worshipping with us after their hospital stays.

Visitors this month included those from Tremont, Winthrop, Morris, Phoenix, Oakville, Milford, Forrest, Lester, Minneapolis, and Bluffton. We really love to have visitors, so please feel welcome to come and visit us.

Some us were able to get together for a Chili supper and then pack shoe boxes of gifts for the needy children for Christmas. Our prayers went with the gifts that those that received them would also know Jesus and know that He is there for their every need.

As a Brother stated in a sermon here, "God is more concerned about our character than He is about our comfort." Let's all let God work in our hearts to create the character that He intends us to be.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Lindsay Schmidt

Heather Steiner

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

I Corinthians 2:13

Our congregation was privileged to hear God's Word brought to us through the lips of a visiting minister, Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth) from West Bend, IA. May God bless him for teaching us of spiritual things.

"Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing."

Psalms 100:2

November is when our annual business meeting is held. After voting to fill open positions, responsibilities fell on Bro. Brett Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) as Usher/Recorder, Bro. Nick Schmidt (Sis. Julie) as Trustee, Sis. Heather Steiner (Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel) as Silver Lining Correspondent,

and Sis. Rachel Messner (Bro. Michael) as Kitchen Coordinator. May they feel the support of the congregation as they fill their new positions. We want to thank those that have finished their terms for their time and willingness to serve. May God richly bless you.

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

Revelation 21:4

Our hearts go out to the family of Bro. David Schmidgall (Sis. Janet) of Morris, MN, at his sudden passing. Our congregation had a special tie with Bro. David because he was a part of our congregation for several years. Many friendships and fond memories were made while he lived here. May God grant peace to the family's hearts and fill their void with His love.

"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."

Psalms 73:26

Our hospital and surgical patients this month were Sis. Melva Messner and Bro. Ernie Dapper (Sis. Marcelle). May God strengthen them in both body and soul.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brittany Fehr

We recently said farewell to Sis. Elizabeth Conzo; she has relocated to the Bradford, IL, congregation for work. We certainly will miss her, but we are thankful for God's faithfulness in directing her in this next step in her life. Sis. Janice Lehman is also living temporarily in California for work, so we will miss her, too. We recently welcomed convert Nicolas Smith (Ron and Sis. Diane) back from Leo, IN, as well.

We would like to thank the many

visitors who have recently gathered to worship with us, especially those who came for our Single Group's invite weekend and our all-church Invite-a-Friend. Between those two weekends, we have had a number of visiting ministers: Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS), Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS), and Bro. Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS). We are thankful for the willingness of these Brothers to labor on our behalf.

November 20-21 was the baptism weekend of our Sis. Hallie Webel. Many visitors traveled to Kansas City for this special weekend, and we especially would like to thank Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) in this work. May God richly bless Sis. Hallie and provide her the grace to continue walking in obedience to Him as long as He gives her life on this earth.

Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) was our visiting minister on Thanksgiving Day, and ministering Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester, IA) were also present with us on other weekends; we wish them God's blessings for their willingness to preach the Word in truth and purity, as the Spirit directs.

Sis. Marty Rokey (the late Bro. Gary) remains in our thoughts and prayers as she has recently spent some time in the hospital. May God bless and provide for her as only He can do.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Rebecca Dotterer

Dana Kellenberger

This month we were blessed with many visitors. Elder Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) was here to assist in the sharing of the Memorandum letter. We were also thankful to have ministering

brothers, Bro. Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), and Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA). May God bless these brothers for their efforts on our behalf as He sees fit.

We rejoice as we have had three souls turn to the Lord in repentance: Elizabeth Schmidgall (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy), Jesse Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol), and Jared Luthi (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jodi). May God grant them much grace to walk in His ways.

We also are thankful for God's leading as our Sis. Heidi Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice) was announced to Bro. Darren Schaefer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Denise) of Morris, MN. May they continue to look to God for guidance during this time of change in their lives.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Kathy Eberhardt

In Psalms 90, we can read that we spend our years as a tale that is told. Christmas is nearly upon us again. On this date, we reflect on one of the greatest miracles and acts of love that has ever occurred, the birth of our dear Lord Jesus Christ. What a gift from our heavenly Father, the Dawn of Redeeming Grace. We are thankful that God keeps His promises, with the Messiah's birth foretold several times in the Old Testament. With Christ's birth, and then later His death on the cross, which sets mankind free from their sins, we look forward to another of our Heavenly Father's promises, eternal life and an incorruptible inheritance. What a glad and joyous reunion it is during the Christmas holidays when we can again be together with our families. But what a greater reunion it shall be someday when we all can be together on yonder shore, heaven land.

A new baby was added on November 8 to our Taylor church family. Trigg William was born to Darin and Danni Heimer. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer and Dennis and Donna Graupman. May God bless all these dear families.

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA). Thanks for sharing the good news of Jesus to our congregation.

We appreciate Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL) coming on a Wednesday evening for a Bible Study. His topic was Desire for Discernment. One question he asked was, "How is our RPM's running" (Reading, Praying, and Meditation)?

We are thankful that our prayers were answered for a healing hand to Sis. Jan Heimer (Elder Bro. Kent).

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

"I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High."

Psalm 9:1-2

A singing was held November 6 at the Lewis County Residential Health Care facility for Sis. Louise Purvines. We received a blessing from the hymns and our time of fellowship. It was encouraging to hear our dear sister in faith ask if we can do this again! Let us continue to be faithful and serve Him till our last breath. We appreciate our faithful older brethren who are an example to us.

We enjoyed having company from Rockville, CT, with us for the weekend of November 21. A potluck dinner was shared together Saturday evening with a singing in the Sunday school room after. What a blessing it is to renew the friendships we have with those from our neighboring congregations.

As we approach this Thanksgiving season, may we think upon the many blessings we have been given in the past year. There is no way we could ever repay the Lord for all He has done for us.

We are keeping Sis. Bessie Farney, Martin and Linda Hirschey in our prayers as they have been hospitalized.

OHIO, AKRON Erika Gal

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

Ps. 145:18

We are praying for the Lord's nearness for many in our congregation who have suffered bodily afflictions. Bro. Carl Graf, Peter Zarkovacki, Sis. Esther Boleratz, Sis. Elsa Yovichin, and little Yulia Hegedus have all received medical attention, and we trust that God will provide for each one.

Our congregation appreciated having Bro. Glen (Sis. Rachel) Steiner visit us from Winthrop, MN. May God richly bless him for his efforts and labors of love.

We are rejoicing with our converts, Brad and Amanda Gasser, in the birth of their precious little Josie Jane. She was born on September 15. McKenzie is excited to welcome her home. Her grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser (Junction) and Gary and Sis. Susan Murray (Rittman).

OHIO, COLUMBUS Esther Saurer

We had four visiting ministers join us this month to share God's Holy Word. Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) both joined us for Sunday services. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. John Jackson (Bay City, MI) were with us for Wednesday evening services.

Bro. Josh and Sis. Jenna Boliantz have recently moved from our congregation. We pray that they will feel God's nearness as they become a part of the Mansfield, OH, church.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Vicki Boroff**

Our prayers go out to our hospital patients. We wish a speedy recovery for Sis. Annabel Spangler and Sis. Carolyn Spangler.

Speaking from the pulpit this month, in addition to our home ministers, were Bros. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield), Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis) and Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron). Also, Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville) joined us for the weekend; he helped our Elder Bro. Bill share the Memorandum. We enjoyed having them visit, along with their families.

OHIO, LATTY**Carmen Eisenmann****Mindy Stoller**

Greetings! We were blessed this month to be able to listen to the Memorandum exhortation. Visiting Elder who assisted Bro. John was Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN). We want to thank both of them for their service, and being willing to share good counsel from the Elder body. May we always be prayerful for our Elder body and the work they carry out.

We also wish to thank Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) for preaching the Word to us this month.

We rejoice as another baby was born on November 1. Braylin Ray was added to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Lisa Sinn's family. Welcoming him are siblings, Chelsea, Tiffany, Cameron, Tianna, and Caden. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn, and Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf.

On November 12, Bro. Herman "Dick" Schlatter passed away. His wife, Sis. Viola, and children, including Dennis and Connie Gordon, mourn his loss. The same day, God took Sis. Irene Stoller (Bro. David, deceased) home. We lift their loved ones up in prayer and pray for His comfort at this time.

We are prayerful for those who have been hospitalized in the past month, including Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis.

Joyce), and Bro. Roger Gerber (Sis. Eunice). May God grant them healing.

With Thanksgiving approaching, may we count our many blessings, and take time to give thanks!

OHIO, MANSFIELD**Tami Griffey**

On the evening of October 30, the Memorandum was read and meditated upon. We thank Elder Bro. Steve Sauder and his wife, Sis. Mary (Tremont, IL), for their efforts to assist and share the weekend with us.

The annual Fall Outing was held October 31. The Sunday School students participated in activities with their classes. A covered dish meal was later enjoyed by those of all ages. It was a blessed and enjoyable afternoon for all who attended.

Balloting on October 31 revealed support for new Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Bruce Sauder (Sis. Denise), and Assistant Superintendent, Bro. John Pfeiffer (Sis. Marci). We pray God will bless and direct these couples as they give of their time and love for our youth. We thank Bro. Tim Beer (Sis. Traci) and Bro. Roger Miller (Sis. Dorina), who labored in love for several years in these positions.

We were blessed with a beautiful weekend of testimonies and baptisms on November 6 and 7 for Bro. Anthony Baumann (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lucy) and Sis. Lauren Sauder (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Denise). May God continue to provide His grace and Spirit's direction to these dear souls. Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) humbly assisted with this important work. In addition, it was a blessing to be served by visiting ministers: Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada), Bro. Mike Walder (Sis. Susan, Smithville), and Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus).

Loved ones who have been hospitalized include Courtney Sauder (daughter of Sis. Missy and Greg), and Sis. Kay Rufener (Bro. Ron). We pray God would restore health and wellness ac-

ording to His will.

After 98 years of life, Sis. Kathryn Mae Beer passed away. Sis. Kathryn was converted for more than 72 years and with her husband, Bro. Robert, lovingly served our congregation in the ministry for over 34 years. Our prayers are with her family and loved ones including sons, Rex Beer (Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Al Beer (Sis. Janet), and Dennis Beer (Sandra), a daughter Kathy Stacy, a son-in-law Bro. Dale Gabor, daughters-in-law Sis. Pat Beer, and Janet Beer, brothers Harley D. Leedy and Edwin Leedy.

A daughter, Sierra Jade Pfeiffer, was born on November 3. Thankful parents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Diane. Her siblings, Austin, Ezekiel, Autumn, Naomi, Sicilia, and Natasha, excitedly welcomed their new sister home. Blessed grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer and Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Betty Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord) and her family as her mother, Sis. Irene Stoller, has passed away and is gone to be with her Savior.

We were blessed to host the Eastern World Relief Informational Meeting on November 13. We are thankful for all who participated and trust God will continue to multiply the blessings of World Relief.

OHIO, RITTMAN**Heidi Rufener****Marge Stoller**

"Then shall thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shall cry, and he shall say, Here I am."

Isaiah 58:9

Our hearts rejoice when we hear that another loved one has turned his heart to the Lord. May God grant Kyle Gasser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen) much grace as he works out his soul's salvation.

This past month there were also families who rejoiced with the birth of

babies. On October 20, Bro. Milan and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) welcomed Landon Glenn into their home. Little sister Makenna is glad for a brother. Maternal grandparents are Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler. Paternal grandparents are Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). On October 11, Joshua and Brooke Calame became first-time parents when Branson Joshua was born to them. Happy for their first grandchild was Bro. John and Sis. Jody Calame. Maternal grandparents are Curt and Patty Suppes. Then a few days later on October 23, Bro. John and Sis. Jody became grandparents again when Jordan Daniel was born to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Elizabeth Calame (Peoria, IL). Maternal grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker (Peoria, IL). October 24 was the birthday of Eli Jordan born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon Hartzler. Happy for a new addition to their family are siblings, Amos, Megan, Jacob, Jubal, Gretchen and Ezra. Loving grandparents are Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville). Bro. Ben and Sis. Susie Rufener welcomed Natalie Marie into their home on November 11. Happy for a little sister are siblings, Karson, Marissa and Gabriel. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Rufener and Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener.

On November 7, the engagement of Bro. Nathan Gasser and Sis. Morgan Pertee of Smithville was announced. Their parents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and Ron Pertee and Shelly Colvin (Smithville). May God bless them as they make plans to begin their life together as one in the Lord.

Heidi Gasser (Bro. Dale and Janet) and Chad Elser (Randy and Deb Elser) were united in marriage on November 13. November 14 was the wedding day of Bro. Caleb Beery (Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie) and Sis. Charity Riggerbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie). May God be with these dear couples as they estab-

lish new homes.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Carolyn Hartzler (Bro. Dale) and Sis. Eldora Steiner (Bro. Alvin, dec.). May the Lord restore to health again according to His will.

Our dear ministering Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth) is retiring from the ministry. On Sunday evening, November 14, we held a special service for them. Many brethren and friends came from our nearby churches of Smithville, Akron and Mansfield. The first half hour was spent in singing. What a beautiful blending of voices as our large Rittman assembly was nearly full! Then Bro. Ron read from the Scriptures and had a special message for us. Tears were shed as we wished them well. We know they will continue to serve God in their daily walk of life. May God bless them for their much work and sacrifice on our behalf.

We want to thank the ministering brothers who came to share God's Word with us. They included Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Kitchener, Ont.), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, La-Crosse, IN), Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN), and Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH).

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

Offer the lively, the cheerful and beautiful flower,
Offer with gladness and willingness thy youthful power
To Christ thy friend, Who thy soul e'er will defend,
Safe in His heavenly bower.
Zion's Harp, #160, vs. 2

It was Sardis' turn to host the All-Ohio Weekend this year, so we were blessed when the Ohio Single Groups worshiped with us in October. We enjoyed a singing together on Saturday evening with a doubled congregation

on Sunday.

Our annual Fall Gathering/Hog Roast was held on the 3rd weekend of October. We appreciate the guests who gathered with us on such a beautiful, warm day to share in the old-fashioned activities and enjoy the fall scenery with us.

"Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"

St. Matthew 21:16

Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger were blessed with another grandchild on October 7 with the birth of Isaiah Martin, third son of Joe and Jamie Zollinger of the Rittman, OH, area. His older brothers are Trenton and Xavier. Bro. Milan and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle had a son born to them on October 20 with the arrival of Landon Glenn. Big sister Makenna was eagerly anticipating his arrival. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle and Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler (Rittman, OH). May God grant discernment to all parents seeking out His will in making decisions with the children that He has given us.

The wedding of Stephanie Alrutz (daughter of Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle) to Mark Bissett was held on October 23. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they walk this life together as husband and wife.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers: Bro. Robert Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO). We pray that all our ministers would continue to feel the support of the congregation to preach the Word as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The promise of true pastors given;
Hearts like Thine own do Thou in them instill.
Thy holy Word was never broken;

We know that Thou this promise wilt fulfill.

The enemies before Thy hand shall fall;
Thou art forever King and Lord of all.

Staci Indermuhle (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet) is experiencing a medical condition that is requiring long-term admittance and treatment. Cards and notes of encouragement to her and her family are appreciated and can be sent to: 50020 Baptist Ridge Rd., Sardis, OH 43946

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Lydia Dotterer
Gina Brake

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain...”

Revelation 21:4

Our prayers are with the families who have lost loved ones this past month. Sis. Connie Bauman (Bro. Steve) lost her father, Bro. Glenn Stoller (Latty, OH), on October 19. Bro. Ken Maibach (Sis. Sue-Ellen) and Bro. Steve Maibach (Sis. Dawn) lost a brother-in-law, Dave (Jane) Curie, on October 31. And on November 6, Sis. Oleda Menold (Morton, IL) passed away. She was the sister of Sis. Marge Schneider (Bro. Wilbur). May God be with each of these families.

Dick (Amber) Lanz spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray that God's healing touch will be with him.

We will miss Bro. Tom Dotterer, as he has moved to Texas, but we pray for God's blessings on him there.

Bro. Derek and Sis. Juliet Nieman welcomed their first baby, Caleb Charles, on October 22. His grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna Dotterer. A new grandson was also added to the family of Bro. Ken and

Sis. Jane Hartzler. Eli Jordan was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon Hartzler (Rittman) on October 24. His siblings are Amos, Megan, Jacob, Jubal, Gretchen, and Ezra.

We were so thankful to hear that another soul has turned his back on the world. Mike (Terry) Lusk has begun his repentance, and we pray that he can truly die to self and begin to live for Christ.

The engagement of Sis. Morgan Pertee and Bro. Nathan Gasser was announced on November 7. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for marriage. Sis. Morgan's parents are Bro. Dave and Shelly Colvin and Ron Pertee. Bro. Nathan's parents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser (Rittman).

October 15 was the wedding date of Jaime Riggenbach and Genet Seager. Jaime's parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Gail Riggenbach.

Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) was here to assist with the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for their willingness to travel and be with us for the weekend. Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman) also visited our congregation this month. We felt blessed that they were able to come once more before retiring from the ministry, and have been thankful for their many years of labor for the gospel.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)”

Hebrews 10:23

We were thankful for the Brothers who shared the pulpit with us this past month: Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH),

Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH). May God bless them and their families.

The church was filled Sunday, November 7, to witness the wedding of Bro. Ben Harmon and Sis. Sarah Nolan during the afternoon service. Sis. Sarah's parents are Abraham and Sarah Nolan from Toledo. Bro. Ben's parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna Harmon. We pray that this young couple will always look to our Heavenly Father as they continue to become one in Him.

As the Christmas season is upon us, may we remember the greatest gift of all - God's Son!

OREGON, PORTLAND
Renee Angstrom

Our visiting ministers this month from Silverton were Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele). 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 sharing in Holy Communion this past month. Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) was assisted by Elder Bro. Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton).

Bro. Eldon Metz (Sis. Alice) was elected to serve a four year term as the Bible Class teacher. He replaces Bro. Monte Kuenzi (Sis. Kellie).

OREGON, SILVERTON
Deb Roth
Kris Luthi

Several of our youth this month suffered broken bones or hospital stays. We are thankful that Andrea Walter (Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan), Kiana Walter (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Trisha) and Troy Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) are all recovering well.

“Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God.”

Leviticus 20:7

Holy Communion was a blessing to partake on October 23. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) was willing to come assist our own Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) from our Portland congregation.

Sis. Emily Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie) was married to Bro. Evan Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris) of our Eureka, IL, church on November 14. May God bless this couple as they make their home in Eureka. Our good wishes and prayers go with Sis. Emily as she makes the move. Visiting ministers were Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL).

Sis. Lynn Rees and son Jacob were visitors here recently. They traveled from Anchorage, Alaska, for a medical appointment for Jacob, in Seattle, and were able to drive the extra 4 hours south to attend church. Sis. Lynn's home church was Sabetha, KS, but she has lived in Alaska with her family since January. We want to remember our Sis. Lynn, her husband Jason, and children, Jacob (11), David (10), Michael (9) and Emily (7), as they are so far away on a military base. They would appreciate and enjoy fellowship with any who would take the time.

Contact: jljdme_rees@yahoo.com
Jason and Lynn Rees
1892-C Enlisted Hero Dr.
Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Emily Wiegand**

“So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.”

Acts 15:30-31

It was a privilege this month to have Elder Bro. Ted Steffen and his wife, Sis. Sandy (Alto, MI), with us the weekend of November 13-14. Bro. Ted read the Memorandum Saturday night and preached God's Word on Sunday. We were very thankful to share the weekend with Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy and truly appreciated Bro. Ted's willingness to be a servant.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We are looking forward to this winter (Jan-Mar), when World Relief will have a work project in the Nashville area to help with the rebuilding of homes for families who suffered loss during the major flooding here this spring. We appreciate the love of Christ shown through this effort to the hurting in our community.

Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder have migrated south to Zapata, TX, for the winter. We trust that the Lord will be with them, and all the brethren there, as He is here.

We wish to share the engagement of our son, Obed Fritz (Congerville, IL), to Kary Leman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail; Congerville, IL). We pray that the Lord will direct their path as they plan for their wedding and marriage, walking life's pathway together as one.

We have been blessed by the willing service of our visiting ministering brothers: Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Dave Graf (Sis. Barb; Akron, OH), and Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg; Goodfield, IL) and Clint Beyer (Sis. Kara; Sabetha, KS).

We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Goodfield and Morton IL; West Lafayette, IN; Sabetha, KS; and Akron and 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: Bradford, IL (1/9); Francesville, IN (1/16); Sardis, OH (1/23), and Milford, IN (1/30). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for 12/26 or 1/02, but if there are brethren in the area we will meet to listen to a tape or call-in service. 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 typically meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for singing or call-in services and would welcome any mid-week visitors. However, during the World Relief work project (Jan-Mar), our Wednesday evening services will be at Bethany Hills in Kingston Springs, TN, where the work teams are staying, and we are not yet aware of a finalized time, so call ahead. Contacts are Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543 (fritzmb.family@gmail.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN

Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

O, may the small flock be increased
In grace 'neath His protection,
And enter into heav'nly rest,
For this is God's direction.
May all be childlike, loving, kind,
That we the path to heaven find!

Hymns of Zion #173

Bro. Tom Dotterer from Smithville has joined our fellowship. We pray for a blessing on his move.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers: Bros. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis), Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis), John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern), Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka) and Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego). We also had visitors from Francesville, West Bend, Congerville, Bluffton, and Smithville.

The following is the minister schedule for January: (2) Morris, (16) Altadena, (30) Roanoke. 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. Directions to our church and contacts are now in the 2010 minister book.

In the church, there are two furnished bedrooms for the ministers and others 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.

TEXAS, McALLEN Gloria Walder

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, may it remind us to be thankful every day for our many blessings; and let us also be thankful for the things we do not have that we would not want.

We appreciate our visiting ministers and wives taking the time and effort to serve us. May the Lord bless them and the Word brought forth by Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN). Adding to the blessings of our gatherings were the visits of brethren from Zapata, TX.

Services are scheduled more frequently in the coming winter months. The tentative schedule is: Jan. 2 - Winthrop, MN; Jan. 9 - Fairbury, IL; Jan. 16 - Rittman, OH; Jan. 30 - Alto, MI. We also meet on Wednesday evenings at the home of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl, and appreciate visitors whenever it fits into their schedule.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 and 12:30 at the Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th St. Take the 10th Street exit off Expressway 83 and go 1½ blocks south. Please see the ministers' directory for local contact information. We are small in number and appreciate and welcome anyone spend-

ing time in south Texas to worship with us.

Advance notice will help us plan for meals and fellowship.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

Seasons come and go and we in Zapata are thankful for the return of the winter season. We know many of our brethren will be returning to spend the winter months here in South Texas.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Bro. Alvin Banwart (Sis. Phyllis, West Bend) as he was called Home. We will miss having him in our midst this season.

We are thankful to have ministering Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Alto) return to Zapata where he serves on the pulpit during the winter months.

We had a group for Thanksgiving at church and anticipate more at Christmas. We look forward to the families that come to spend time with their families over the holiday season.

Anyone coming to Zapata is most welcome to worship and spend some time with us.

VERMONT NORTH CLARENDON/NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

On November 6 we experienced the blessing of being together for the Memorandum. Our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) and Ordained Deacon, Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), came to visit us on that Saturday evening to encourage us in plain Christian living. It was a time of refreshing for our spirits. We thank them for this effort on our behalf.

We also want to thank other visiting ministers that have come to serve us on the pulpit. They were Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) on November 14, Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT) on November 21, and Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae,

Rockville, CT) on November 28.

Our friend Sue Balfe has been recuperating at home after surgery. We pray that God will grant her healing and strength during this time. We hope to see her and her family at church soon.

We will miss Emery and Claire Fellows as they have left us for the South during the winter months. May God watch between us until we meet again.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations and dates, please contact Bro. Chad and 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.

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:25

Service times are as follows:

Mid-week services

(Contact local brethren)

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10:10 AM

Sunday Afternoon Service

12:15 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.



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Phone 734.261.9000 or
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Assistant Administrator Needed

The Board of Directors of the Apostolic Christian Home in Rittman is announcing a search for an Assistant Administrator for the nursing home.

Applicants are required to have a Bachelor's degree and can expect an interim period of time to fulfill the State of Ohio's Administrator's license requirements.

Anyone interested in further details can contact David Maletich for a complete job description and to submit a resume for the vacancy.

*The Nursing Home phone number is 330-927-1010
or email: administrator@apostolichome.com*

The deadline for this search is 12/31/2010.

Sermon continued from page 2

ther David?" which was another promise in the Old Testament.

I wish I would have had time to look it up. It would be an exhaustive study, bringing in all the Old Testament scriptures and how the pieces all come together. This is part of the miracle of Jesus' birth, how all the pieces of the puzzle come right together. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that this picture is complete when we see all the prophecies fulfilled. "And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." (St. Luke 1:33) And we may, in our own human minds, try to comprehend how all this is going to happen if this would have been me to whom the angel appeared to like Mary said "I know not a man how is this going to happen?" (v. 34) But remember with God nothing is impossible. He created Adam and Eve out of the dust of the earth. He created everything we can see. He created things that are beyond the scope of our sight in the universe. He is a great great God. Is it a small thing for Him to create another human? In verse thirty-seven it is written, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." How do we find impossibilities here in our life on this earth? Is it because we have in some way limited God? I sometimes wonder if that is maybe the way it is in my own life because of a lack of faith or trust. Is something too great for God? If it is beyond my comprehension, sometimes that is my feeling, but yet I know in my mind even if it hasn't settled down to my heart there is nothing...nothing beyond God's abilities.

In verse thirty-eight "And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." How is it in our lives when we face a situation in which we may find ourselves a little perplexed at how this came into my

life, why it came into my life and how am I supposed to deal with it? What is our response? Do we respond like Mary? We all have the opportunity to, but it is a matter of if we find it within us to respond like that. God's Will be done. Be it unto me according to the Will of the Lord. We think of the shame that would have been involved with that situation. Mary being with child; Joseph being ashamed and then maybe feeling greatly betrayed by Mary and recognizing that there could be extreme consequences. And yet, they were willing to carry out the will of the Lord. Did it matter what their reputation was? Did it matter what it was going to cost them? Did it matter the responsibilities that were going to be added to them? No! Mary just said "The Lord's Will be done."

Going to chapter two in verse one God has a way of bringing to pass all of the prophecies. That is amazing to me how even in this story God brings things together that Jesus, as one of the minor prophet's wrote, would be born in Bethlehem. So how are we going to bring Mary and Joseph seventy or eighty miles to Bethlehem for this to be accomplished? God has His ways. Verse one, "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed." Verse three, "And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city." So that was the cause of it. We can't help but believe that that was God's hand working through Caesar. Whether this was a financial taxing or a census, I have heard both used as an explanation of what this taxing was about, it doesn't matter. They needed to come to Bethlehem and that fulfilled that. And one other prophecy I might add here that really is amazing to me, which we did not read about, was when Joseph had the dream that he should take Mary and Jesus to Egypt because Herod would seek his life. So Jo-

seph obeyed and went down into Egypt. And what happened when he saw he was mocked of the wise men? He killed all the children in the area of Bethlehem because there was supposed to be this king born and if there was a king born then that would threaten his kingdom. And so to wipe out any threat he had all the children killed. This would have, if Mary and Joseph had been at that place, included Jesus. To fulfill the scripture that out of Egypt His son would be called. So when Herod was dead, we remember that story where He was brought back into the land of Israel. Because Archaleus, the son of Herod the Great, they went out of Archaleus' jurisdiction and went up to Nazareth and that fulfilled another prophecy that He would be called a Nazarene. Jesus fulfilled in His life those prophecies.

In verse four, "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David): To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." (v.4-7) How humbling to have to come that far to find no place. What a humble place for Jesus our Lord to be born. But isn't that so symbolic of His entire life? He lived in humility. Probably more humility than any of us could comprehend. We think later in His life when someone asked Him about His abode and He said, "Well the foxes of the earth have holes and the birds have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (St. Luke 9:58) As He went into His ministry it appeared

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Sermon continued from page 41

that He had no place to call His own, not even a home, which we would consider one of our basic necessities of life.

In verse eight we switch gears a bit and go to the shepherds. Shepherds seemed to be one of the lower class occupations. If someone was a shepherd he was not one of great status. Why did the angels appear unto them? Was it because of their humble estate in life? Was it because Jesus would himself be the Good Shepherd? Was it because the shepherds cared for sheep that would very possibly some day be those little lambs brought into Jerusalem for the sacrifices, the Passover? They came to see Jesus, the one who would be the sacrifice for all our sins, one lamb. I read recently that for the Day of Atonement the Jews gathered in Jerusalem would be approximately two and a half to three million people, during Jesus' time. There would be about 250,000 sheep sacrificed for the sins of the people for that Day of Atonement. Jesus came, one spotless Lamb, one sacrifice. Verse eight, "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid." (v8-9) Wouldn't we all be afraid if that happened to us, if an angel came and appeared to us? "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." (v.10-11) If these shepherds had any spiritual understanding, they would have known this is the Messiah. Christ was literally interpreted as the One who would be the chosen Messiah. Savior. Jesus. Jesus was probably the Greek ren-

dering of the name Joshua, it meant Savior. When we think about that comparison of the name Jesus to Joshua, Joshua led the children of Israel across the river into the Promised Land. The land that they had long been anticipating. On the other hand we have Jesus who, for those who will trust in Him, we trust Him to lead us through our lives and lead us on to the kingdom of heaven. These shepherds, it was revealed to them who this baby was. "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." (v.12) That would seem odd to them obviously, but there would be no mistake. We are going to look for a baby in a manger in swaddling clothes. No regular clothing, just strips of cloth wrapped around Him. It seems like that would also be something out of the normal. "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." (v.14-15) How is our attitude when something is revealed to us? Are we going to question it or are we going to go with haste and find out and see the conclusion of what the Lord has brought to us? And then they found just as it had been predicted. How should our heart be? As the shepherds in verse twenty, "...returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them." Wouldn't we be joyful if we had seen that also? Wouldn't we want to tell everyone the story that we had heard? I'm sure we would. If we see some exciting event we are ready to share it with anyone and everyone who will lis-

ten to us. They had seen a very miraculous situation and they were ready to share it. Let us be willing to do the same knowing this Christmas story, knowing of the Christ child and who He became. Be very willing and joyful to share it with all who would hear it. Think of Simeon, the old man in the temple. I have always pictured him as one that spent a lot of time in the temple, but according to the account that I read in this morning, he came by the Spirit into the temple. The Spirit encouraged him and he felt that call to go into the temple. He knew that he was not going to see death until he saw the Consolation of Israel revealed unto him. He was thankful as it was revealed to him. The joy that he had. His life was complete now. Is there anything in our lives that is not complete? If Jesus would return today, is there something that would not be of joy to us? Is there something that would not be of joy to us? Is there something hindering us from receiving Him with joy today? His response, "...depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people: A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel." (v.29-32) You know as we visit with people that approach death there is a focus in their old age, not on the things of this earth, it is on the things that await them beyond this life. This man was obviously ready. His life was complete and he was ready to go see the Lord. What was lacking? I hope for each of us when our earthly days are accomplished, whether it be today, whether it be many years if the Lord tarries, that we can have that peace and that joy in our hearts also that once we have recognized salvation and it has become a part of our life and it infiltrates every part of us that we can be ready and with joy.

And Anna also who spent much time in the temple. She is an inter-

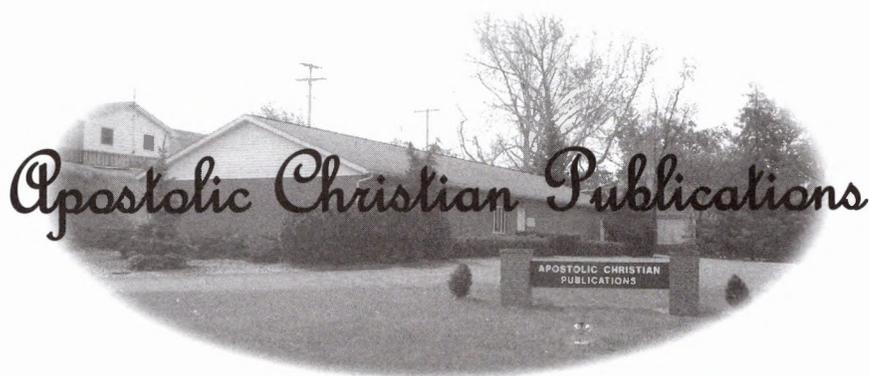
esting character to me also because she did not waste her time being a widow. She was poor, probably not a lot to be sustained by physically being a widow, and 84 years being a widow. It says in verse thirty-seven, "...which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day." Think of that communication with God going back and forth with her fasting and her prayers. "And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." (v.38) Sharing the good news. We have the good news knowing the Word of God. Today, what are we going to do with it? Is it going to be a treasure that we hide in our hearts? Or is it going to be something that we are going to share with all that hear us. Consider the season of joy being Christmas at this particular season of the year. But shouldn't every day be a day of joy? We have a lot to be thankful for on this earth, but how much more for that which is to come? Paul writes that he would rather be present with the Lord and absent from this body but while it was needful to be on this earth he would do that with joy also. (Philippians 1:23) So as we recognize that we look forward to better things which are to come for us as Christians, let's rejoice for every day that we have the blessings of the Lord on this earth as we anticipate and further desire that which is to come. This is such a precious story, and really let us consider the miracles of today, of this day that we celebrate for Christmas. We don't want these miracles to overshadow what happened at Calvary because that is the purpose of why Jesus came. Many more miracles to fulfill scriptures for that particular incident of Jesus dying on the cross, shedding His blood for us. We know that that is most important, but let's not forget about the miracles of today

and the miracle that can happen in our heart when Jesus penetrates it.

Closing comments

Brother Mark talked about the miracles. I want to ask you this morning, do you believe in them? Do you believe that miracles occurred then and miracles still occur today? We read together one simple short verse that says "With God nothing shall be impossible." (Luke 1:34) Absolutely nothing. Do you know how many times the scripture records that verse or a variation of that verse? Six times at minimum the Bible tells us that. Why do you think it tells us that so many times? Why is not just one time sufficient? Because, we have a hard time understanding. We are so rational in our thinking. Things have to fall into place, order has to be established. But God does not work in that realm and in that dimension. God works in the dimension of miracles. You know babies are born every day. Babies were born every day the day Jesus was born. What made His birth so extraordinary? We went over it this morning. So many things made it extraordinary, the appearing of the Angel to Mary, the announcement of the Virgin birth. Parents you agonize when your children are born, what are we going to name this baby? You know Joseph and Mary they never had to give that a second thought. He was named before He was ever even born. That is extraordinary, that is a miracle. As Brother Mark said, the fact of how do you take a poor peasant couple from Nazareth and you physically move them 80 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem at full term, the precise timing to have Jesus born in Bethlehem to fulfill scripture. That is extraordinary. The fact that there was no room in any public place for Him, they could not even find lodging with their own relatives. He had to be born in the poorest place. You know we see nativity sets and we

think, oh that looks so comfortable in a nice cozy barn. He was born into deplorable conditions into a rock hard surface into three feet of sheep manure. The King of kings the Creator came to this earth. We just read in Paul's letter to the Corinthians it says, "...though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich..." (2 Corinthians 8:9) That is a miracle. The fact that the angel announced the birth of the Savior to shepherds, the bottom of society's ladder (socioeconomic ladder) instead of announcing it to the religious leaders of the time, or those that were government authorities. That is a miracle. The fact that the heavens were opened and they saw that army of angels, actually were physically able to see in the spiritual realm, that is a miracle. The fact that the timing was exact when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus into the temple and that man that had been promised that he was not going to die until he saw the salvation of Israel. What if their timing had been a ½ hour off? A day off? That is a miracle and the miracle does not end here with this story. It is not just the miracle of Christmas. It is the miracle of the Gospel. And that miracle of the Gospel still takes place every day today that people come to a saving faith. With God nothing shall be impossible. Wasn't impossible then and is not impossible today. We all celebrate Christmas, let's believe in the miracle and believe in the miracle for which Jesus came to this earth seeking to save. So thankful to be in God's house today on Christmas morning, thankful for everyone who has come today and I hope you have received a blessing from the Word.



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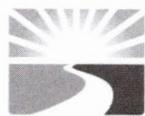
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Doubt & Fear

We can most likely assume that everyone has times of doubt and fear in their lives. Life itself is very uncertain and situations arise that test our faith and cause us to fear. When our hope and expectation is diminished, faith is compromised, and doubt begins to creep in. We also fear loss and the disruption of our lives. Nevertheless, we can take courage in knowing that our God is sovereign and nothing happens to us without Him being fully aware and able to help us walk through it.

"...God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." *1 John 3:20*

"Doubt" can be described as simply a deliberate questioning of uncertainties or as an emotional state of indecision. The Apostle Paul voiced his doubt of the Galatians' motives, "...I stand in doubt of you." Gal.4:20. Soon after Pentecost, the Jerusalem Jews who came from many different nations were in awe and wonder as they listened to the apostles speak in their own languages, "And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?" Acts 2:12.

Sometimes the truth is laid before us so completely and convincingly and yet we may question its validity because it defies our preconceived notions. A perfect example of this is Peter when he was walking on the water towards Jesus who had beckoned him to come to meet Him. As Peter eagerly stepped out of the boat to begin this adventure, his faith was strong and he took Jesus at His word. However, as he began to assess his situation and realize that men normally cannot walk on water, he questioned Jesus' power and he began to sink. What was our Lord's comment?

"O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" *Matthew 14:31*

Thus, we begin to understand that doubt is a measure of our own ideas of what truth should be against God's absolute truth and the power of God. Our fi-

nite minds simply cannot comprehend the concept of an infinite Being who is in control of all things. Our faith in God is strong when everything in our lives is going according to our liking and desire. When our perception of what life should be is challenged, we begin to doubt because our hope is shaken.

When we contemplate an upset in our plans and our lives, we begin to fear loss. That loss might be of health, a loved one, a job, an opportunity, a relationship, etc. The list is endless and varies greatly from person to person. What might be considered a great loss to one person may not seem so difficult to someone else. However, it is our inability to change the course of our lives according to our ideals that generates fear. We may well recognize our control is limited and at the same time we really don't want our plans changed.

In this regard, we can easily begin to question God and His sovereignty. Even Martha questioned why Jesus did not come when her brother, Lazarus, was sick.

"Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." *John 11:21*

Her world was turned upside down with the loss of her brother and she believed that Jesus could have done something to prevent it, but chose not to. Perhaps when Lazarus was sick, Martha knew his sickness was serious and could lead to death and she feared that. Now her fears had been realized and she was troubled to think that God had allowed this to happen. Lazarus' death probably had little impact on the rest of the village of Bethany so we see that doubts and fears are very personal in nature.

Perhaps one of the best examples of fear and dread coming to pass is in Job 3:25-26 "For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came." The Bible tells us that Job was concerned about his children and even prayed for them in case

they had sinned against God. So, we can easily see how Job's faith was severely tried and his hopes shattered.

"Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." *Hymns of Zion 186*

Those words roll off of our tongues pretty easily and we have sung this hymn many times. But, what does it mean to be happy in trusting? This exercise is difficult for most of us and requires a relinquishing of self and of our personal desires and plans. As mentioned, we have our preconceived ideas of what life should look like and when those ideas are disrupted and our worst fears come to pass, our faith can be shaken. Our ability to weather the disappointments in life is directly associated with our connectedness to Christ and our willingness to yield unto Him our very lives and will.

"Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine." *Hymns of Zion 106.*

Do we really understand the depth of these words when we sing this hymn?

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. *1 John 4:18*

This verse tells us that fear torments. However, it is only the perfect love of Jesus that can alleviate that fear and change it into hope through faith. Nevertheless, our love of self and our own agenda must be put aside in order to feel the perfect love of Christ. Is this easy? No, for most of us it is not, but God has promised in His Word that He will never forsake us in this life and that when this life is over we can have a hope of life eternal.

Hebrews 13:5 "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Titus 1:2 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"

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 happy is he."
 Proverbs 29:18*

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

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

To order, contact,

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

Rochester, MN Services

Times:
 7:30 - 3rd Wednesday of the month

Location:
 310 16th Ave SW,
 Rochester MN, 55902
*(within a few blocks
 of the Mayo campus)*

Contacts:
 Sis. Anne Wagenbach
 (507)993- 6916
 Bro. Jim and Sis Deb Tilbury
 (507)281-2875.

Any that are in the area are welcome and encouraged to worship with us.

Give a Child Hope

Child Sponsorships

Those in the child sponsorship program have several things in common. They are very poor, desire to learn and they have an undying soul.



The goal of this program is to provide an education to help these children

learn life skills to improve their standard of living, and also to provide spiritual training to address the true need...the need for a knowledge of and a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. Isaiah 54:13

To sponsor a child

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

Name _____

Mr. Mrs. Miss

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Home Ph _____

Cell Ph _____

Email _____

Please check preference:

Haiti Guatemala

Mexico Jamaica

Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

Boy - Age _____

Girl - Age _____

No Preference

Cost: \$25.00/month

For details: www.acworldrelief.org

Send to:

ACWR Child Sponsorship

PO Box 36

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

www.acworldrelief.org

Caretaker Needed at Tennessee Fellowship Center

A caretaker is needed at the Tennessee Fellowship Center located in Pulaski, Tenn. which is approximately 1 hour south of Nashville and 1/2 hour north of Athens, Ala. Living accommodations are available for a couple or a family.

The site, which consists of 12 acres, is used for singings, picnics and other church events including Memorial Day Weekend where ministers give topical presentations, an auction is held and singing and fellowshiping are enjoyed by all. Two acres of the 12 was made into a lake, called Lake Richard, where fishing can also be enjoyed.

Please prayerfully consider answering this call and joining the loving congregation at Athens, Ala.

If you are interested or have additional questions, please contact Bro. Mike Moore at ALM38@aol.com or (256)729-0260 or (256)777-3390.

Pre-School Teacher Needed

The Apostolic Christian Preschool has an immediate opening for a teacher directed of the Lord, with a degree and/or experience in Elementary or Early Childhood Education. It is a wonderful experience to teach children about the Lord in a loving, Christian environment. If you feel the call and want to find out more please contact:

Bro. Mike Moore

(256) 729-0620

(256) 777-3390

Email: ALM38@aol.com

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2010/2011

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.

HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of December 14th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 3-10	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 Ronp@palittoconsulting.com	12	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 15-25	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Jan 21-28	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 18-25	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
La Higuera Lifeline Construction	Jan 25-Feb 1	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Mar 25-28	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 28-Feb 4	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12	Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Mar 25-Apr 1	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacomm.net	12
Dumay Lifeline Construction	Feb 1-8	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Apr 1-8	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Feb 4-11	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 29-May 6	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4
Dumay Lifeline Construction	Feb 8-15	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Evaluation	May 13-20	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 18-25	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacomm.net	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 20-27	Keith Knepp 309-467-3468 kknepp@mchsi.com	8
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Feb 25-Mar 4	Randy Kieser 309-695-6340 kieser84@gmail.com	12	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 8-18	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Puits Sales Palm Grove Construction	Mar 8-15	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	12				

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of December 14th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCCD	Jan 8 - 15	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	Full	Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCCD	Jun 10 - 18	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCCD	Mar 5 - 12	Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788 tswald@bellsouth.net	40	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCCD	Jun 25 - Jul 2	Harvey Landis 330-925-8632 landziv@aol.com	Akron/ Rittman BC Trip

MEXICO

*If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of December 14th, 2010 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/*

Location	Year 2011	Coordinator			
Magdalena Construction	Jan 1-8	Bryan Steffen 815-867-7556 bcsteffen@gmail.com	Reynosa Construction	Mar 19-26	Tristan Herrmann University of Illinois 309-712-6902 tristanherrmann@gmail.com
Reynosa Construction	Jan 1-8	Matthew Gerber Purdue 260-273-0292 matthewgerber@adamswells.com	Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 26-Apr 2	Aaron Beery 330-927-6926 beeryaaron@embarqmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Jan 8-15	John Teubel 815-657-8721 jteubel@maxwire.net	Magdalena Construction	Mar 26 - Apr 2	Doug Frank Tremont Bible Class 309-925-5000 frankfamilyfarms@yahoo.com
Magdalena Construction	Jan 15-22	Steve Kaeb 217-379-4707 kaebsb@illicom.net	Magdalena Construction	Apr 16-23	Mike Zobrist Congerville/Eureka 309-660-7004 zobfam@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Feb 12-19	Jon Baner 309-747-4085 jbaner@grid.com.net	Magdalena Construction	May 28 - Jun 4	Todd Baum Phoenix Bible Class 480-563-8286 toddbaum@svmasonry.com
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 5-12	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 kevgerber@yahoo.com	Magdalena Construction	Jun 11-18	Jason Schambach Elgin Bible Class 847-468-1194 jkschambach@att.net
Magdalena Construction	Mar 5-12	Jason Edelman Illinois State University 309-848-7987 isyounggroup@gmail.com	Magdalena Construction	Jun 18-25	Stan Virkler 219-863-5913 svirkler@fbbuildings.com
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 19-26	Sam Kaehr 260-565-3200 sckaehr@adamswells.com	Reynosa Construction	Jun 18-25	Joe Sprunger Indianapolis Bible Class 317-491-4424 joesprunger@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 19-26	Jeff Leman Bluffton Senior Class 260-565-3815 jvleman@adamswells.com	Magdalena Construction	Jul 9-16	Jason Kaeb Bern Bible Class 785-284-3202 jason.maggs@gmail.com

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



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is a continuation of the early history of our congregation at Elgin, Iowa. It is taken from data submitted by a Mr. Gary Butikofer of Wisconsin who has family connections at Elgin. He submitted very thorough data about the first years of the congregation there.

1852 It was in 1852 that Christian Lantz (1825-1899) and his wife, Sophia Meier Lantz (1821-1853), and their children — Christian, Sophia, Elizabeth, and Bertha — came to Elgin, Iowa. In November 1852, the youngest child, Joel Lantz, was born near Elgin. This family had come from Switzerland to America in May, 1851.

Jacob Wittmer, Sr. (1823-1902) and his wife, Mary Reusser Wittmer (1830-1912), and their children, Jacob, Jr. and Mary, came from Monroe County, Ohio (the Sardis area), to Elgin in 1852. This family had come from Switzerland to Sardis, Ohio, in June, 1851. They moved to Bern, Kansas, in about 1888.

John Lehman, Sr. (1806-1893) and his wife, Mary Miller Lehman (1807-1888), came from Switzerland to Elgin in 1852 with twelve children. They lived in this vicinity the remainder of their lives. They were early members of the Elgin, Iowa, church and so was their son, Jacob Lehman. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian cemetery near Elgin.

1853 Jacob Habeger (1809-1887) came from Switzerland to America in 1832. He settled in Ohio. Jacob came to Elgin with his sons — John, Peter, and Abraham — in 1852 where he remarried Matalena Beer (1827-1905). Jacob and Matalena Habeger lived in the Elgin area until at least 1885, but they are buried in the Apostolic Christian cemetery near Roanoke, Illinois.

Also coming from Switzerland with his parents in 1853 was Chris Meyer (1846-1928). In 1871, he married Mary

Baumgartner (1853-1923). Chris and Mary did not join the Apostolic Christian church until late in their lives.

1854 Christian Bauman (1813- 1870) and his wife, Maria, and their son came from Switzerland in 1854. Christian was a minister in the church in Switzerland (known then as Evangelical Baptist), and he was the first permanent minister in the Elgin, Iowa, church. He and his wife are buried in the church cemetery.

Jacob Butikofer, Sr. (1812-1891) and his wife, Anna, and their four children — Jacob, Anna, Elizabeth, and John — came from Switzerland to Elgin in 1854 and remained there the rest of their lives. They are buried in the Apostolic Christian Church cemetery.

Christian Ledermann (1811-1890) and his wife, Anna Barbara Hertig Ledermann (1829-1903), came here from Switzerland in 1854 and remained the rest of their lives. Their ship arrived at New Orleans on April 24, 1854. They are buried in the church cemetery, but Christian has no grave marker.

Nicklaus Pfarrer (1809-1883) and his wife, Anna Marie Marti Pfarrer (1814-1881), and their children — Mary, Anna, Elizabeth, Magdalena, and Gottfried— all came to Elgin from Switzerland in 1854. Nicklaus and his wife are buried in the church cemetery.

A large family came from Switzerland in 1854. It was that of Christian Beer, Jr. (1793-1860). He came with his wife, Magdalena Aeschleman Beer (1802-1865). Their children came with them: Matalena, Anna, Christian, Jr., Maria, John Ulrich, Barbara, and Catherine. Christian, Sr. and his wife are buried in the church cemetery, but have no markers.

John Isch (1825-1899) and his wife, Fannie Beer Isch (1830-1916), and their son, John, came from Switzerland to Elgin in 1854. They moved to West Bend, Iowa, in about 1880. They are bur-

ied in the Apostolic Christian Church cemetery near Roanoke.

Note: It appears there was a fair amount of activity of church people coming to Elgin, Iowa, in the very early days. Likely, word had spread back to Switzerland of farming opportunities in this area, and many responded. Their routes to Elgin, Iowa, were primarily from Sardis, Ohio, and from the dock at New Orleans. In this latter case, they boarded river conveyances on the Mississippi River and traveled directly up to Iowa.

From Sardis, Ohio, they boarded a boat and traveled down the Ohio River, and thence up the Mississippi River, and finally reached Iowa.

One can only surmise about the courage and fortitude these early settlers/pioneers had in order to leave their homeland in Switzerland and adjacent areas and cross the Atlantic Ocean, and find their way to the Midwest. Because it was so long ago, we think of them as old persons. Yet, they were young, and came with many children. Their difficulties, sorrows, and general challenges were met with their faith in God. Surely, they could not have made this monumental trip without reliance on Almighty God.

Another thing precious to them was the presence in America (since 1847) of "the Faith," that is, the Biblical doctrine already established in Europe by Bro. Samuel Froehlich, and henceforth perpetuated and preserved by faithful brethren. The church had gravitated to America, and was an encouraging and welcoming environment for these weary and hopeful sojourners.

Compiled by Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

More on Elgin, Iowa history

The Light Of Hope

“Great Joy”

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

Is Christmas a great joy for you? Christmas is the most important holiday in America and Europe while New Year's is the most important holiday in Japan and China. Why is Christmas the most important holiday in America? Is it not because that is when families get together and feast and receive presents? That's not all bad, but I notice that in the account of the birth of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, there was great joy for the shepherds and for the wise men and it wasn't because they were over-eating or getting a lot of presents they didn't need. It was because Christ was born and they found Him.

In Luke 2:10 we read, “And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” At first there was a single angel who appeared to the shepherds. He followed the above statement with the news that a Saviour had been born. If someone has been born who can save us from ourselves and our imperfections or sins, that is a great joy. It is the solution to the problem which has long plagued the human race. The problem is how to get on good terms with the Creator of the universe.

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found the Christ child as the angel had said, lying in a manger. The shepherds made known abroad what had been told them by the angel because it was a great joy to them.

In Matthew 2:10 we read, “When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.” The wise men had stopped at Jerusalem to inquire of King Herod about the place where the

King of the Jews was born. They were told that it must be in Bethlehem according to Micah, chapter five, so they headed for Bethlehem. To their surprise, the star that they had seen in the East was again visible and was guiding them to Bethlehem. Evidently, it was an especially created star which moved before them. This would be very helpful because the star would guide them directly to the house where Jesus was now being cared for by Mary and Joseph. Otherwise, the house might be difficult to find in the town of Bethlehem. They didn't have an address to go by or inquire about. The result was that they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Why did they have great joy? Because the star would save them from a lot of trouble in finding the child, but also, it reassured them that this was no ordinary child. After all, special stars don't show up every day to guide you to where you want to go. Therefore, the wise men rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Christmas is rightfully a time of great joy. May the truth of Christ's birth give us an inner joy which shows on our countenance, in our words, and in our actions.

The term “Great Joy” is used again in the Bible concerning Christ's resurrection. Matthew 28:8 reads, “And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.” After the angel told the women who had come early to the grave, that Christ had arisen, they responded with fear because this was, and is, a very unusual event. The dead do not usually

arise in our presence, even though we believe their bodies will arise some day. Anything very unusual brings a certain amount of fear. It is called the fear of the unknown.

Even though the women had fear, they also had great joy. Why was that? It was because it meant that their Master was more than man, He was the Son of God, as He had claimed. That is reason for great joy. The shepherds and the wise men experienced great joy as they anticipated what Christ's birth meant for the world. The resurrection proved that Christ is indeed the Son of God and it is the consummation of the whole plan of salvation for man.

In John 28:52 we read, “And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.” Jesus had just parted from them and was carried up into heaven. The disciples had seen Him disappear up into the heavens and their joy knew no bounds. They returned to Jerusalem with great joy. There was great joy at His birth, there was great joy at His resurrection, and there was great joy at His ascension.

Great joy is the order of the day. Certainly at this Christmas time when we celebrate and remember His birth, we will remember that it is a time of great joy, not because of all the presents and food, but because the Son of God was born, and through Him we are made clean, and pure, and holy, and life has meaning for eternity. That is great joy.

希望の光

THE SILVER LINING
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NICK KAEB
304 E HICKORY ST
FAIRBURY IL 61739-1233

*From heaven, in the dark of night,
He came and brought eternal light.
Behold now how this light divine
Throughout this pilgrim's dale doth shine.*

Hallelujah!

