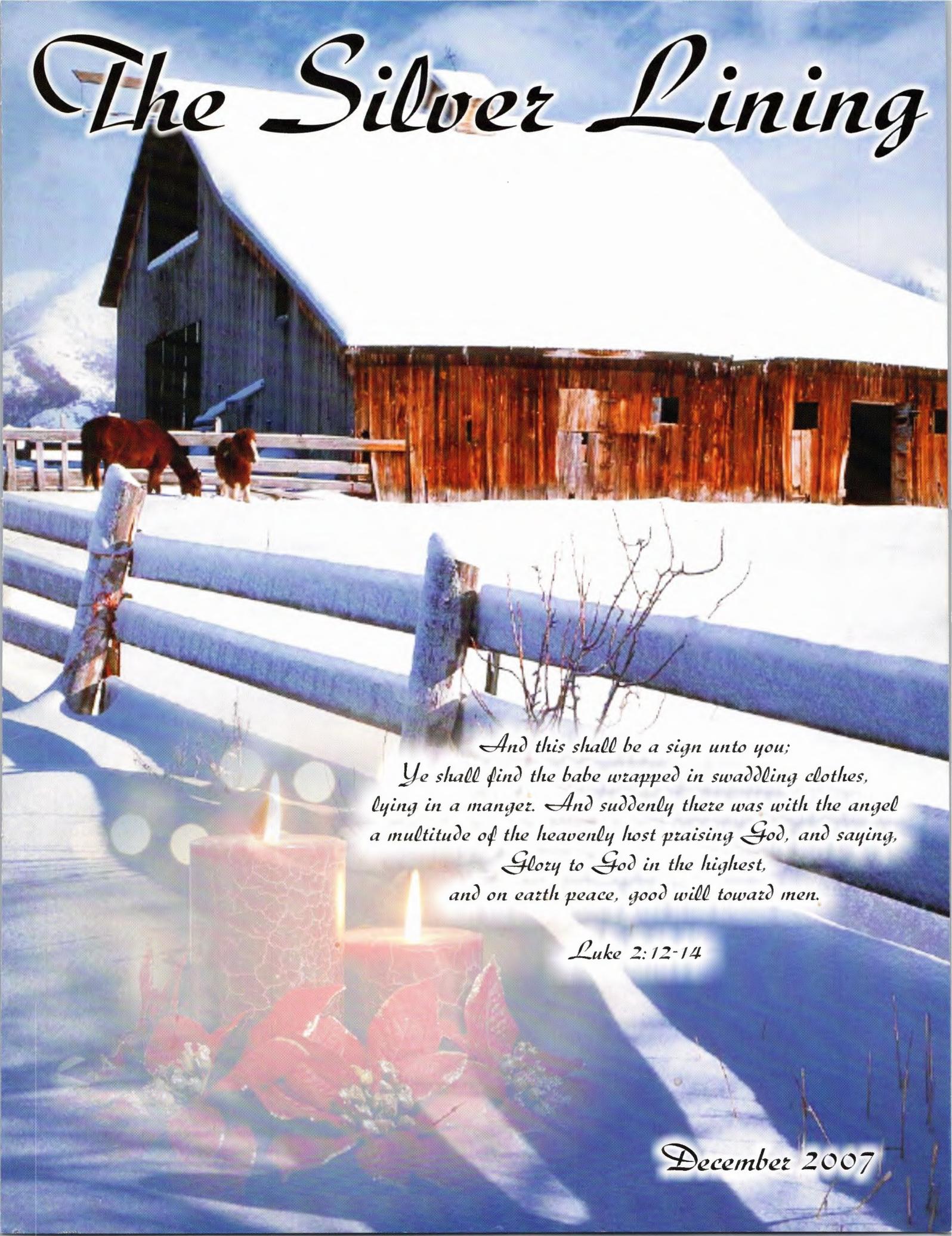


The Silver Lining



*And this shall be a sign unto you;
Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,
lying in a manger. 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 toward men.*

Luke 2:12-14

December 2007

Sermon by Bro. Elder Bro. Curt Frank, LaCrosse, IN

Isaiah 53 and St. Matthew 2

Greetings, brothers and sisters and friends of the truth. I don't know that any of us can really deny the feeling of happiness, of joy, as we sang those Christmas carols together. I think the reason that we come together today is such a deep and abiding truth and abiding faith that we have in our heavenly Father and in this Word and in what God has done for all of us. It is a joy to come together on Christmas morning, and to praise and honor His high and His holy name for the most precious gift that mankind has ever, ever known. And ever will know. There isn't anything greater. I don't know if we fully comprehend that - if we can. In part we feel it, when we sit and we sing those carols together. We feel our souls lifted up.

In that last hymn, there, as we sang, There were shepherds abiding..., it says Oh bridegroom of my soul! (There Were Shepherds, Hymns of Zion #300) God has given to each of us a living soul. That soul has a desire to be reunited with its Creator. I think much more than the human mind has the desire to serve Him. It is when we have understanding and knowledge of God's Word and have a desire to understand God that that soul can be satisfied and we can feel a peace when our minds and our bodies and our souls can be in one accord in serving God.

As Isaiah spoke those words [Isaiah 53], I wonder what the people thought as he spoke of this servant. As he spoke of this lamb that grew up as a tender plant out of dry ground (Isaiah

53:2). I wonder if they began at all to sense where Isaiah was coming from. Or if these were as idle words.

What is the meaning, what is the value of a gift? We think of that as we gather together for Christmas a lot. We spend a lot of time thinking of the value of a gift. That's really a pleasant thing that we have, that we get to do; that we get to go out and we get to purchase something for somebody. We spend some time, we put some care and some effort into it. We want so badly for that to be right. We want so badly for that to be felt and appreciated. The Lord was speaking to Isaiah and speaking of this gift that He was going to give to mankind.

Loved ones, as we gather together and we sing these Christmas carols together and it speaks of the bridegroom of our soul, and our souls are lifted up. We just simply can't help but have a feeling of happiness, of joy about us, as we consider. That's because, loved ones, our soul has a, maybe a greater understanding of the gift that God has given unto us than perhaps what we in our minds really stop and think about and ponder about.

But aren't we thankful that we have an opportunity to stop and to come together and to read the Word and to try to connect the feeling in our heart and in our soul, the joy that we feel in our soul, so that our minds can understand it. When we do, loved ones, there is even a greater and a deeper appreciation. There is an understanding. That is really the reason we gather together; so that we can fully comprehend

and know the breadth and the width and the height and the depth of His love. So may we have that thought in mind as we gather together and we again

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

December 2007

Parents, Children and Technology III

The two previous articles on this topic gave a brief historical background on the development of technology and pointed out some of the devices that parents need to be aware of and some of the issues of concern.

In this article the focus of attention will be on encouragement for parents and some sources of help for parents who may be facing these issues with their children.

So much of this topic - teens and technology - goes back to good parenting. If we use good parenting principles, we do not need to know everything that is happening in the world of technology. We do need to know what our children are doing. We need to know where they are. We need to know who (or what) they spend their time with. Just as we would not allow our children to spend time with total strangers in a completely unsupervised manner, neither should we release our children to strange devices in an unsupervised setting.

It is very important that if we have computers in our home, that they be located in an area that makes regular supervision possible. We should have consistent, strict rules about its use with reasonable time limitations and uncompromising prohibition of involvement with strangers on the internet for other than legitimate business or education use.

If we allow our children to have cell phones, we should limit the features that the phone has. We should be aware of how much time is spent on the phone and who they talk to. We also need to be aware of the time of day our children are using these devices. Frequent, lengthy use of computers, cell phones, etc. late at night are often a signal that parents need to find out what is going on and who they are involved with.

There are numerous resources for parents as they try to provide responsible guidance for their children. Some references are:

* "Guidance on Internet Use" - made available through the church in March, 2006. This article can be obtained from your elder, one of the ministers or on the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services website. It provides more information on technology, additional reasons for

concern and additional help for parents as they work with their children in this sometimes very trying area of our lives.

* Two previous articles in "The Light from the Word" - Technology and the Internet I & II. Although these were originally published in the Silver Lining in July and August 1998, the cautions are still relevant.

* Deuteronomy 6:7-8 instructs us that we "...shalt teach them (God's commandments) diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest in the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes."

To a world that is used to instant results or gratification, this may seem like a very difficult task. However, when we consider the persistent, eye-catching appeal to the baser instincts of the human mind, persistent teaching of the Word of God in a loving clear manner is vital to combat the evil that is confronting our children.

In a world of rapid changes, instability and unwholesome fantasy, our children need more than ever the stability of the Truth of the Word from an unchanging God. Although it may be difficult to establish a close relationship with a child who has withdrawn from family and values contained in the Bible, as parents, we must reach out to our children and try to draw them close. We must live our lives in a way that demonstrates love, joy, peace with God, and with a contentment that will help our children see what God has for us.

* Proverbs 4 reminds us that God has given us good doctrine. We are encouraged to retain His words in our hearts, keep His commandments, and live. We are to get wisdom and understanding. "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (vs. 7).

High speed technology will certainly help us get knowledge, but it will hardly give us wisdom. It will provide us with vast resources, but it may not do much to help us get understanding. Much of ch. 4 in Proverbs warns us to stay away from evil. We are instructed to "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from

evil" (v. 26-27).

* St. Luke 11:11-13 instructs us to give our children good food (bread, fish, eggs) rather than evil gifts (stone, serpent, scorpion). Technology has much to offer that can be good and much to offer that is very evil. We try to teach our children to avoid harmful food and physical danger. We must also teach them to learn the difference between good and evil knowledge.

* Another valuable resource for parents as they try to help their children learn responsible use of modern technology is brothers, sisters, or friends who work frequently with technology. Just as we cannot know everything possible about nutrition, health or other topics of importance as they relate to our children, we likely will not understand everything we need to know to help our children learn to use technology in a responsible manner. We should not be afraid to ask for help from those who are well informed in this area.

* There have been Conference topics, Memorandum topics and other presentations that can provide help in dealing with the vast array of challenges we face as we deal with the ever expanding opportunities that are presented by advances in technology.

* Our children's school teachers may also be a valuable resource. We could visit with them about the involvement of our children in technology in their classes. If we know our children's teacher better, we will likely be in a better position to fulfill our parental responsibilities.

Children are most likely more advanced in the use of technology, and far more comfortable in using it than their parents are. This can be a source of concern for parents, or it can be an opportunity to get to know our children better and to help them. Satan's goal has not changed. He still wants to destroy God's people. If he can separate parents from their children, he will have gained a great advantage.

God has not changed. He still wants His people to serve Him and to be eternally saved. Technology does not have to allow Satan to win this battle. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Eph. 6:10).

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@davesworld.net



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

Mission Committee Planning

Planning efforts provide clarity, focus and accountability to help us continually refine and implement our purpose. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will enable this planning to be purposeful and inspired (Prov. 29:18; John 16:13).

A clear statement of the MC Purpose contributes to the completeness of our Church Mission and provides direction for fulfilling the biblical directive to present the Gospel message to the lost. Implementing this pillar of the Church Mission within the counsel of our Guiding Principles improves the alignment of our priorities and decisions with the vision of the Word.

“If ye love me, keep my commandments. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (John 14:15; Matt. 28:19-20).

MC Purpose

The purpose of missions in the Apostolic Christian Church is to present the Gospel message of salvation to the lost in harmony with guiding, training and preparing the Church Body to serve all men, to nurture one another in the true faith and to preserve sound biblical doctrine.

Guiding Principles

1. Biblical Truth (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Matt. 28:20; 1 Cor. 9:19-23)
2. Repentance and Sanctification (Eph. 2:8-10; Acts 3:19; Matt. 3:6; Tit. 2:11-14)
3. Church development (Eph. 2:19-22;

- 1 Tim. 3:15)
4. Preparation (1 Pet. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:21)
5. Doctrinal Integrity (2 Pet. 2:1-2; Rev. 2:14; Tit. 1:9)
6. Biblical Accountability (Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-2)
7. Love (John 15:12; Phil. 2:3)

Our mission efforts will have the Lord's continued blessings, if they are carried out in harmony with the four pillar Mission of our Church. Current Elder Body efforts to strengthen the unity of our church include emphasis on a balanced implementation of all four of these pillars in each congregation and throughout the Brotherhood.

Mission of our Church

1. To Present to the lost the Gospel message of salvation based on faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and a true repentance and conversion. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 3:19; Eph. 2:8)
2. To teach and nurture believers toward a sanctified life and to faithfulness by God's grace and through His Word. (Col. 1:28; Eph. 4:12; Eph. 5:26-27)
3. To preserve sound doctrine and “earnestly contend for the faith.” (Jude 3; Acts 20:27; 1 Tim. 4:16)
4. To offer loving, humble deeds of service to fellow believers and all mankind in the name of Christ. (Gal. 5:13; Gal. 6:10; Phil. 2:7)

Mission Committee planning has included provision for needed support for brethren sent for long term service by either the MC or World Relief in the form of the Servant Fund, which is functioning quite well. Additional effort has focused on expansion of communication throughout the Brotherhood to include the establishment of a

national church web site and current development of a web site for mission activities to augment the communication with Silver Lining articles, pulpit announcements and Conference exhortations.

Perhaps the most critical message to be sent throughout the Brotherhood is the reminder to be prayerful for this work. Jesus said, “... pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2). Jonah learned that “Salvation is of the Lord” (Jon. 2:9), and we must all remember that He is the one who draws the hearts of man and can bless our feeble efforts.

An important step in the MC's planning and implementation is the establishment of an Outreach Committee. The charge of this committee is to develop more complete and biblically based procedures for selecting, equipping, sending and nurturing brethren for cross-cultural mission work at home and abroad. This effort to share responsibilities and delegate various duties is being done in the spirit of Acts 6, when the early church found the need to enlist the help of more brethren to carry out the Lord's work.

It is expected that there will be increased efforts to provide opportunities for brethren to utilize their gifts by answering God's call and being sent by the church to spread the Gospel message to the lost. All of these mission outreach activities will be developed and implemented within the Mission Purpose, Guiding Principles and Church Mission, as outlined above. The Outreach Committee has begun its work and we plan to provide a progress report in the next issue of the Silver Lining (January 2008) on this Mission Committee page.



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

Goodfield Distribution Center

The National Distribution Center Committee coordinates six distribution centers. These locations are Goodfield and Fairbury, Illinois; Wolcott and Bluffton, Indiana; Bay City, Michigan; and Sterling, Ohio. This committee also supports the distribution efforts in Athens, Alabama.

The centers receive material donations from individuals and corporations, including food products, medical supplies, clothing, and household items. These donations are distributed locally, shared with other centers for their local distribution or packaged and shipped internationally. Each facility has specialized activities unique to their center.



This article focuses on the work at the Goodfield Distribution Center, which serves 5 areas: clothes packing, kit supplies, local furniture collection and distribution, Mexico and Jamaica shipments. There are 11 central Illinois churches represented in the work at the Goodfield Center. Each church has its representative which forms the committee that determines the work actions.

Clothes packing

The Goodfield Distribution Center collects clothes in any and all conditions. They sort them, and those that are not useable are sold for rags. Clean used clothing in good condi-

tion is packed in bulk and shipped to those in need across the world. Groups from local congregations pack clothes on average 3 times per week. They ship 3 to 4 containers of clothes each year, usually to Eastern Europe or the Ukraine. Summer



clothing is shipped to Jamaica and Mexico. They are open to utilizing additional shipping sites as they usually collect and pack clothes faster than they can organize and pay for shipments.

Health & school kits

The distribution center acts as a source of kit supplies to local congregations and a holding point for completed health and school kits waiting to be shipped through World Relief. The mission is to buy the supplies in bulk, thereby saving money for those who would desire to put kits together. This also allows them to keep the kits uniform. They maintain a separate fund for this aspect of the center. There is a constant need for health kits being distributed through World Relief and other organizations that World Relief works with.

Furniture distribution

The distribution center serves as a collection point for area residents that want to donate used furniture

and household items that are in good condition. These items are then passed out to local residents in need that are referred by local aid agencies. The center is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 9AM - 11AM specifically for this activity. They ask that those with needs bring a referral sheet from a local agency such as Heart House in Eureka or South Side Mission in Peoria. You can also contact your local committee member and make arrangements directly.

Mexico & Jamaica

The center serves as a collection point for goods being shipped to various agencies in Mexico and Jamaica. They have ongoing relationships with contacts in those places to keep an up to date needs list. Money for the items that are shipped is provided by national World Relief funds and individual donations. Usually they ship twice a year to each location. Committee members in charge of those shipments appreciate extra help preparing for shipments and especially on load-out days.

There are many other activities that are too numerous to mention. The Goodfield Distribution Center appreciates the donations of time and funding by many that make these activities possible. If anyone wishes to contribute to a certain aspect of the center or just to the general maintenance of the center, please contact the coordinator:

Roger Ackerman
1208 Parkside Ave
Morton, IL 61550
(309) 263-9715 Phone
(309) 696-9035 Cell
rogerackerman@verizon.net

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Holidays are here. There are residents looking forward to some vacation time with loved ones, and others who will spend this time with the staff at the Home. Our activity department has arranged special events for the Holidays to assist the residents in celebrating and enjoying this time.

The residents love your visits via the Friday evening hymn singings, Christmas caroling, special groups who provide a unique evening or weekend event, and especially a personal visit. Your presence means a lot.

The following paragraph is the concluding excerpt of an article from the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Handicapped children. The first excerpts were in the March and September Silver Lining issues. These words could apply to many of the residents at Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped.

I am the child who is mentally impaired. I don't learn easily, if you judge me by the world's measuring stick. What I do know is infinite joy in the simple things. I am not burdened as you are with the strifes and conflicts of a more complicated life. My gift to you is to grant you the freedom to enjoy things as a child, to teach you how much your arms around me mean, to give you love. I give you the gift of simplicity. I am the child who is mentally impaired.

May you all have a blessed Christmas remembrance, and a new year focused around our Precious Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Matthew 18: 1-5

Mark 9: 33-37

Luke 9: 46-48

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Zach Bertsch

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

"Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our sorrow, in our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendor."

— Charles Spurgeon

One of the most wonderful truths in scripture is that God has pursued a *Matthew 1:23* relationship with us. This is never more evident to me than in the Christmas story. Jesus, the Creator of the universe, left the glories of Heaven to be born in a lowly manger. He left the praise of angels to be surrounded by the pride of men. He left the immortality of Godhood to be robbed in mortal flesh. He left it all to be with us and to pursue a relationship with us.

God pursues us with passion. He will leave the ninety-nine sheep and search after the one that has went astray. He left the angels in Heaven to pursue us. Surely He loves the lost sheep. And there is no doubt that every one of us was a lost sheep. The Good Shepherd pursued after us and found us!

What should our response be? It should be nothing less than pursuing Him in return with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Another response should be to pursue others that don't have a relationship with Him. Please pray for us at Gateway Woods as we strive to pursue those who are lost. Please pray that we can build relationships with the children and families that we serve with the ultimate purpose of showing them the amazing joy

of a relationship with Jesus.

This Christmas season let us rejoice in the knowledge that God has pursued us and has found us!

NEWS:

- We hope to see heavy equipment arrive any week now to break ground for the road and driveway for our new Pine House. Collections for this expansion to our residential program will begin soon in many churches. Of course, direct donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

- God continues to bless us with very caring, skilled, and diligent new staff members who are very passionate about "turning lives around." Over the past couple months we have seen many changes at Gateway Woods. We would like to share the testimonies of incoming staff members with you:

"When I was a junior in high school, I wrote a paper stating, 'I hope one day I'll work at Gateway Woods.' Little did I know in six short years I would be teaching English at the Gateway Woods School. I received my B.S. in Education this past May from Illinois State University. During my job hunt I prayed, 'Lord, lead me to a place where I can grow in Thee.' Needless to say, when God opened the door to Gateway Woods, I gladly walked through it. Since my time here, God has taught me incalculable lessons; one of my favorites is not to look at the obstacles but at the opportunities."

- Sis. Tammy Sauder, Teacher

"This past summer I came out to Gateway Woods to serve as a volunteer. Little did I know that during that time, I would fall deeply in love with this ministry and the people that are part of it. It became my desire to be a teacher at Gateway Woods School and God fulfilled that desire. I have found each day to be a gift from God that enables me to show the love of Jesus to the residents along with enriching their minds of His

works and the wonders of Science.”

-*Sis. Kristin Zimmerman, Teacher*

“I worked at Gateway Woods as an Assistant Houseparent in the Oak House (pregnant teen program) for two years before beginning as a Social Studies teacher. There’s definitely something very amazing about this place and the kids we work with. Serving at Gateway Woods has taught me about the unconditional love and mercy of God. If only I could have the same patience and compassion with my students as our God has for us. This school year is going very well, and we always appreciate being remembered in your prayers. Thank you!”

- *Sis. Christy Wiegand, Teacher*

In September of this year, Bro. Shane and Sis. Stefanie Beer, along with their 3 mo. old son, Gavin, moved from Vincennes, IN, to serve God in the capacity of houseparenting at Gateway Woods. They were married on May 7, 2006, and both graduated from Purdue University. Bro. Shane, originally from Milford, IN, has a Master’s degree in Agricultural Systems Management and Sis. Stefanie, originally from Wolcott, IN, has a Bachelor’s degree in Youth, Adult, and Family Services. They are excited to be serving at Gateway and thankful that God has given them a passion for ministering to hurting children. Already, God has taught them so much about His unfailing love and compassion for His creation. They ask for your prayers that God would use them to reveal Himself to these children and that He would give them wisdom, creativity, and grace as they serve here at Gateway Woods.

Greetings to all those who are reading this. I am very pleased to be introduced to you as a new member of the Foster Care program at Gateway Woods. This will actually be the third time I have been employed at Gateway Woods, with the first two positions being involved with summer programs. It

was during those times that I truly felt led by God to serve the at-risk youth in this community. I have spent the last three years working with hurting teenagers at Park Center in Fort Wayne. I appreciate the experience I was able to gain there, and look forward to using these skills in a Christian setting where I can feel free to share my faith in Jesus. I earnestly ask for your prayers for myself, and the Foster Care program as we continue to grow to meet the opportunities that are ahead.

- *Bro. Brian Knudstrup*

- A heartfelt thanks to Sis. Marti Hinrichsen for her willingness to serve as Foster Care Case Manager during the past few months. Sis. Marti says “I’m thankful for the time I’ve been able to work as a Foster Care Case Manager at Gateway Woods. Though my time at Gateway Woods has been short, I hope that my experience and service in foster care will help the program to continue growing. As I begin my new life with Bro. Martin Rumbold in Illinois, I hope I will be able to work with children in some capacity. I’m thankful that God continues to be faithful, as He has already provided a replacement for my position. I know that the new Foster Care Case Manager, Bro. Brian Knudstrup, would appreciate your continued prayers for both him and the children placed in our program.” We wish God’s blessings on Sis. Marti and Bro. Martin as they look forward to marriage.

- We are excited to announce that Bro. Marc Grim will become our second Foster Care Case Manager starting in January, 2008. Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann have been serving as Houseparents in the Hickory House over the past two years and recently Bro. Marc felt led to pursue the open position in the Foster Care program. Please continue to pray for Bro. Marc and his family as they prepare for the change ahead and that God would direct couples to fill the multiple houseparent open positions at Gateway

Woods.

- We are also very grateful to Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy Kilgus and their family for the years of service they’ve given to Gateway Woods. Bro. Jason states “God led us to Gateway Woods just over three years ago. Courtney, Tyler, Landon, Joy and myself have been wonderfully blessed living and working with young teenagers during this time. We’ve learned this is a family ministry, not just a job. Working with children who need someone to turn to for help and guidance creates a wonderful atmosphere to examine our own hearts, motives, desires, and convictions. Not only does God use Gateway Woods to teach children, that He has a wonderful plan to restore broken lives now and for eternity; but He also uses this work to refine with fire His own children in the process. We have been blessed to establish relationships with children that will continue on into the future.

As Jesus, by His own example, has taught us to lead others by serving others; please consider seeing the need, laying down your “nets”, stepping into the trenches at Gateway Woods, and serving your King as a houseparent! We will miss working here greatly, but know that God will fill the openings with someone who is willing to answer His call.” We wish God’s blessings on Bro. Jason as he begins work at Milan Center early next year and his family as they adjust to the change in their lives.

- Praise God for His continued provision at Gateway Woods! We are very thankful that He continues to provide us with the right staff. Because of our Adoption services expanding into Illinois, Houseparents moving on to serve God in other capacities, and other ministry opportunities here, there are a number of service positions waiting to be filled. Please see the ads in this month’s edition of *The Silver Lining*. We trust that God will continue to provide us with qualified, mature Brothers and Sisters who will be able to serve Him in a ministry that is Turning Lives

Around. Perhaps this includes you!

- As we finish out this year we are very thankful to our great God and His continued provision. We are also very thankful for your prayers and support throughout the entire year. We depend on your support to achieve our mission: "To honor and obey God by providing help and healing to troubled children and families who then may bless others." Thank you for caring and sharing!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX **Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

Colossians 4:5-6

Our joyful Sunday School Picnic was held on October 28. As believers, we come together for whatever needs are at hand; and yes, our need was to comfort one another at Sis. Alice Baumgartner's funeral the next day. Our dear Sister passed away on October 26. It was a beautiful Monday morning as the cars streamed into the parking lot, bearing those who would mourn the loss of Sis. Alice and rejoice in the hope given through Christ Jesus our Lord. The choir sang "Who At My Door Is Standing?" Verses from Isaiah 40 and Revelation 22:1-4 were read in the service. Warm love filled our church as we bid Sis. Alice farewell.

Our visiting ministers this busy month were Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson), and Bro. Ken Lawson (Atlanta). How grateful we are for God's provision through His humble servants.

Dear ones, as we approach the holidays, let us say many prayers for each other. What a blessing for all! God bless you.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT **Jane Hodges**

Andrew Furrer (Jim and Rowena) and Amanda Vanatta were united in marriage on November 3. They will be residing in Chino Valley, which is about 10 miles north of the church. May the Lord richly bless the union of their lives.

Once again, we are very thankful for visiting ministers to help Bro. Dan Dubach share God's Word with us. This last month, they included Bros. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA), Steven Stieglitz (Leo, IN), and our deacon, Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr. (Phoenix). May the Lord richly bless them and their families for their service and love.

ARIZONA, TUCSON **Lisa Knapp**

We are experiencing beautiful weather right now although it's unseasonably warm with daytime highs still around 80 degrees. For Thanksgiving Day services tomorrow we will be expecting a high of 77 degrees. We always wish for some cooler weather at the holidays, but I don't suppose we'll be successful in gathering up much sympathy!

We will have much to be thankful for as a church and individually. We look forward, Lord willing, to a new year filled with opportunities to serve God together and in our own lives. We wish the same for all of you. Season's Greetings and as the wreath on our front door says, "Wise Men Still Seek Him!"

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Tina Jackson**

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where nei-

ther moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

Matthew 6:19-20

We were reminded here, in Southern California, of the importance of where our treasure should truly lie, as we witnessed the devastation of many homes, businesses and forested acres, burned by the ravages of fire. No one in our Altadena church encountered personal loss, but we did have some who were evacuated from their homes for several days. The typically beautiful, blue California skies were smoke filled and anything residing outside, was covered with a thin layer of ash. It was a timely reminder of how our confidence must be in Christ, not in our earthly possessions.

We were thankful to have Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) worship with us while in Southern California visiting their daughter, Sis. Kara. He shared with us from 2 Chronicles 7 and that God is more concerned with the condition of our hearts than the quantity of our sacrifices.

Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle returned home safely this month from traveling to India for two weeks with Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) and retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL). They were there to oversee the work being done with RGMMI (Rural Gospel Medical Mission of India). Before they flew out of LAX, Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz shared God's Word with us at our Wednesday evening services. We are thankful for their safe return and their willingness to serve in the many capacities that they do.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) assisted Elder Bro. Tom in sharing the Memorandum with our church. We were thankful for his willingness to share from God's Word and encourage us in our faith in Christ.

Saturday morning, November 11, was spent at a local restaurant enjoying a time of fellowship and breakfast with women from our church, and their family and friends. Sis. Shirley Luthi organized it and we are so thankful to her for the generous giving of her time on our behalf and for her words of encouragement to us from the life and struggles of Job.

We say 'farewell' to Bro. Matthew Schrenk who has worshipped with us for the past year, but recently moved to St. Louis, MO, to be near his family. We wish him God's nearness, blessing, and provision.

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Kim Leman**

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15

Our prayers were with our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr, and his wife, Sis. Bev, as they traveled to Japan to give encouragement and guidance to the churches there. We are thankful the Lord prospered their journey, and that they have returned home safely.

We thank Bro. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN) for bringing God's Word to us recently.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach**

"... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6b

He is all that His name indicates and more! We thank God that He sent His Son into the world to save us from sin and eternal destruction.

The year 2007 was another busy

one for our Denver congregation.

During the week of Thanksgiving, several of our group traveled to Magdalena, Mexico, to work on the orphanage there.

A little girl, Josefynna Nicole, was born to Sarah Lasnier on October 27.

We rejoice with Dominique Braun-Lasnier (Sarah) who has turned to the Lord in repentance. May the Lord guide and bless her as she seeks to do His will.

The engagement of Sis. Ema Gonglach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) and Bro. Benjamin Martin (Bro. Mike and Sis. BethAnn) was announced. We rejoice with them and pray for them as they make their wedding plans.

New Sunday school teachers were voted in to replace Bro. Doug and Sis. Kary Mangers, who have moved away. We're thankful for Bro. Ted Orcsik and Sis. Ema Gonglach for their willingness to serve.

We're glad to have Fred Leman with us, who has moved here from Roanoke, IL.

Our prayers are with Sis. Leona Lehman as she mourns the loss of her husband, Bro. Verne Lehman, who left this life on November 8. Bro. Verne will also be missed by his three daughters, seven grandchildren, three sisters, and three brothers, including Bro. Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne) from Denver. Bro. Verne had a heart transplant in 1995. He spent his remaining years telling of God's healing and goodness to all he met.

We appreciate Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for his ministry to us while he was in town for Bro. Verne's memorial service.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Rocke**

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

I Thessalonians 5:18

Truly we have many reasons to be a thankful people. While we remember as a country the origin of our many blessings in this free land, may we each individually count our blessings, for we surely have been given much.

We had the privilege in the past weeks to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three more souls. Our new brothers and sister in Christ are Doug Luginbuhl, Nathan Luginbuhl and Rachel Schneider. With us for the weekend was Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City MI) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Theresa, Bradford, IL).

Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA) was also with us for a Sunday this past month and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) stopped by for a Wednesday evening service in his travels. It was a blessing to have them with us and we're thankful for their willingness to be used in God's service.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Bev Gerber (Bro. Ed) as she recovers in the hospital from a recent surgery and illness, as well as Sis. Dorothy Virkler (Bro. Dan) who has been recovering at home from an illness. May both of these sisters feel our prayers and support while they are recuperating, and we pray they will be able to gather with us again soon.

Our sympathy surely goes out to our Bro. Ken Schultz (Sis. Lois) as his brother, Norman Schultz from the Croghan, NY, area recently passed away. Their family will be in our prayers and thoughts.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me."

Psalms 13:6

In this month with the holiday of Thanksgiving we are again reminded of all for which we should give thanks.

This month Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) joined our Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand for the dedication of our Church on October 28. In the mid 1980's the late Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman of Philadelphia canvassed all the Churches to see how many individuals with an Apostolic Christian background lived in the Washington, DC, area; thus began our congregation. Three individuals who attended that first service in May 1986 were able to attend the dedication: Sis. Nancy Gerber (Bro. Ed's widow) and Ken and Roberta Belsley (their former home is now our Church).

That Sunday we also partook of Holy Communion. We thank the Elder Brothers for their efforts on our behalf.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), and Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL). Other visitors this month were from Eureka, IL, Philadelphia, PA, Mansfield, OH and Alexandria, VA.

Our prayers are with Bro. Phil Steffen as he travels to the Sudan for his work.

Directions to our new location depend on which way you are coming. The best suggestion is to contact the folks listed below or the contact in the minister's book for detailed directions; we have the directions near our phones. Due to the limited parking in the residential area, we need to know ahead of time how many visitors we will have. We may need to arrange for off-site parking.

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. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as

well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers: Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL). We pray for a blessing on His servants.

A presentation was made on S.E.E.D. Ministries by Franz Clotaire from Haiti. This is a project supported by our World Relief organization. The presentation was very interesting and we learned a lot about this cause.

We are happy to welcome back some of our winter residents. As our numbers start to grow again, it's a joy to renew the fellowships we share with our Brothers and Sisters and friends in faith. We encourage all of you to come and visit often.

We have resumed our Wednesday evening singings. It's a wonderful blessing to share mid-week.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

We are pleased to report that our attendance has reached into the 60's, but now some are returning north for the holidays. Then we will anxiously await the onslaught of snowbirds as the New Year arrives. I, myself, am in Illinois for our granddaughter Sis. Abigail Witzig's wedding to Bro. Jimmy Huber in Morton this past Sunday and are staying for a Thanksgiving/Christmas family get-together before heading south. The weather has been very nice until today; it makes me look forward to the warm Florida sunshine!

Bro. Vic and Sis. Dottie Beer had their annual picnic at their home in LaBelle the last Sunday in October. After a delicious potluck meal, we sat around the pool and sang praises to our

dear Lord and Savior. There is just something special about sitting outside in the midst of His creation while praising Him!

Our Wednesday evening services have again resumed in N. Ft. Myers. The Naples Wednesday night services will not resume until after the holidays.

Continue to pray for our loved ones who are experiencing health problems: Sis. Sara Hunyady, Sis. Elaine Schmidgall, and Bro. Ralph Knapp. May they feel God's comfort in their time of trial!

I received this song by email that Bro. Norm and Sis. Ginny Shock from Elgin, IL, sang with their family at Thanksgiving for most of their 52 years of marriage. May you be blessed by it at this time of Thanksgiving, also.

THANKS TO GOD

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 pleasant, balmy spring-time,
Thanks for dark and dreary fall!
Thanks for tears by now forgotten,
Thanks for peace within my soul!
Thanks for prayers that Thou has answered,
Thanks for what Thou dost deny!
Thanks for storms that I have weathered,
Thanks for all Thou dost supply!
Thanks for pain and thanks for pleasure,
Thanks for comfort in despair!
Thanks for grace that none can measure,
Thanks for love beyond compare!
Thanks for roses by the wayside,
Thanks for thorns their stems contain!
Thanks for home and thanks for fireside,
Thanks for hope, that sweet refrain!
Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow,
Thanks for heav'nly peace with

Thee!
 Thanks for hope in the tomorrow,
 Thanks thru all eternity!
 Amen.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

**DiAnne Brown
 Robin Wiegand**

“Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High.”

Psalm 50:14

We enjoy so many blessings we can scarcely number them, but high on the list is the brotherly love we share with our brethren. Our family had the pleasure of spending Thanksgiving with some families from our congregation. The warm love of kindred spirits sharing a meal, a laugh, and a faith are truly among God's richest blessings. Even if you have not been blessed with a large or close family by birth, the heritage of our faith grafts us into the greatest family of all.

This month we were visited by Bros. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) and Daron Price (Milford, IN) during the week of Thanksgiving. We thank them for their ministry to us at this time of gratitude and reflection.

Medical patients this month included Sisters Lorene Maibach, Aranka Bozzay and Brothers Tom Miller and Gordon Bryant. They covet your prayers for God's mercy and healing.

Several from our congregation were able to gather at the Peoria church to attend the wedding of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Elizabeth (Reiker) Calame. What a joy to witness the beauty of allowing God's will to direct our lives and a good reminder of how the gifts He would provide are so much greater than we could even hope for. We wish these dear ones many, many years of wedded bliss, and welcome our dear Sis. Elizabeth to Sarasota.

Feeling convicted to answer God's call, Schuyler Brown (Bro. Larry and

Sis. DiAnne) has begun his repentance and we celebrate with the angels in heaven that another sheep has entered the flock. We wish Schuyler much grace and encourage him to spend time with the Lord each day as he walks in his new life.

Bro. Todd (Sis. Kelly) Hebert was baptized on November 4 in Sarasota. What a wonderful testimony he gave of how God has convicted his heart and we welcome our new brother in Christ with cheer. We were blessed to hear the reading of the Memorandum November 17 by our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter. We thank the Lord for these important and timely teachings.

Sarasota will host the A.C. World Relief Board meeting the first weekend of December and we are busy making ready. What a privilege it is for our congregation to host those who labor for the benefit of the world's needy and neglected.

As we prepare for the Christmas season, it would be good to spend an extra moment in meditation and prayer as we contemplate the Child whose birth means so much, and whose death means so much more. Truly it is good to focus on the genuine and divine 'reason for the season'.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Melinda Gramm

Our congregation has been gathering gifts to pack in shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our church storage room was filled with school supplies, watches, flashlights, socks, toys, and personal hygiene items. When all the items had been brought, we organized an assembly line and packed 64 boxes to send overseas. We pray that many lives can be touched and the message of God's love can be shared around the world.

We want to thank our visiting ministers for their service this month: Bro. Curtis Kaufmann (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ) and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner

(Sis. Esther, Lester, IA).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Sheila McCoy
 Doreen Moser**

“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

Bro. Jim Jepson gave a Power Point presentation on “The Many Names of God” to our congregation. We appreciated his service to the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour on our behalf.

We are thankful to our Redeemer that Bro. Jordan Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Joe Darlington (Jerry and Sis. Sandy) have given their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of November 17-18. For this joyous occasion, we were abundantly supplied with visiting Elders and ministers: our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. Charles Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN).

For World Relief this month, we had a quilt-a-thon and donated the blankets to the Rockford Rescue Mission. It is such a blessing to be of service to our Lord and King!

May God our Father bless us with His peace during this season of Christmas.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

**Jen Heiniger
 Betsy Zimmerman**

The Illinois State University Young Group hosted College Weekend on October 20-21 at Bloomington. We thank all the college students who came and

for the ministers who willingly served.

A special thanks to the Detroit Choir, who visited this month and blessed us with an evening of their beautiful harmony. Thanks to Detroit ministers, Bro. Randy Gasser and Bro. Jesse Bedolla, for serving both in the choir and on the pulpit.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Alissa Kieser welcomed Amy Jo on October 17. She joins big sister, Jenna. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj Schmidgall, and Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser.

Congratulations to Robert Black and Ashley Masters on the birth of their daughter, Sadie Rae, born October 17. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Tami Masters.

Bro. Darin and Sis. Jessica Leman welcomed Elias William ("Will") on October 22. He is welcomed home by big brother, Ethan. Grandparents are Charlie and Mary Slickner, Bloomington; Fred and Cynthia Basham, Remington, IN; and Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria Leman, Morton.

Benjamin and Sunita Krugger are first-time parents of Ethan David, who arrived August 17. Grandparents are Larry and Sis. Sandy Kupferschmid; and Dennis and Julie Krugger, El Paso.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Tillie Nussbaum over the loss of her brother, Bro. Herman Menold, Morton; Steven (Diane) Kauzlarich over the loss of his father, Ernest Kauzlarich; and to Sis. Danae (Bro. Steve) Lehman for the loss of her grandmother.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

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

1 Thessalonians 5:18

As of this writing, Thanksgiving

Day is only a few days away. It is clear from the verse above that if we are doing the will of the Lord, Thanksgiving Day will only reflect how we are every day of the year: Eternally Grateful.

We are always thankful when a soul begins a new life in Christ. Heidi Ehle (Bro. Donn and Sis. Tracy) has felt the conviction to turn her back on the world and follow the Lord. We pray that she will continue in the decision she has made and feel the prayers and love of the brethren.

Denying self-will and allowing the Lord to lead creates a thankful heart when He provides what we need. This is evident in our congregation as the engagements of Bro. Steve Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) to Sis. Betsy Schulz (Bro. Roger and Sis. June, Oakville), and Bro. Brad Kieser (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Wilma) and Sis. Rachel Baer (Ron and Sis. Deann) were made known this month to our church family. We wish them God's richest blessings!

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Hilda Dietz (Bro. Herman, dec.) and Faith Moody (Jennifer). May we continue to pray for those with physical infirmities that they may feel God's healing power in their time of need. Our Lord knows best!

We are thankful that He does know best when we have to say goodbye to the ones we love on earth below. Our prayers are with the Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress family and also Sis. Rosalie Wiegand in the sudden passing of their nephew/cousin, Bro. Rob Steiner, from Oakville, IA.

We had four visiting ministers this month feed us from the Living Word of God. They were: Bros. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley), Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington), Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), and Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield). We are always thankful for brothers from afar who lend themselves on our behalf.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you very much for all the prayers, cards, visits, gifts, and food while Sis. Lucille had surgery and returned home. May God bless you!

Sis. Lucille and Sis. Bonnie Kieser

Recently, one of our home brothers read out of Psalms 78:41 in which the Israelites were not blessed because they "limited" the Holy One from performing His will in their lives. This dear brother exhorted us not to "limit" the Lord Jesus Christ from using us on His behalf. May we keep this verse close to our hearts each and every day so we don't restrain the Holy Spirit from working in our lives.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. May we all feel the love of Christ, especially as we enter the Christmas season.

We wish to thank Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), for ministering to us. It was a blessing.

Another blessing was the Topical Bible Study lovingly presented to us by Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). Bro. Wayne shared about "Commitment and Loyalty to the Lord and to the Church". Thank you, Bro. Wayne, for your kind and thoughtful presentation.

Our Bro. Brad Eisenmann also shared his Topical Bible Study entitled "Gifts in the Body". Again, we are blessed by the time and instruction Bro. Brad shared for our learning and spiritual growth. Each brother and sister and friend has a God-given gift, unique to themselves, that is needed. Not one of us is discarded or useless. "... [we are each]...fearfully and wonderfully made."

Several in our church family have lost loved ones and we wish to extend our love and sympathy. Bro. Eric Zimmerman said farewell to his grandmother, Sis. Lillian Getz (Morton, IL).

Bro. Arnold Rassi (Tremont, IL) went to his eternal rest. Bro. Arnold was the father of Sis. Kathy Schlatter (Bro. Jim), grandfather to Sis. Katrina (Schlatter) Cordero (Aridio), and uncle to Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla), and Sis. Charlotte Meyer (Bro. Lenny). May each feel God's comfort.

We regretfully said farewell to Sis. Shara Dotterer as she left for more schooling in San Diego, CA. Sis. Shara was a welcome addition to our church family and we wish her the best in her future.

Our Annual Sunday School Wiener Roast was hosted by Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter. This tradition continues to bless and encourage our church family. Thank you, Jim and Kathy, for all of your kindness and hard work.

On October 20, the Holy Spirit clearly revealed that our Bro. Brad Eisenmann was selected by our church family to be our ordained deacon candidate. Bro. Brad will be interviewed at the midwinter Conference, Lord willing. We joyfully and thankfully support and pray for Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy and their family as the next steps are taken. We can all testify... the Lord is faithful. Special thanks to Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker, Ron Messner and Ron Shambach, Forrest, IL, Washington, IL and Elgin, IL, respectively, for their help with this endeavor.

It is easy to get into patterns. It has come to my attention recently that I fit this category. I typically take the same route home from work every day. Most people do - but I have discovered something very interesting about my route. At a specific 4-way stop, I have been seeing the same school-crossing guard daily. As I pull up, there he is; an elderly gentleman faithfully guiding children back-and-forth across the street.

Somehow we have begun to wave to each other every day. We now recognize each other. I will most likely never talk to this man ... probably never

know his name, where he lives, or if he has a family. One thing, however, we DO have in common. Jesus Christ died for both of us, knowing us each in the most personal way.

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Hebrews 13:2

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Jackie Eisenmann

Our congregation has been blessed by many visitors this past month. Do we appreciate the many blessings our Apostolic Christian Church gives us as we have opportunity to travel and fellowship with others of like mind and faith? What an encouragement!

Sunday, October 21, was the wedding day for our Sis. Sarah Laubscher and Bro. Tom Fehr, formerly of Kansas City, MO. We rejoice with them as they are united as one in the Lord. We are especially happy that they are making Champaign their home! We also welcome Bro. Tom to our congregation. Their parents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr (Iowa City, IA).

We are thankful for the many visitors that day, including several ministers. We thank Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) for taking part in the services that day. May God bless them for their ministry.

We were blessed on Sunday, October 28, to have Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) with us on the pulpit. On Sunday, November 4, Elder Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL) preached God's Word to us. We were also privileged to have the many visitors the college young group had invited for the weekend. That afternoon Bro. Ted and our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart read the Memorandum to us. We are truly thankful to our Elder brothers for the

instruction they give to us. May God always bless and provide for them.

Our visitors for our Wednesday evening Bible studies this month were Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). May the Lord bless them for their willingness to travel and be used to speak God's instructions to us.

Sunday, November 11, our Sis. Tami Kaeb was wed to Bro. Dan Coughlin from Detroit, MI, in Tami's home church of Bern, KS. We rejoice with them as they begin their new life together. May the Lord richly bless them. We will miss Tami, as they are making their home in Detroit.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Pam Walder

Janie Waldbeser

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

Zion's Harp #237

Sis. Sarah Laubscher became the bride of Bro. Tom Fehr on Sunday, October 21. Sis. Sarah is the daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher and Bro. Tom is the son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr (Iowa City, IA). Also joining hands and hearts together in the Lord, Bro. Chad Kaeb and Sis. Janice Manz became husband and wife on Sunday, November 4. Bro. Chad is the son of Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn Kaeb, and Sis. Janice is the daughter of Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz (Junction, OH). We wish these couples many blessings as they look to God to lead their lives in one accord.

We have several new little blessings to announce. Seth Lyle was born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Denise Walder. Erica, Kristen and Caleb are thankful to have a new little brother to love, as well as grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder and Sis. Velma

(late Bro. Steve) Rinkenberger. Also, little William Elmer has come to bless the lives of Josh and Kara (Hoffman) Haley, and big sister Mikyla. Grandparents of little Will are Merle and Elsie Eisenmann.

We have been blessed with visiting brothers who have ministered to us this past month: Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH). We are thankful for their encouragement and pray God will richly bless them for their labors.

On November 16, we gathered at the Fellowship Hall for a World Relief Family Night. There was something for everyone to do, and we enjoyed working together to help those in need.

We are thankful to report that Bro. Clarence Maul and Bro. Eldon (Sis. Melba) Steffen have both returned home after spending time in the nursing home. We pray God will strengthen them, and we continue to pray for them, that God can add His healing touch according to His will.

As we once again change our calendars over to a New Year, may we be thankful for all the blessings of the past year, and look forward to a year filled with blessings to come. We pray God will continue to draw us closer to Him, and as the world around us seems to grow darker, may our lights shine brighter to those that surround us.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Holly Zobrist

Be not content this babe to know,
nor stay at Bethlehem,
But go with Christ to Calvary's
brow,
beyond Jerusalem.
'Tis there men learn to know the
Christ,
for there He bore man's sin.
Then open wide the door of heart,
and let the Saviour in.

Hymns of Zion #36

As we celebrate Christ's birth during the Christmas season, it makes the holiday even more special to remember why He was born.

Laiken Jon recently came into this world. He was welcomed home by Bro. Zach and Sis. Karla Anderson and his older brother, Caiden.

On October 28, many of our brethren traveled to Lamar, MO, for the wedding of Bro. Ben Currier and Sis. Rachel Stoller. We wish them God's richest blessings as they have become one in Christ.

We said farewell to Bro. Grant and Sis. Rachel Rinkenberger as they followed the Spirit's leading to move to Lamar. They will be missed in Congerville, but we're sure they will be a blessing in Lamar.

We thank the visiting ministers who've been willing to share God's Word with us this past month. They include Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke) and Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

When upon life's billows you are
tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking
all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name
them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the
Lord hath done.
Hymns of Zion, #116

This was selected as the closing hymn, after a recent World Relief presentation at the Fellowship Center. The evening's focus was on the devastation and recovery efforts associated with the Indonesian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and the tornado in Greensburg, KS. Events such as these certainly help to put our lives in better perspective.

May the Lord reward Bro. Dan

Koch (Tremont, IL) for serving us through his ministry during the past month. We always appreciate his family's visit.

On the weekend of October 27-28, many traveled to Francesville, IN, for the proving and baptism of Garrison Gudeman (Tom and Elaine). Bro. Garrison developed many friendships and close family ties during the years he came to church in Elgin.

Having experienced repentance and conversion, Natalie Martin (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean) now has peace with God and man. We look forward to the weekend of December 1-2, when she and Carol Kellenberger (Bro. Lloyd) of Gainesville, FL, hope to give their testimonies and be baptized.

On November 1, Bro. Mark and Sis. Aubrey Triplett announced the arrival of another healthy boy, Gibson Pine. Maine is his big brother. Gibson's grandparents are Rick and Sis. Cindy Schmidgall and Sis. Shirley Triplett of Peoria, IL.

Arvid Miller (Cindy) is recovering from kidney surgery and was able to attend church recently. Sis. Debbie Sauder continues to suffer physical infirmities. How we wish she could simply "touch the hem of His garment," as in the disciples' time!

Bro. Herman Menold (Sis. Oleda) of Morton, IL, entered eternity on October 25. He was the father of Carolyn Feucht (Charles). Les Spohr passed away on November 11, after a struggle with pancreatic cancer. He is deeply missed by his wife, Janet; daughter, Sherri Luscher (Jeffery); son, Craig (Rebecca Lavender); and granddaughter, Samantha Luscher. We extend our sympathy to all who are grieving the loss of loved ones at this time.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Heather Beutel Cindy Stoller

Our hearts rejoice with Bro. Jared Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole) and Sis. Marsha Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis.

Lola), and Bro. Jeffrey Huber (Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber) and Sis. Allison Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole) as both couples have been joined in Holy Matrimony. May God bless these unions and be the center of each home.

The special occasions brought several visiting ministers to our Eureka church. They include Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bros. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH), Don Manz and Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Greg Braker (Lamar, MO), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Beirne Messner (Morris MN), and Nathan Wieland (Goodfield, IL). We appreciate their willingness to be spent on our behalf.

We have shared in grief with the families of Sis. Louise Rocke (Bro. Ray) and Lester Whited, father of Sis. Diane Fehr (Bro. Dan). We pray the Holy Spirit will encompass their sad hearts with comfort and peace.

Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask Thee
to stay
close by me forever, and love me I
pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy
tender care,
and take us to Heaven to live with
Thee there.

We wish a blessed and peaceful
Christmas and New Year to each one of
you.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks so much for all the prayers,
cards, gifts and visits with my surgery
and six weeks in a wheelchair. I really
felt your love. Your kindness was a big
help to me!

Love,
Katie Wettstein

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Elizabeth Fehr
Anna Schmidgall**

"How beautiful are the feet of them
that preach the gospel of peace..."
(Rom. 10:15). Our Bible class hosted
Princeville/Bradford Bible class this
month. Visiting ministers attending
were Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary,
Tremont, IL) and Bro. Tom
Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL).
Other ministers serving us this month
were Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth,
West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dean Messner
(Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN). We ap-
preciate their willingness to "...bring
glad tidings of good things." (Rom.
10:15).

"When a Christian dies, Precious is
the prize..." (HZ #248). Our thoughts
and prayers are with Bro. Dennis and
Sis. Diane Rassi and family in the pass-
ing of his father, Bro. Arnold Rassi
(Tremont, IL). We are encouraged
when a faithful brother can exchange
his cross for a crown.

Likewise it is encouraging when
souls are willing to pick up their cross
and begin a faithful walk with the
Lord. Michelle Kaisner (Bro. Don and
Sis. Leona), Brooke Miller (Bro. Roger
and Sis. Crystal), Damaris Moser (Bro.
Kevin and Sis. Kara), Destini Rassi
(Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane), Abby
Rinkenberger (Bro. Doug and Sis.
Beth), Tiffany Steffen (Corey and Sis.
Beth), and Heather Walter (Danny and
Sis. Patti) have all found grace to an-
swer the call of the Lord. We wish them
grace and perseverance to lay all on the
altar and be granted that perfect peace.

We pray for God's healing hand on
Bro. Harvey Schieler (Sis. Jan), and
Sis. Sandy Stoller (Bro. Dale) who have
both undergone surgery. Bro. Gene
Denick (Karen) has also spent some
time in the hospital. We are thankful
Esther Koehl (Dick) can again assem-
ble with us, after an accident resulting
in eye surgery.

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

Psalms 127:3

Little Natalie Jean Stoller blessed
the home of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janelle.
Born on her dad's birthday, October
15, she is welcomed home by her sister,
Heidi. Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary
Hartman and Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy
Stoller are thankful grandparents.
Great-grandparents are Bro. Vernon
and Sis. Pat Hartman and Sis. Sally
Schieler.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Leman**

Come, ye wand'ers from the fold,
Jesus now is calling you;
Oh! His love can ne'er be told,
Still He bids you come.
Jesus now is calling, calling, calling,
Jesus now is calling you,
Calling you to come.

Gospel Hymns #539

Those answering the call to repen-
tance recently were Jaylin Teubel
(Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne), Caleb
Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda) and
Stefani Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis.
Janet). May these converts kneel hum-
bly at the cross and give their all to
Him.

We give our love and sympathy to
Sis. Laverne Aberle (Bro. Mark) on the
passing of her mother, Wilma Martin,
of Fairbury, IL. May God comfort the
hearts of this family as only He can.

Visiting ministers this month were
Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and
Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar,
MO). We pray that the Lord will bless
them for their labors of love among us.
We extend a hearty invitation to them
to come again.

On Sunday, November 11, we heard
the wedding announcement of Bro.
Corbin Anliker (Bro. Bob and Sis.
Linda) to Sis. Heidi Hartter (Bro. Tim
and Sis. Charlene) of Sabetha, KS. We
wish Bro. Corbin and Sis. Heidi God's
nearness and blessings as they plan for

a wedding and a lifetime together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jonathan Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta) and Blake Hall (Bro. Don and Barb) as they continue to fight the battle of cancer. Sis. Dorothy Bachtold (the late Carl) was hospitalized this month. We pray God's healing touch be felt upon her.

We bid a fond farewell to Bro. Garrett and Sis. Bethany, Ava and Jackson Kupferschmid as they relocate to South Bend, Indiana, for a job opportunity. May the Lord bless them as they adjust to a new home.

Kaylee Elaine born on November 19 has come to grace the home of Bro. Andy and Sis. Valarie, Jesse and Anna Dotterer. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger and Dale and Sis. Elaine Dotterer.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Amber Grimm
Rita Bauman**

God has been faithful providing His Word through our own ministering brothers as well as Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA). We are thankful for their efforts and pray God will be their rich Rewarder.

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Clem Joos in the passing of her sister, Luella Joos, Eureka, IL. May God comfort you at this time.

Our congregation has been blessed with another birth this month. David Andrew was born to Bro. Dwight and Sis. Deb Wiegand. He is welcomed home by his siblings, John, Simon, Alison, and Peter. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Rokey and Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand.

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

Psalms 119:105

As we think of this scripture, we're excited to hear Fred Rokey (Bro. Ken-

neth and Sis. Phyllis) has looked to God's light for direction in his path of life. Having found peace with God and man, we are looking forward to hearing his testimony.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Irene Rinkenberger (Bro. Joe) and Sis. Carol Martin. We are thankful that Sis. Irene is able to assemble with us again and look forward to the day Sis. Carol can as well. We wish God's healing mercies on Sis. Carol as she recuperates from a broken leg.

The engagement of Bro. Caleb Wyss and Sis. Bethany Strahm (Washington, IL) was made known. Their parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna Wyss and Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm (Bern, KS). We wish this couple God's richest blessings as they make preparation for their special day.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

The power of prayer is a vital component in the believer's life. For years we have been exhorted from our Gridley pulpit to begin each new day with a prayer. In this, as we kneel by our bedside, we can garner power, purpose, and a sense of perseverance as we pursue our Christian life. Prayer cannot be omitted. We are taught to "pray without ceasing." Thus, our life and daily doings must be enshrouded in the spirit of prayer and supplication — and maintaining a closeness to God and His direction.

It was a joy for our church to baptize five new souls, who have become brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus. They are: Abby Kuntz, Janae Lavallier, Colin and Shelby Steidinger, and Brock Wiegand. Here to help with the provings and baptisms was Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL). Other ministers present were Bros. Wayne Leman and John Bradle (Roanoke, IL), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) and Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). It was a blessed weekend, with many wonder-

ful memories for all of us — and especially for the newly-baptized souls. May God be near to them, now and in the future.

Bro. John Kilgus is recovering from hip surgery. Bro. Keith Zimmerman had pneumonia, and is getting better. On November 29, Bro. Elmer Witzig had surgery. This was in response to earlier complications which became more serious. May God be with him. And our prayers continue to ascend to God on behalf of Sis. Vicki Hodel (Washington, IL) who has cancer. She is formerly from our Gridley congregation.

Two babies have been born into our Gridley fellowship. On November 9, Reese Campbell Baner was born to Bro. Jon and Sis. Ashley Baner. She has a brother, Graham, 5, and a sister, Elle, 2. Grandparents are ministering Bro. Steve and Sis. Donnalou Baner and Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail Romersberger. Great-grandparents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Mildred Knapp, Goodfield, Bro. Bill and Sis. Lucille Romersberger, Gridley, Richard and Janet Baner, Eureka, and Betty Hari, Cissna Park. Sis. Sarah Frank, Morton, is a great-great-grandmother.

Jack Alan Gramm was born on November 28 to Bro. Paul and Sis. Arianne Gramm. He has two siblings: Olivia, 5, and Hillary, 3. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosie Gramm, and Jim and Sis. Eloise Howell, all of Gridley. Great-grandparents are Sis. Lucille Stoller, and Bro. Herb and Sis. Jane Gramm of Gridley, and Sis. Christine Erkert, Peoria.

A new year is dawning. The old year has passed away. We are taught in the Bible to press on. The way of truth, and a life of service and obedience await the true and faithful. In this quest for righteousness we have the power of God to direct us, thankfully! Yet, we have an adversary which is trying daily to derail and defeat us. If the power of God is in our heart, and we submit to that power, we can overcome until the end.

Too, as we begin a New Year, rather than tending to measure our standard of living, perhaps we should, more importantly, measure our standard of giving.

ILLINOIS, MACOMB

Norm & Janis Rechkemmer

We have been blessed again with dear brothers willing to travel to Macomb to minister to our small gathering. Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) and Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL) shared God's Word with us this month. We thank them for their time and efforts. Every service we have several brothers, sisters and friends who join us for singing, fellowship and worship. It is such a blessing to meet and greet dear ones from so many churches. We extend an invitation to all to join us. The next scheduled services are for November 28 - Bradford, IL; December 12 - Morton, IL; and January 15 - Taylor, MO.

Our small group was given wonderful news with the wedding announcement of one of our WIU students: Bro. Kevin Frank (Oakville) to Sis. Lindsay Wagenbach (Oakville). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lindsay will be "housesitting" for us while we are in Tucson, AZ, this winter. They will continue with Wednesday services and will appreciate everyone's support and prayers.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

As the Christmas season approaches, pause from your busy preparations and take the time to make the most important preparation, one that is to prepare your heart to worship and adore the Savior and King.

On November 18, God graciously blessed the union of Sis. Abi Witzig to Bro. Jimmy Huber of Peoria. Sis. Abi's

parents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Cindi. Bro. Jimmy's parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jean Huber. Retired Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Sis. Marian, Peoria, IL) shared in the marital ceremony with God's Word. Bro. Chuck is the grandfather of Bro. Jimmy.

We are thankful for others in the ministry that visited Morton this past month: Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL). Our thanks also to Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie) for giving our Wednesday eve family worship night. His topic was entitled "In the World, but not of the World." Believers are gifted with the Holy Spirit for discernment. We should truly be a thankful people!

Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Getz welcomed a grandson into their family on November 3. Little Micah Daniel was born to Rodney and Staci Aberle. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie Aberle (Tremont, IL).

Our church extends a warm welcome to Sis. Staci Stoller from Atlanta. Sis. Staci gave her testimony and was baptized in Atlanta the weekend of November 24-25. Her parents are Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller of the Atlanta congregation. We also welcome Bro. Roy Bahr from the Sabetha congregation. Bro. Roy has moved into an apartment at park side. We welcome them both.

Bro. Herman Menold was called home on October 25. Our prayers are for his dear wife, Sis. Oleda; and his sons, Thomas, Greg and Brad Menold; also his daughters, Sis. Beth (Dennis) Feucht, Carolyn (Charles) Feucht, Sis. Mary (Bro. Jerome) Witzig, Susan (David) Chadwick, and Sis. Twyla (Bro. Arthur) Schlipf.

On October 24, Sis. Lillian Getz (late Bro. Robert) was also called to her Heavenly home. She is survived by her four daughters, Linda Klein, Bonnie Crouier, Sis. Barb Zimmerman (Bro. Joe III) and Cindy Devers.

On November 11, Bro. Chris (Sis.

Emma) Knapp's sister, Luella Joos, passed away. Luella was also a sister-in-law to our Sis. Louise Winemiller, and the great-grandmother to Brock Bahr's fiancé, Caitlin Maddock.

Sis. Martha Glaser passed away on November 4. She was survived by several cousins. Let God comfort the hearts of these dear families who have lost loved ones.

The following note was submitted to our church calendar news. I thought others might find it as encouraging to their own hearts as I did. An exhortation to not become weary in well doing.

I am Russian Orthodox another Christian from other side of world. But in God we are His children, sisters and brothers in Christ who suppose to help each other in trouble. You (people from Apostolic Church) came in my life in a difficult period of it and are staying till now. Because since I met you I felt at home in your church. Thank you for helping to care for my heavy burden. Thanks a lot to all of you for taking part in somebody life (what it means for me who is without family here in America). Thank you for your care and love for me and my child. God Bless you.

With Love and gratefulness,
Irina Smith and Arkadey

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Carissa Klopfenstein Kristin Menold

We rejoice with Tyler Hoerr (Tom and Sis. Becky) as he has begun his repentance. May God be with you as you begin your new life with Him.

We wish to thank the visiting ministers who brought us the Word this month. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) had our topical Bible Study. Bro. Ted spoke on the importance of prayer. We were also privileged to have a visit from our former minister, now Elder Bro. Rick and Sis. Mary Ann Plattner from Fairbury; and Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber

(Francesville, IN), Bro. Virgil and Sis. Suellen Kaeb (Sarasota, FL), Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold (Rittman, OH), and Bro. Justin and Sis. Robin Moser (Altadena, CA). May God be with you as you minister to your congregation.

The Young Group hosted the Annual Senior Citizen's Dinner on Saturday, October 27, at the Peoria Fellowship Hall. The theme for this year was "Joy in the Journey." Kudos to the decorating committee and to all who assisted with the décor — they did an outstanding job blending their creative ideas with their artistic talents. The food was amazing — honeyed ham loaves with a brown sugar glaze, beans and bacon, the most delicious salad, and, of course, lots of pies for dessert. Thanks to all the amazing cooks for your efforts in the very warm kitchen. The music program consisted of special numbers by Bro. Willie Hofstetter, the Klopfenstein Sisters, and the entire Young Group singing several selections. We wish to thank all the Senior Citizens that attended. We hope it was an enjoyable experience and that you felt our appreciation for your Godly example and faithfulness.

Congratulations to our newlyweds, Bro. Jeremy Calame (Bro. John and Sis. Jody Calame, Rittman, OH) to Sis. Elizabeth Rieker (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn). They were married by Sis. Elizabeth's uncle, Bro. Mike Rieker, and Elder Bro. Tim Funk, on November 11. We rejoice with you and wish you God's blessings as you begin your lives together. We will miss Sis. Elizabeth as she and Bro. Jeremy will be living in Florida as he finishes school.

The Peoria Choir sang for the residents at the home on Skyline Drive on Thursday, November 8. The residents enjoyed the fellowship and beautiful singing. Thank you to all the members of the choir that made the effort to come and sing.

The Peoria church wishes to thank the Bradford congregation for their invitation to come and sing with them

November 11. It was good to talk with new acquaintances and catch up with old friends. May God be with you and keep you until we meet again.

The missionaries we are praying for this month include: Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, and Bro. Dave Sceggel and Bro. Jon Aupperle in Magdalena, Mexico.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Charles Joos and Bro. Ernest Haefli in their passing. Also with Sis. Clara Perdelwitz, Sis. Mabel Weber, Bro. Wayne Wieland, Sis. Diane Roecker, Sis. Monica Fritzenmeier, Bro. Tim Reinhard, Bro. Randy Marx, and Bro. Lou Lonteen for improved health and healing. We praise God for the improved health of our Sis. Ruth Huthmann.

We wish you all a very blessed Thanksgiving.

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

1 Peter 5:10

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Vera Baer Connie Christ

We appreciate the labors of our visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Jim in reading the Memorandum to our congregation, as well as serving us on Sunday. We also thank Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for their willingness to be our servants in bringing God's Word.

We failed to mention last month the passing of our dear Bro. Herman Baer. Our sincere sympathy and prayers are with his dear wife, Sis. Mary, as well as their children, Bro. Ron (Sis. Deann) of Bradford, IL, Sis. Deb (Bro. Leon) Klopfenstein (Latty, OH), and Sis. Barb Johnson (Detroit, MI).

Sis. Alvina Streitmatter passed away on November 15. Our sympathy and prayers are with her children, Benola (Hank) Bowdoin, Verle (Pat), and Barry (Margaret). May God comfort all who have lost loved ones in the recent past.

Kaylie Stahl (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy) has answered God's call to repentance and is beginning her walk with the Lord. May God's grace be with her, as well as all of our converts as they surrender their all and continue onward in their walk of faith.

Bro. Vernie Berchtold recently had a fall and broke his hip and is recuperating at this time. Our prayers are with him for a full and speedy recovery. Sis. Lill Elsasser recently moved to Skylines Nursing Home while Sis. Janet Martin-Joos recently returned home from Skylines. May each one feel God's grace and nearness in their lives as changes come.

Bro. Herb and Sis. Diana Rumbold are enjoying a new grandchild, as Jeff and Sarah (Rumbold) Rogers and big brother Jacob recently welcomed Lydia Jean into their family on October 24. Sis. Loretta Rumbold is also enjoying a new granddaughter. Kennedy Lauryn was born on October 19 to Brice and Julie (Rumbold) Teubel. Kourtney, Tucker and Reece are loving and helpful siblings. Bro. Al and Sis. Vicki Hartzler are enjoying a new grandson as Chris and Kelly Knobloch have welcomed Aiden Christopher into their family on October 30.

We are thankful for Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann as they recently had their 50th wedding anniversary. May they continue to feel God's blessings and nearness in the coming days.

Note of Thanks:

Just a note to thank all of you who remembered me with cards and gifts since I was in the hospital and at Skylines. Your love and prayers were most uplifting. God bless you and yours.

Janet Martin Joos

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Dee Fehr
Judy Sauder

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord:...”

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder became grandparents again when Haley Joan was born to Bro. Nate and Sis. Emily Sauder (Goodfield) on October 12. She is their first child. Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda Zeltwanger (Goodfield) are Haley's other grandparents. Then, on November 2, Lane Dylan was born to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Jenny Martin. His sister and brother are Payton and Chase. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol Feucht and Bro. Glen and Sis. Carol Martin. May God bless these two dear families as they raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

On October 20-21, the Roanoke congregation was privileged to host the Single Focus weekend. Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto) was our guest minister on Sunday. We were thankful to have Bro. Ted and his family, and several other ministers who spoke on various topics on Saturday. In addition, a large number of single adults assembled with us for the weekend of teaching and fellowship.

On October 24, Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest) spoke on the “Mind of Christ” at our monthly Family Worship. We were exhorted to have the mind of Christ who “...made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant...he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2:7,8). We thank Bro. Marvin for his timely message.

“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I

will make him an help meet for him.”

Genesis 2:18

On October 21, the marriage engagement of our Bro. Marty Rumbold (Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Marti Hinrichsen (Leo), daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen (Goodfield), was announced. We pray for God's blessings upon this dear couple as they prepare for a marriage in the Lord.

“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

On October 27-28, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Marisa Leman (Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa) and Russ Leman (the late Sis. Joan). We are so thankful for the Lord's redeeming work in the hearts of men. Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere) was our guest minister on Sunday and Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington) offered a prayer on Saturday evening. We thank them for their service to us.

On October 31, the Roanoke young group again hosted the annual Harvest Party, an evening of games and supervised activities for the youth of our congregation. Then on November 17, the Young Group offered their services to those in our congregation who wanted their yards raked. We are so thankful for our young group and the many acts of love they show to our congregation and others.

On November 3, the annual Benefit Day for our Nursing Home was held. We thank all those who helped make it a blessed and successful day. Funds raised will be used for the kitchen remodeling.

Sis. Louise Rocke (Bro. Ray) of Eureka passed away October 26. She was the sister-in-law of our Sis. Mabel

Getz. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to her family.

We continue to lift up Bro. Dick Hoffman (Sis. Ann) and his dear family in prayer as he faces health issues. Sis. Jane Schumacher (Bro. Jerry) was involved in a serious automobile accident on October 22. Also Bro. Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty) was hospitalized. We pray for God's healing hand upon our beloved brothers and sisters.

Convert Frederick Leman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen) left for Denver, CO, for flight school. We pray for God's nearness and protection upon him.

On November 10 and 11, Roanoke hosted the combined Young Group Choir. The Choir sang several selections on Sunday, and several small groups sang on Saturday evening. We thank them for their ministry of song to us. Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley) was our visiting minister for the day.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Teresa Rowell
Sheri Allen

This past month brought both joy and sadness to our congregation. We cannot avoid difficult times in this life. What we can do is keep our faith and look to God to help us through. We need to pray that He can use both the joys and sorrows to draw us closer to Him.

We were blessed to gather together to hear the testimonies of Dirk and Erika Koch and Nola Koch. We are happy to welcome each of them as our brother and sisters in Christ.

November 3 was the wedding day for Bro. Bob Wagenbach and Sis. Barb Dill. We truly rejoice with them as they begin their lives as a married couple.

We have several families that are rejoicing over the birth of a new baby. Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally Koch are excited to become grandparents as Grace Anna was born to Bro. Rustin and Sis. Sharon Schmidgall. Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie Aberle are also happy to become grandparents as Rodney and

Staci Aberle had little Micah Daniel. Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder welcome another grandchild into their family as Bro. Daryl and Sis. Christy Wiegand welcomed Darcy Willow into their family. Audrey is excited to be a big sister. Bro. Les and Sis. Wilma Pulfer are happy to report the arrival of their great-grandchild, Ellie Mei Mitchell (Ed and Melissa) born on November 19. Kathy Pulfer is the excited grandmother. Kathy has moved to Kansas to help take care of little Ellie. Each baby is a precious gift and we pray for each of these families as they raise up these children to know the Lord.

As some families are celebrating, others are struggling. There are several people in our church that are having some health trouble. Some of the hospital patients are Sis. Francie Koch (Bro. Dave), Cindy Miller (Bro. Dick) and Sis. Doris Baer (Bro. Robert). Let us remember each of these people in our prayers.

Also in our prayers are several families that have lost loved ones. Bro. Arnold Rassi passed on from this life. He has many loved ones in our congregation including his wife, Sis. Lydia; and son, Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi, along with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bill and Maizie Hopkins are mourning the loss of Bill's mother, Norma Hopkins. Sis. Francie Koch (Bro. Bob) has lost a brother, Bro. Ernest Haefli (Peoria, IL). Bro. Bob Sauder went home to be with the Lord. We continue to pray for his wife, Sis. Elizabeth. We also remember his son, Bro. Rich (Sis. Evelyn), and granddaughter, Sis. Camille Sauder, from our congregation. While we sorrow during loss, we can rejoice in the hope of eternal life that is there for each of us.

Visiting ministers this month include Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL). We are thankful for each one of

them.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Elizabeth Heinold

Nancy Knepp

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." Our humble Bro. Eugene (Sis. Kathryn) Funk was laid to rest as many gathered to mourn his passing and rejoice in his final victory. Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) led his memorial service. His burial was in Congerville cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Kathryn, and children, Sis. Leila Witzig (Bro. Bruce, Peoria), Keith Funk (Lavonne, Goodfield) and several grandchildren.

It was our privilege to host Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship this month. What a wondrous blessing to hear songs and hymns of praise from our youth. If only they knew how much our heart yearns for them to love and serve the Lord. "Faith comes by hearing." Surely, they have heard and know the truth. To God be the glory.

Other visiting ministers who were here this month were Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL).

The engagement of Sis. Bethany Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona, Bern, KS) and Bro. Caleb Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna, Goodfield, IL) was announced to the church. May God prepare their hearts for marriage as they plan their wedding day.

Bro. Kevin Hodel and Sis. Jolynn Schmidgall (Bloomington, IL) exchanged wedding vows on November 18. Parents of the couple are Kent and Janet Hodel and Bro. Randy and Sis. Marge Schmidgall. May God bless the union of their hearts.

A busload from here traveled to Lexington, KY, for services and to encourage the brethren there. From the enthusiastic response of the travelers, the trip was a blessing to all.

Bro. Ed Teubel (Sis. Louise) is recuperating from surgery. Leslie

Aschliman (daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Bucher) also had surgery for a very rare sinus cancer. The goodness of God is evident as He faithfully sustains our loved ones and families battling cancer and chronic illnesses. We bend our knees in reverence to His holiness.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Stefanie Dailey

Jan Schwartz

"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you."

Jeremiah 29:12

The Bluffton congregation has had many opportunities to lift up their brothers and sisters in prayer. Bro. Dick Clark, Sis. Leona Schwartz, Bro. Jimmy VandenTop (Rhonda), Bro. Hubert Isch (Sis. Judy), Bro. Homer Fiechter, and Bro. Tom Frauhiger (Sis. Rose) all spent time in the hospital this month. In addition, Bro. Bob and Sis. Ida Aschliman's granddaughter, Leslie Aschliman (Tyson) of Bolingbrook, Illinois, faced surgery and is battling cancer, so we are prayerful for her family. Leslie is the daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Bucher (Washington, IL).

Our sympathies and prayers are with Sis. Dahlys Troxel (Bro. Brad) in the loss of her father, Harry Hansen, on October 24. Also, Bro. Todd Baller (Sis. Shelly) suffered the loss of his stepfather, Jeff Brown, on October 27, following a heart attack. We also lift up Sis. Nina Aschliman in prayer as her sister, Sis. Alice Irene Baumgartner (Bro. Glen, Phoenix, AZ), went to be with our Lord on October 26. Our sympathies and prayers are also with Sis. Jennie Gerber (Bro. Lee) who suffered the loss of her brother, Norm Schulz (Mary) of Lowville, NY (near Croghan), on November 10.

November 10 and 11 was a blessed weekend as we witnessed the testimo-

nies and baptisms of four precious souls. We rejoice with Sis. Mary Leman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val), Bro. Adam Leman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val), Bro. Aaron Rush (Steve and Kelly), and Sis. Miriam Krizan (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Elizabeth). Our prayers are with these new brothers and sisters in Christ and we pray God's blessings upon them. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) with us on Saturday evening for testimonies. Our prayers are with Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen, as his father, Bro. Howard Stettner (Sis. Goldie, Bluffton North), went to be with our Lord on Sunday, November 11.

On Wednesday evening, November 14, we were privileged and so blessed to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our Bro. Jimmy VandenTop (Rhonda). Our prayers are with Jimmy as he walks faithfully with Christ and as he continues his battle with cancer.

In addition, Grace Gerber (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby) has been announced to our congregation that she is ready for baptism. We look forward to her testimony and baptism that will take place at a later date.

We also rejoice with our converts this month. Justin Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda), Brian Reinhard (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gale), Kyle Gerber (Bro. Kent and Sis. Kim), and Mark Maller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Kim) have all made a beginning trusting Jesus as their Savior. Our prayers are with them as they begin this walk of faith with Him.

The engagement of Bro. Jon Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene) and Sis. Jennifer Gerber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky) was announced to our congregation on October 21. On that same day, Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari Fiechter announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Amy (Magdalena, MX), to Jon Gerst from the Leo congregation (Bro. Wally and Donna Gerst, Alto,

MI). On October 28, Bro. Josh Imel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Kasha Gerber (Bro. Kent and Sis. Kim) announced their engagement. We rejoice with these three couples as they look forward to a blessed life together in the Lord.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Jessica Fiechter became first time parents on October 16. They were blessed with a daughter, Lexie Jo. Lexie's grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth Fiechter and Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan Reinhard. On October 17, Bro. Mark and Sis. Angie Reinhard also were blessed with their first child, a daughter, Kaitlee Grace. Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer (Milford) are Kaitlee's grandparents. Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen welcomed little grandson, Corey Robert, born on October 18. His parents are Jeff and Jenny Hudson. Also, Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Steffen were blessed with a little granddaughter, Emily Marie, born October 28, to Brad and Holly Steffen. On November 5, Bro. Denis and Sis. Deb Fry were blessed with granddaughter, Millie Jane. Millie's parents are Bro. Cameron and Sis. Jenni Fry (Bluffton North). Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger (Bluffton North) are also Millie's delighted grandparents.

And finally, after four years of service in Mexico, we welcome back home Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller. We sincerely thank them for their faithful service and dedication they have displayed in this field of service.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Sherry Pfister**

"O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing."

Psalm 107:21-22

We are rejoicing with Andrew Harris (Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan) who has made a beginning in the Lord. Andrew is in his first year of college at Purdue. God's grace for him!

Bro. Howard Stettner went home to be with his Lord on November 11. He leaves his wife, Sis. Goldie; son, Bro. Phil (Sis. Maureen); and daughter, Sis. Sharon (Bro. Bill) Dotterer.

Bro. Cameron and Sis. Jenny Fry welcomed a daughter, Millie Jane, born on November 5. She joins brothers, Corbyn and Simon. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger and Bro. Denis and Sis. Deb Fry.

The grandmother of Bro. Allen Macklin, Iva Stanford, of New Mexico, passed away. We offer Bro. Allen and his parents, Carl and Betty Macklin, our sympathies.

Bro. Tom Moser (Sis. Jan) is now home and recovering after extensive colon surgery. Bro. Alvin Fiechter (Sis. Bernice) spent a few days in the hospital suffering from pneumonia. Sis. Lisa Aschliman spent time in surgery for eye repair. God's mercy on each.

Bro. Jim Zimmer, Sr. of the Mansfield church, grandfather of Bro. Brad Zimmer, Sis. Michelle Gerber, and Sis. Kristy Tucker, passed away. We offer the family our deepest sympathies.

To Bro. Travis and Sis. Jenna Frauhiger was born Jarin William. May God provide guidance as they raise him in the love of God.

In Matthew 28, we read where Jesus told His followers to "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." Here in Bluffton we have an opportunity for mission work right in our own backyard. At our nursing and retirement home, adjacent to the church, we continue to have "live" services on Sunday mornings and Thursday afternoons, provided by one of the ministers from our Bluffton Apostolic Christian Churches. This Sunday, November 25, there were a total of 85 in attendance.

We find that when the weather gets cold or stormy, Christian Care Retirement Community provides warmth, shelter and spiritual sustenance for the residents. We are indebted to Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Schwartz who come every Sunday morning and assist our residents in getting to our services. Another friend of Christian Care also comes every Sunday morning and assists them. Other brothers and sisters also assist in this work. Members of the young group come and lift their youthful voices to help with the singing. To accommodate this expanding program, Christian Care recently added to our chapel room the space in the adjacent apartment. We thank God for His continuing blessings on this ministry.

Sis. Mary (Herman) Baumgartner informed us of the passing of her brother, Bro. Vernon Lehman, of the Denver church. We share her loss in prayer and sympathy.

Thanksgiving services again provided an opportunity to thank God through song for his blessings: "Oh give thanks to God, all ye saints of His."

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Barb Huber
Jessica Murray**

Greetings in the name of our lovely Savior! As we approach the holiday of Thanksgiving, may we stop a moment to reflect on our many blessings from the omnipotent hand of God.

Come, ye thankful come,
Raise the song of harvest home
All is safely gathered in
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied
Come to God's own temple, come
Raise the song of harvest home.

Henry Alford, 1844

We were blessed by the testimonies and baptismal services of four of our

beloved converts on the weekend of October 27-28. With joy and thanksgiving to God for His abundant grace of which they testified, we lovingly welcome Sis. Emily Gutwein (Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda), Bro. Garrison Gudeman (Tom Gudeman and Elaine Gudeman), Sis. Leah and Bro. Ryan Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine). We thank Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) and Ordained Deacon, Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta, GA) and family, along with our beloved retired Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella), who all graciously assisted our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein. Ministering Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN) were with us for Sunday, along with several other ministers and many visitors for testimonies on Saturday evening. All the many brethren and guests made the singing glorious in praise to God. We truly enjoyed a blessed and encouraging weekend and felt the Holy Spirit in our presence.

There are several brothers and sisters in our brotherhood suffering health afflictions at this time. We unite in prayer for them and commit them to the care of our loving God who is ever ready to send His care and comfort to His beloved.

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

Philippians 4:6

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Connie Wuethrich are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kara, to Jason Bohlinger of Kentland, Indiana. Jason is the son of Roger and Carla Bohlinger of Kentland and Lori Shockley of Goodland. We wish them God's blessings on their future marriage.

Our young friend, Jakob Looney, has heard the tender voice of our Savior and has begun his repentance. He joins his mother, Amy, and sister, Elizabeth, in the wonderful journey of living for Christ. We wish them God's nearness and grace as they as a family build their foundation of faith. "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 3:11).

We were blessed with a lovely Thanksgiving Program on November 14.

May we take time to be thankful and ponder our blessings and find the grace to be resistant to the "Christmas push" of the retailers and the world in general and give this wonderful holiday its due honor. "Now, therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name." (I Chronicles 29:13)

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Penny Schroder
Gail Bradford**

We've been blessed to gather as a congregation for a couple of special services this month. Sis. Dee Mandaza shared her testimony with the church on Saturday, October 27, and was baptized the following day. Dee shared of the love Christ has place within her heart and encouraged us to freely share that love with everyone who comes to visit our congregation. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) supported our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) for the evening. Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) was with us on Sunday and shared in the baptism service. We wish God's blessings upon each person who had a part in making the weekend so special.

The evening of November 3, Elder Bros. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) and Wayne Banwart read the Memorandum. Again, we appreciate the ef-

forts made to bring us this message. It was an encouraging time to be together as a church family.

It has been a joy to have Sis. Kaitlyn Hoerr with us in our congregation. She is living in Indianapolis and attending college. We welcome her and hope she feels at home here quickly.

We were also blessed to have Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) assemble with us for a Sunday this month. We appreciate the love and teachings he shared. May God abundantly bless their family.

As we approach the busyness of the Christmas season, we pray that God can fill us with His peace and give us the ability to focus on the ultimate gift He provided for us so many years ago.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke

We enjoyed listening to the Memorandum the weekend of October 27. We appreciated Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzl (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) as he and his wife spent the weekend with us. May God bless them richly for the time they spent on our behalf.

The young group had company November 10-11. It was so nice to meet the visitors and to have a relatively full assembly with beautiful singing.

Our Sunday School collected items and distributed food baskets on November 18. We pray that each person or family that received a box of goods can be blessed by the food and by knowing that others care.

Our prayers were with Sis. Shirley Frank as she experienced some health problems this month and underwent some testing. We are thankful she is feeling better.

We are happy to welcome Sis. Meagan Wuethrich back from Japan where she was for a 2 month period of time. It is so nice to see her smiling face with us once again.

May each of you be blessed as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior,

Jesus Christ.

INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

I Corinthians 13:13

On October 21, we were encouraged to hear of the engagement of two couples. Bro. Jon Gerst and Sis. Amy Fiechter (Magdalena, Mexico) were announced for marriage. Their parents are Bro. Wally and Donna Gerst (Alto, MI) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari Fiechter (Bluffton, IN). Also planning a wedding is Sis. Marti Hinrichsen and Bro. Martin Rumbold of Roanoke, IL. We wish God's deepest grace and wisdom as they prepare to begin their lives as one.

Riyana Monique was born to Uniqua from the Oak House. We are thankful they are both healthy and doing well.

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

Luke 22:19-20

On November 16, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) assisted Bro. Lynn in serving Communion to us. We are grateful God has watched over Bro. Aaron and allowed him to join us in this special service.

We want to thank Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI,) and Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) for visiting us this month. We are grateful for their willingness to be used of God by ministering to us.

Bro. Art Gramm (Sis. Mary) and

Andre Sauder (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny) both spent some time in the hospital this month. We pray that God will have His healing hand on them as the days of recovery can be long.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Carol Haab
Carol Hurd

The Milford congregation welcomed members of the Elmer Haab family as they gathered to celebrate “Haab Fall Fest”. So on October 28, the visiting ministers were Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH). Genesis 8 was read reminding us of Noah's obedience and Matthew 18 where the disciples asked “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?” Jesus replied:

“Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 18:3-4

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter led a Bible Study using Luke 4 on October 30.

Many gathered in the fellowship hall for World Relief Work Day and Family Night on November 1. Comforters were made and Health Kits assembled by both children and adults.

Sis. Deb (Bro. Randy) Beer and her committee hosted a “Twinkle little Star” themed baby shower for Bro. Rob and Sis. Kim Schlipf in her home on November 2.

Sunday, November 4, the Milford congregation held their monthly hymn sing at the Lakeland Rehabilitation and Health Care Center to the enjoyment of the residents.

Those attending the annual Thanksgiving Program on November 11 were privileged to hear the Sunday School students give thanks through verse and beautiful song.

Now having given thanks for all our blessings, may we all give thanks for the greatest blessing of all, the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. May God bless you all this Christmas season.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Tammy Waibel**

Seasons Greetings from all of us at Remington.

Our visiting ministers this past month were: Bros. Samuel Schlatter, Phillip Stettner and Dan Beer. Elder Bro. Phil came to share the Memorandum with us, and Bro. Dan shared the topic of "Forgiveness" with us for one of our Wednesday evening Topical Bible Presentations. Thank you, brothers and your families, for coming to share His Word with us.

Two children in our congregation underwent surgery this month. Marisa Schini, daughter of converts Bob and Heather, was in the hospital for a short stay after surgery on her hand. Levi Schambach, son of Bro. Alan and Sis. Sarah, had surgery and a short hospital stay this past month as well. We are thankful for the healing they have both experienced and pray for it to continue.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Becky Langhofer
Natalie Virkler**

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. 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."

Psalms 100

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Darren Price and his wife, Sis. Monica (Milford, IN), and Bro. Walt Rager and his wife, Sis. Sharon (Toledo, OH). God bless you as you continue to speak God's Word.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Ernestine Meister as she undergoes surgery this month. Sis. Ernestine has not been feeling well enough to worship with us and her presence is missed very much! May God grant healing where He sees fit!

Bro. Don Lehman's uncle, Bro. Vern Lehman (Denver, CO), passed away this month. We give our sympathy to those he left behind, especially his wife, Sis. Leona.

We are thankful to report that in addition to all the expectant mothers, our congregation continues to grow! This month Bro. Garret and Sis. Bethany Kupferschmid and their children, Ava and Jackson, moved from Forrest, IL, to work in our area! We welcome them as they serve our Lord here in our small church family!

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

Ministering Bro. Chris Wuethrich and Sis. Carla (LaCrosse, IN) favored us with a visit on October 21. Appreciation flowed from us and what blessings flowed from him on that Sunday as he spoke the Word to us.

On the last Sunday of October, the annual Harvest Supper was held. We had a special Harvest program in the afternoon. Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN) visited us that day. He had the morning services and spoke at our program in the afternoon. We were also favored with beautiful songs by a quartet from W. Lafayette. Also adding to the program were Sis. Tracy Massner's mother and dad from Gridley, IL, and a quartet of beautiful women's voices from Valpo. Each time visitors share their talents with us, we stand in awe of the goodness of God. The Harvest Dinner is cooked and

served by the men in our church each year, and also the clean-up afterwards. It's a yearly gift that all of the women cherish and enjoy.

We were favored with a visit from ministering Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). He filled the pulpit in the absence of our ministering Bro. Garry Bucher. The Valpo brothers and sisters felt richly blessed by his sermons and from their fellowship. More blessings followed that day when Sis. Hope Bucher's family sang at the close of the services. Then at Bro. Ken's urging, three of our Sunday School girls sang along with Hope, Natasia Weiss, Stacia Meiss, and LaToya Thomas. It was a beautiful addition to the services.

On November 18 we had three visiting Elder brothers: Dan Kilgus, Curt Frank, and Steve Gutwein. They came to reveal to us the results of our voting for another ministering brother for our congregation. The congregation became very quiet as we waited for the name of Bro. Mike Thomas to be made known to us. This has been a long and serious effort by the Elders and the members of our congregation, and we rejoice that this day has come and that we felt at one with the choice of Bro. Mike, to assist our loved Bro. Garry Bucher. Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia are the parents of five children: Kelly, Mike, Summer, Latoya and Isaiah. We will gladly encircle them with love and prayers and support as he begins serving us.

A farewell supper was held later that afternoon for Bro. Lance and Sis. Hope Bucher and their children, Josh, Seth, Anna, and Ethan, who will be moving to Little Rock, AR, the end of November. We pray for this move that they might bring blessings to their new endeavor, as they all have always blessed us in our Valpo church. We wish them God's support and love as they begin their lives there. Knowing this couple as we do, we know they will give their best wherever they are.

I'm writing this news on Thanksgiving evening, as our family begins to gather in to spend time with each other. Fred and Marty drove from Auburn, AL. They timed their travels so they could meet their son, August, who flew into South Bend from Ashville, N.C. Tonight Bob and I are staying up late as our son, Bob, and his wife, Lilliam, and their daughter Allison are driving from St. Paul, MN. Tomorrow we are looking forward to have Becky and Dick, their three sons, Scott, Marc and Tony, and their families.

In the middle of our time together we will share special concern for Dick, our loved son-in-law, who is undergoing chemo again; and will show great happiness as we meet Marc and Diana's little daughter, Nell, for the first time.

It gives me a warm heart to think that many other families are gathering together to thank the Lord for His blessings. My thoughts go out to all of you. The love of family is next in importance to our love of God, and having our blessings under our roof means a great deal to many parents this Thanksgiving Day.

We gather to ask the Lord to be close to Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger tonight, also. Lyle is in a Phoenix hospital following surgery. We hope he and Marilyn can feel the love and prayers of their little Valpo church to which they give so much.

Please keep in mind if you are traveling cross country on Interstate 94, the IN Toll Road or U.S. 30, that our church is located 2 ¼ miles south of U.S. 30 on State Road 49. A warm welcome awaits you.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Hollie Meister
Darlene Walder**

Our thanks to the visiting ministers who have shared God's Word with us this past month. We appreciate the ef-

forts of Bros. Rich Gramm (South Bend), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton), and Randy Gudeman (Francesville).

November 3 was the joyful wedding day for Mark Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene) and Heather Evans (Jim and Cheryl Evans). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their lives together.

Congratulations to Bro. Vernon and Sis. Jan Furrer who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 3. May God continue to bless your marriage.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler as her father, Leonard Mathew, passed away.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lowell Bahler
Erica Blume**

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Luke 23:34

On October 24, Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb; Milford, IN) brought us our Bible topic on "Forgiveness". We were exhorted and reminded of our scriptural duty and obligation to forgive others before our Heavenly Father can forgive us. Thank you, Bro. Dan.

November 4 was a day of blessings for us. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen; Bluffton North, IN) and our Elder, Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna; Remington, IN), were here for the reading of the Memorandum. We surely appreciate their labor of love on our behalf. Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy; Roanoke, IL) was also with us for services that Sunday.

Our friend, Brett Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy), has been announced for peace since beginning his repentance some time ago. May the call continue to go forth and many yet answer, surrendering their all unto the Lord, as the day and hour of His return ap-

proaches.

We are also thankful to have Rodney and Jennifer Ross assembling with us! They, along with their children, Autumn, Connor and Olivia, have relocated to our area from Elgin. We look forward to getting to know them better.

**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Barbara Schock**

Thank ye the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord,
For He is gracious,
His mercy It endureth evermore.
Endureth evermore,
Endureth evermore.
Bless ye the Lord,
O bless ye the Lord!
My soul, remember
His goodness and His gifts
bestowed on thee;
His gifts bestowed on thee
His gifts bestowed on thee.

Hymns of Zion # 245, vs. 1&2

Thankful for the little gift that has been given them, Bro. Daryl and Sis. Christy Wiegand welcomed Darcy Wil- low into their hearts and home on November 7. Audrey is an excited big sister. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Wiegand and Bro. Harold and Sis. Janice Sauder (Tremont).

On November 10-11, we were blessed with visitors as the Single Group hosted their annual Invite a Friend. We are truly thankful for this precious fellowship that we have and are able to travel the miles to greet others of like mind and faith. May we continue to strive to preserve our precious heritage so that the future generations may enjoy the same fellowship that we enjoy, if the Lord tarries.

As Christmas approaches and we prepare to spend time with our families, may we think back to the time when a baby was born many years ago in a stable. May we remember the real

reason for Christmas, even though the world around us has forgotten and is caught up in the sales and gifts. And as we think on this, let's not stop at the manger but go all the way to the cross. For while we are thankful that He was born, it was in His death that we were given eternal life through His shed blood. May each and every one of you enjoy a blessed Christmas season.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

"Thou shalt call his name JESUS for he shall save his people from their sins"
Matthew 1:21

Jesus willingly left the glories of heaven, to come down to this sinful earth, and faithfully fulfilled His missions...

To give His life a ransom for many.
 (Matt. 20:28)

To preach the kingdom of God.
 (Luke 4:43)

To seek and save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10)

That the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:17)

That they which see not, might see.
 (John 9:39)

To give "the more abundant life".
 (John 10:10)

To save the world. (John 12:47)

To bear witness unto the truth.
 (John 18:37)

To save sinners. (I Timothy 1:15)

How sad, that so many children today truly don't know that Christmas is a day set aside to remember the birth of the Christ Child, our Saviour and Redeemer. To many, Christmas is just Santa Claus and presents. May we each do our little part to help share the true meaning of Christmas.

As I write this article for the December issue of the Silver Lining, we are looking forward to the many joys of the

Christmas season: the Sunday School Christmas program, Christmas caroling, making encouragement baskets and singing Christmas hymns.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We are thankful for our newest brother and sister in Christ. Bro. Luke Gerst and Sis. Ruth Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) told us recently during their testimonies how they had found peace with God and mankind. We thank our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) for assisting Bro. Joe with these provings and baptisms and thank Bros. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL), Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) and Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL) for helping in Sunday School and on the pulpit that Sunday. We also appreciated the support of Bros. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL), Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelly, Burlington, IA) and Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA) who were with us Saturday evening.

We also wish to thank Bro. Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver, CO) for sharing the Word with us on a previous Sunday.

Our prayers are with Bro. Larry (Sis. Emily) Peterson following a broken ankle and surgery to repair it. We pray the Lord will grant him a swift and complete recovery.

IOWA, LESTER
Polly Metzger
Gloria Moser

O list to the story that never grows old,
 Its tidings of joy repeat.
 The Saviour is come by the prophet fore-told,
 To Bethlehem's quiet street.
 The miracle star shines in splendor above,
 The stable so dingy and worn.

So humble a cradle for One who is Love,
 And there Jesus Christ was born.
Gospel Hymns #865

As we are in the midst of the Christmas season, may we ponder the wonderful story of the Christ Child's lowly birth. In a world where we are surrounded by many forms of media and reading materials, may we cling to the story that never grows old; the story that will bring us our salvation through the redeeming blood of our Saviour's cruel death on the cross; and the story that will bring us to our heavenly home because of Christ's Resurrection. May we praise God all year long for this "Wonderful Story of Love".

One of our potluck groups hosted an "Invite a Friend" weekend on October 20-21. Because of this special occasion, we were blessed with several visitors. Among them were ministering brothers: Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). We rejoiced with Sis. Abby Metzger and Bro. Steve Lindeen who were united in Holy Matrimony on October 28. Their parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey Metzger and Bro. Tom and Sis. Vera Lindeen (Oakville, IA). May God bless them as they begin their life's journey together. We appreciated ministering brothers, Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA), who were with us on that weekend.

Our congregation is rejoicing with two families that have welcomed new babies into their homes. Bro. Monte and Sis. Karla Gerber are thankful for the arrival of Marae Lee who was born on November 5. Katrina, Shawna and Dalton are excited for a new little sister. Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma Gerber and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall (Morris, MN) are the happy grandparents.

On November 7, Evan Matthew

was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Elizabeth Warner. Nathan, Ryan, Ethan and Leah are excited for a new brother. Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner are the thankful grandparents. May God be near both families as they raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

Loved ones spending time in the hospital include: John Popkes (Sis. Karmen), Bro. Chuck Knoblock (Sis. Coralee) and Caley Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori). We trust God's healing hands will provide comfort and healing.

Our sincere sympathy is with Josie Feucht who is grieving the loss of her sister, Gladys VandeVooren, who passed away on October 19.

"Daughter, Thy Faith hath saved thee. Go in Peace."

Matthew 5:34

On November 17 and 18, we heard the proving and witnessed the baptism of Sis. Trela Knueven (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock). It was a weekend of great rejoicing as we heard how God has worked in Trela's life and we welcome her into the Fold. We are thankful that Sis. Trela's dear husband, Jason, could be with us and our prayers are certainly with them as Jason returns to Afghanistan in the service of our country. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) was here to assist Bro. Dennis with this most precious occasion. Bro. Duane Metzger was also here for the weekend. We thank all the brothers in the past month that have ministered to us on our behalf.

The annual summer church services at Clyde Park, Montana, will be held the weekend of June 21-22, 2008. This date is a week later than in previous years. Please contact ministering Bros. Gene Metzger or Wes Moser with any questions.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

We have much to rejoice about this month. Four precious babies were born. Bro. Mark and Sis. Sally Schmidgall welcomed Nathan Jeremy into their home on October 19. Excited siblings are Nolan and Olivia. Grandparents include Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall and Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer (Lester, IA).

On October 22, Logan Lee was born into the family of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Heidi Frank. Brendan and Morgan are excited to have a new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank and Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla Bajema (Lester, IA).

Alayna Joy blessed the home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Autumn Lanz on October 23. We are thankful she is home from the hospital and doing well. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr (West Bend, IA).

Bro. Brian and Sis. Heidi Schmidgall welcomed baby Anna Renee into their family on October 30. Also welcoming Anna are siblings, Leah and Owen. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall and Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz.

On October 28, wedding vows were exchanged between Bro. Steve Lindeen and Sis. Abby Metzger in Lester, IA. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Vera Lindeen and Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey Metzger (Lester, IA). We heartily welcome Sis. Abby to our congregation.

The engagement of Sis. Lindsay Wagenbach and Bro. Kevin Frank was announced on October 28. Their parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti Wagenbach and Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank.

On November 4, the engagement of Bro. Steve Endress (Bradford, IL) and Sis. Betsy Schulz was made known. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz.

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA), Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) and Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). We thank them for their labors on our behalf.

IOWA, WEST BEND Sue Schneider Janet Fehr

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Quinn and Sis. Ruth Dahlhauser, as Braxton Quinn was welcomed into this world on October 18. His happy grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen Dahlhauser and Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg.

In the past month Sis. Pearl Anliker, Bro. Albert Banwart, and Margaret (Eli Jr.) Grimm spent some time in the hospital. We pray that each one has felt God's healing touch.

There is joy over the announcement that Josh Banwart (Brad and Julie) has been granted peace since seeking repentance. We look forward to hearing his testimony in January.

Recently we have had several engagements and a marriage in our area. Amy Mogler (Eric and Diana) became the bride of Brian Peterson on October 20. Our engagements include: Annette Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane) to Jay Benedict; Anthony Fehr (Jeff and Beth) to Jill Johnson; and Karla Nelson (Cheryl Morrow) to Joe Tyrrell. God's nearness and richest blessings are extended to each of these couples.

As we think of Christmas approaching, may we all be reminded of our precious Saviour's birth and...

ALL ROADS LEAD TO BETHLEHEM

It was just a little town,
With a busy, crowded inn –
Not a place where you'd expect
A king to enter in.
Such a little town and yet
His star still shines so bright;
All roads lead to Bethlehem,
If we but seek the light.

—*Kay Hoffman*

JAPAN, SHIODA
Carrie Ito

We have much to be thankful for this holiday season! We had a very blessed fall fellowship meeting with many visitors from the States. Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Beverly Bahr (Detroit), Bro. Dave and Sis. June Koch (Tremont, IL), and Sis. Shirley Kieser (Princeville) were able to join us for this meeting and for worship services on Sunday. The theme for the day was "Building Trust into Our Relationships". Bro. Mark encouraged us to have pure motives and concern for others. We discussed how we can not do this of ourselves, but only by God's grace. When we came out for our lunch break, it was amazing to see the clouds part and see beautiful Mt. Fuji with the sun shining on the new snow. It was as if we could see heaven—full of light and beauty!

Also this month, we enjoyed a Thanksgiving gathering with both churches at Tokyo church. It was an especially joyful day as one of our dear friends was announced to be repenting! We are also encouraged to see our dear Chinese friend, Chi-san, desiring to learn more about Jesus. As prayers are answered, I am admonished by my surprised response! Why should I be surprised? If we pray with faith, believing, then we shouldn't be surprised at our gracious God's kindness, love, and mercy to answer in such a wonderful way. May we all strive to be fervent in faithful prayer for more souls to be drawn to the Truth and for strengthening of faith for the believers!

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Rita Menold

We appreciated the visiting ministers that came and spoke God's Word to us this past month: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Cham-

paign, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS). Thank you for lending yourselves for our benefit.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm welcomed Hannah Mae into their family on November 12. The beaming grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Marilyn Fetter. On November 15, Bro. Christopher and Sis. Amy Menold were happy to add Krysta Jane into their family. Big sisters Sonja and Ashlyn are excited to have a sister! Her grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold as well as Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz (Silverton, OR).

Bro. Dan Coughlin (Mike and Sally, Detroit) and Sis. Tami Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) were united in marriage on November 11 here in Bern. We pray for God's guidance and blessings on their union.

Sis. Bethany Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona), who currently lives in Washington, IL, and Bro. Caleb Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna) of Goodfield, IL, announced their wedding engagement. May God bless and provide for them as they prepare for this important step in life.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Karen Kellenberger

Fort Scott was blessed to have two visiting ministers. They were Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL). May God reward them for sharing the Scriptures with us.

November 3 marked the joyful wedding day of Kimberly Byler (Tom and Janet) and Jared Leek (Jay and Julie). We wish them the Lord's blessings on their lives.

A precious baby daughter was born November 14 to Danielle Fischer.

Olivia Nicole Leighty's maternal great-grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer.

Do we ponder the coming new year and what lies in store for us and our families? Sometimes we enjoy great peace and hope at Christmas, but after that dread what might lie ahead in the coming year. Jesus teaches us to put our full trust in Him and not to fear.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

KANSAS, KIOWA
Jenny Stewart
Janice Bahr

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His
sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down
where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the
hay.

Hymns of Zion #38

Christmas is always an exciting time of year! There is caroling, Christmas programs, gatherings with friends and family, and the joy of our Savior's birth.

Several dear friends have been surgery patients this month. Glenn Piper and Sheryl Farney have our thoughts and prayers for healing. Sis. Tillie Diel has been sick this month. Thankfully she is better, and able to assemble with us.

We definitely want to thank our visiting minister this month. Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and his wife, Sis. Carol, gathered with our congregation. We appreciated the time and efforts they put forth to assemble with us. We enjoyed all of the visitors this month and want to continue to encourage everyone to stop and visit at Kiowa.

May God bless you this wonderful Christmas season.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch**

So now again Thou hast
To us a blessing given.
Our handiwork is blest
By thy good Word from heaven.
Thou blessest food and drink
Our needs to satisfy
Therefore, we give Thee thanks;
Our song shall rise on high.

We sing our heartfelt thanks,
Thy truth and love adoring.
For guidance and for light
Thy Spirit we're imploring.
Our hearts we offer Thee
For life and every day,
That with Thy grace we tread
The straight and narrow way.
Zion's Harp #13, vs. 2,4

The time set aside by our country for Thanksgiving is here. May we always be a thankful people for what the Lord had done for us in richly providing for both our physical and spiritual needs.

Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Mike Leman (Denver, CO) were with us to assist Elder Bro. Jay Luthi in reading the Memorandum. We thank them for their labors on our behalf and pray the Lord will always grant them an extra measure of grace and discernment as they work as shepherds of the flock.

Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) was also with us on the pulpit this past month. We appreciate his willingness to serve and pray that God will continue to provide.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Rebekah Bayer
Dawn Strahm**

Visiting ministers that shared the Word with us this month included Bro.

Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), and Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO). Many thanks to them for giving of themselves in sharing their ministry.

We have appreciated listening to the Conference tapes with the Bern church. It is always a blessing to be encouraged on this spiritual walk.

Our congregation enjoyed a week-end of fellowship this fall as our church hosted an Invited Guest weekend.

Thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice), Bro. Elmer Strahm (Sis. Phyllis) and Sis. Lois Grimm as they have recently undergone surgery.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carrie Grimm gave birth to Emmie Mae on October 30. Elsie and Sadie are excited about their new baby sister. Grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm and Gary and Marilyn Edelman.

On November 4 our church gathered for an all-church Thanksgiving dinner. It truly was a time to be thankful and enjoy the love and unity of our congregation.

The engagement of Sis. Heidi Hartter to Bro. Corbin Anliker of Forrest, IL, was recently announced. Her parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen and his are Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda (Forrest, IL).

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

In my last writing I mentioned how a certain brother frequently leads us in prayer and asks for a blessing on the ministering brothers who so willingly lead our worship services. Sadly, I must mention the passing into eternity of that dear brother, Richard Payton, on November 12. Bro. Dick was hospitalized a little more than a week and underwent surgery but to no avail. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Jocelyn; a son, Dr. Chris Payton, and wife Dana of South Bend, IN; another son, Mike, and wife Amber of Pratt, KS; and a

daughter, Angela, of Wichita. Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer as they deal with the changes that are brought about in their daughter's life. Present plans are for Sis. Jocelyn to relocate to South Bend where Chris and Dana will be able to assist her according to her health needs.

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi, and his wife, Sis. Jane, spent Sunday, November 11, with us in Wichita. The Luthi's remembered that I no longer do highway driving so Bro. Jay called me the evening before and offered to stop and take me to church. My grandson was obligated to keep a family commitment that day and I was resigned to stay home. I thank the Lord that He put it in Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane's heart to provide the need they did not know existed.

Presently, we are preparing for the Thanksgiving holidays and by the time you read this, we will be well into the Christmas Season. As we approach this Holy Season, may we remember these facts:

Happiness keeps you sweet
Trials keep you strong
Sorrows keep you human
Failures keep you humble
Success keeps you glowing
But only GOD keeps you going!

**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Barb Huber**

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

Ephesians 1:3

The Lexington Church felt very blessed this past month as many brethren and friends assembled with us including a bus load from the Washington Church in Illinois. Each Lord's Day, many precious teachings from God's Holy Word were brought

forth by ministering Bros. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington), Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont), Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury), and Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville). We feel deeply indebted and want to thank you for your many labors of love and the sacrifices made to come and further the cause of the Gospel. The fellowship is truly a blessing and we pray the Lord will bless you and your families.

We continue to pray for our dear Sis. Rebecca Germann as she has begun her treatments. Mayshe feel God's nearness and His healing power as she continues to recover. We're thankful for answered prayer for our friend, Dan Henderson, who has recovered from his broken ankle.

As we walk the pilgrim pathway of life and experience the trials and tests of our faith, may Romans 8:18 and 28 be a comfort to our hearts: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

It's always a joy to have visitors and we welcome all who may be in our area or travelling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Doug Germann (859) 223-0294 or Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Claudia Gonzalez

Greetings and love from Ixtlan, dear ones! We hope the peace and love of our Savior are dwelling in your hearts. We want to thank all of you and continue to ask for your prayers for the new believers here in Ixtlan and Barra Vieja so that they continue to grow in faith and in knowledge of our Lord.

"Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetous-

ness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens."

Exodus 18:21

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

II Timothy 2:2

At this time our little congregation is praying about the election of another minister to help Bro. Marshall with the work here in Ixtlan. We ask for your prayers so that we are led by the Holy Spirit and that all is in accordance with God's Word.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA

Gloria Gonzalez

Carissa Schlipf

¡Saludos de amor en el nombre de Cristo, nuestro Salvador!

We rejoice with our Sis. Amy Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari Fiechter, Bluffton, IN) as she announces her engagement to Bro. Jon Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna, Alto, MI). We wish them God's richest blessings as they prepare for a new life together!

"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him."

Lamentations 3:22-24

In September of 2007, José Guerrero came to live on campus here at CVE. José is the older brother of Carla Liliana (one of our girls here at CVE), and has been working for us since the summer. The Spirit has been working strongly in his life and in October he made the decision to surren-

der his life to Christ and begin repenting. He knows that this life is not easy and that we will pass through many tests of our faith. One such test came shortly after he began his repentance, when his older sister, Trini, took her life. Trini had attended church at times and brought her four children with her, Jazany (8), Ezequiel (7), Julissa (5), and Estefania (3). Trini's three oldest children have now been placed in our care, and Trini's sister, Hilda (17), is also staying here for a time. Our prayers are with these young children and Trini's brothers and sisters, Javier, Jesús, José, Sulema, Hilda, and Carla Liliana, in their time of deep grief and transition. We pray that God can bring good from this tragedy and will use it to shine hope and Truth into the hearts of her family.

Si Jehová no edificare la casa,
En vano trabajan los que la edifican;...
(Psalms 127:1)

We thank the group of three couples who spent a week here in October, welding and advancing the progress on the church. It is exciting for us to see God's hand directing the work here as the church continues to take shape.

The CVE Board spent two days with us this month of November for their tri-annual meeting. We thank them for their patience, as the meetings fell during a difficult time, and their willing hands as they even took a break from their meetings to help with childcare! May God bless each of you! Special thanks to Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, Mexico) as he shared the Word with us on Wednesday night.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Rose Watson

Terri Huber

It is time to bid farewell to the winter "snowbirds" who are heading south. We can certainly understand why they would choose to avoid the cold weather that is coming, but we

miss them when they are gone! As is so often true, our loss is another's gain, and it is certain that the support they are providing in places such as Zapata, Sarasota and Phoenix is much welcomed.

Announcing the birth of Colette Grace Plattner! She lives in Detroit with her parents, Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura, but since both sets of grandparents attend Alto, we are claiming the privilege of reporting this news. Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner join Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough in their delight in having Colette as the first granddaughter for each family.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Eric Cooper to our congregation. Eric is a college student who began worshipping with us early this year, and was convicted in obedience to the Word of God to repent. It has been encouraging even to us "seasoned" folk to witness his peaceful countenance and eager and consistent attendance whenever the doors of the church are unlocked! It is always on our hearts to pray for the youth of our church. We want them to make good decisions as we watch them mature into fine young men and women. Two more of our newer but regularly attending teens have made the right choice in the most important decision of their lives: Stonne Capman and Whitney Wilson have turned their lives over to the Lord. We lift them up with prayers of thanksgiving and support.

Filling Christmas shoeboxes for underprivileged children overseas has become quite an annual tradition in Alto. The participants merrily shopped for meaningful items, laboriously wrapped 75 boxes and helped the children generously pack the boxes with age-appropriate items one Friday night in November. What a great way to enter into this special season when we celebrate our Lord's birth – cooperating in the spirit of fellowship to provide our kids with an opportunity to focus on giving gifts, not receiving

them.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

On November 10, Bay City hosted the Eastern World Relief meeting. A number of visitors stayed for the weekend. We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) as they ministered the Word to us.

On Saturday, November 17, Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) shared "A Christ Centered Approach to Helping Others". We are thankful for the counsel and wisdom that was conveyed to our congregation.

Our prayers are with Bro. Wade Meylan (Amanda) and Sis. Shirley Wright (Bro. Gary) as they each spent time in the hospital recently. We pray that the Lord's healing strength would be with each of our loved ones.

The blessed story of the Christ,
 The babe of Bethlehem,
 Is worthy of our song and praise,
 And stirs the hearts of men.
 The fullness of God's love divine,
 Surrounds the Christ so mild
 Alas how many only know
 The Saviour as a child.

May God's blessings of peace and love be yours during this Christmas season.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Kay Rauhe
Manuela Denes

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Mark 1:21

The Christmas season is fast approaching. It caught me off guard to hear the Christmas carols playing in stores on November 1. In these times of political correctness I was, however, pleased to hear those old familiar carols that proclaim the birth of a child in a humble manger. It is so easy to get carried away with the hustle and bustle of the season. The commercialization alone may have people forget the reason for the season. Let's share with those we come in contact with, the story of the Babe who would "save His people from their sins".

We also rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Plattner, as they welcome little Colette Grace into their lives. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner and Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough, all from our church in Alto, MI.

Sis. Ranka and Laza Mojic also had an occasion for rejoicing as they welcomed a new grandson, Dario, whose parents are Sylvia and Mike Robb of Arizona.

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

Ephesians 5:31

Congratulations and blessings to Bro. Dan Coughlin and Sis. Tami Kaeb on the occasion of their marriage which took place in Bern, KS. Their parents are Mike and Sally Coughlin and Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb. We welcome Sis. Tami and hope that she'll enjoy her time with us in Detroit.

Our Detroit choir had a blessed weekend with the brethren in Bloomington, IL. Thanks go out to them for the invitation and a wonderful time of fellowship and song.

Truly a month for blessings, our hearts were thrilled to hear that Melinda Lanski has decided to give her life over to the Lord. Our prayers are

with her husband, Todd, and their children.

A final "thank you" to Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI) for ministering to us this past month.

Prayers need to go out to those of our brethren who have not been able to worship with us due to ill health. We need to be especially prayerful for Sis. Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben) as she recovers from some challenging health problems.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Mary Mogler

Word of Life, the fountain flowing
Purely from the throne above....

We were blessed with a number of visiting ministers this month and certainly appreciate their efforts to worship with us. Among our visitors were Elder Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Gene Leman (Wolcott, IN). We always enjoy the added fellowship they and their wives bring to our assembly. Many good teachings, encouragement and a reminder of the blessings of a close walk with the Lord, were brought to us as Bro. Art and Bro. Doug also shared the Memorandum.

Many from our congregation gathered for a presentation on World Relief activities in Eastern Europe; we are grateful to Bro. Gene for including Minneapolis in his travel schedule. It's always good for us to see and hear where the hurting and needy are among us, that we will be motivated to use our time and talents in God's service. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Scott Larson, son of Sis. Maxine Larson, was married to Tara Digby on November 10. Our congratulations and best wishes to the two of them as they begin a new phase in their lives.

We welcome Sis. Lindsay Gramm (daughter of Bro. Ted and Sis. Wanda Gramm, Morris, MN) and wish her God's blessings in her new employment. We will miss Sis. Ethel Bednarski as she spends the winter with family in California and we look forward to her return next spring.

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

Luke 2:11

As Christmas approaches and we ponder how we can best celebrate this truly miraculous event of a Saviour to all mankind, let us consider the words of the children's song and in true worship and adoration apply them to our lives.

"What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a
lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my
part.

What can I give Him? I'll give Him
my heart."

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Sheila Reuter Heidi Nohl

We rejoice as we see souls turning their lives over to the Lord. Tommy Raths (Amber) and Shanda Feuchtenberger (Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Kay) have answered the call to repentance. We pray God will be with them as they begin serving Him.

Our congregation witnessed the testimony and baptism of five dear souls this month. Our new brothers and sisters in Christ are Lyle and Amanda Grimm, Mitch and Abbie Fehr and Taylor Gramm (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen). We pray God will be with them as they continue to walk with Him.

We were blessed to have ministering Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Wayne Grimm

(West Bend, IA), and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) visit this month. We pray God will bless them for their willing service.

Our congregation gathered together for the reading of the Memorandum the weekend of November 17. Bro. Wayne Grimm assisted our Bro. Art with this work. It was a blessing to all who gathered and we pray God will bless our Elder brothers for their efforts.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Paul Fehr. We pray God will provide healing in His time.

Grace Anna was born to Bro. Rustin and Sis. Sharon Schmidgall. Welcoming her home are grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Schmidgall. We wish them God's blessings as they raise their children.

The engagement of Lucas Koehl (Bro. Roy and Sis. Janell) and Tracy Hacker (Chuck and Deb) was announced. Also, Bro. Alex Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Myra Wulf (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce) was made known. We pray God will be near each of these couples as they plan to become one.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Rachel Steiner Julie Schmidt

Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris, MN) visited our pulpit this month. We appreciate them coming and spending the day with us and sharing God's Word.

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

Hymns of Zion #135

We rejoice with our converts, Lena Steiner (Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel) and Landon Messner (Elder Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan) as they have professed peace with God and man and anxiously await

baptism the first part of December. We look forward to adding these young lambs to our fold.

“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit...”

I Corinthians 12:4

Our annual Brotherhood meeting was held in November. Election results for various duties were revealed. Bro. Nick Schmidt (Sis. Julie) will be Trustee replacing Bro. Dick Van Deest (Sis. Nancy). Bro. Ed Stoll (Sis. Ginny) will be Usher/Recorder replacing Bro. Brendon Messner. And Bro. Verl Schmidt (Sis. Jamie) had support for a second term as Secretary. We thank those with responsibilities for their years of dedicated service to our church family.

Our Sunday School students hosted their annual supper for those 55 and older. It was a nice evening of fellowship with young and old. Thank you, students, for your labors of love.

Our sympathies extend to retired Elder Bro. Leroy and Sis. JoAnn Messner and their family in the loss of Sis. JoAnn's mother, Cora Solmonson, who was laid to rest. May the Lord grant comfort and peace in this time of sorrow.

Prayers go out to Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin) as she faces an extended stay in the hospital. We also pray for others in our congregation who have had surgeries, testing and various physical afflictions. May God heal as only He can.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Becky Marti
Mindy Braker**

On October 28, Sis. Rachel Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice) and Bro. Ben Currier (Art and Sis. Mary) of Congerville, IL, were united in Holy Matrimony. We wish them God's blessings and peace as they walk the path of life together. Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) was in Lamar for the

weekend, and we thank him for bringing forth God's Word.

Bro. Grant and Sis. Rachel Rinkenberger and their three children, Erica, Jared and Luke, moved to Lamar from Congerville, IL, the beginning of November. We hope they feel welcome here and wish them God's nearness as they settle into their new home.

Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) came to assist our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi in reading the Memorandum to the church. We thank him for traveling the many miles to be used in the Lord's service.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer and their family in the death of their father and grandfather, Bro. Howard Stettner (Sis. Goldie) of Bluffton North, IN. May they feel the Heavenly Father's presence to comfort and provide for their needs.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below...”

As the year is quickly ending, we realize that we cannot properly thank Him for all of our blessings, but we need to try. A thankful heart helps to put everything else in our lives into perspective.

Our church is always thankful for the faithful ministers who continue to come to St. Louis to lend themselves to God's service. Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA), Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) were our visiting ministers.

We welcome Bro. Matthew Schrenk back to St. Louis after a time spent

working in California after his graduation from college.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Sally Haerr

Thanksgiving is not just a holiday marked on the calendar, it is an attitude of the heart. I Thess. 5:18 tells us ... “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”, plain and simple instruction. Well, plain maybe, but not so simple. I want to do better.

October 20 brought the sorrow of separation to the family and friends of Gary Luetener. He died after a long battle with Huntingtons Disease. We want to express our love and sympathy to his wife, Connie (Plank), and children, Amanda and Ricky, as well as Connie's mom, Barb (Hoerr) Plank.

On October 28, Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) came to assist Elder Bro. Kent as we had the special privilege of hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Joe Marquart (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lori) and Kara Eberhardt (Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathy). These two precious souls have taken advantage of the directive given in Acts 3:19... “Repent... and be converted that your sins may be blotted out...” The peace and joy that this process brings is so evident and a true encouragement to our little congregation.

Once again the children were invited to the annual October Harvest Party. This is an evening of no tricks, just treats and memory making fellowship. Thanks to the busy moms and dads and others who continually give alternatives for Godly living.

This month we have been listening to the deliberations of the Brotherhood Conference. As we listen to these Elder Brothers, we are reminded of their desire that we stay in tune with and be obedient to God's Word. Jesus said, in John 14:15, “If you love me, keep my commandments.”

God has blessed us with the addi-

tion of two families. What joy it brings to our church when we experience physical as well as spiritual growth. We welcome Bro. Adam and Sis. Katie Reinbeck and their five children from Leo, IN (where they served as houseparents at Gateway Woods), and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carrie Rocke and their three children from Tremont, IL. We pray that we can stand strong together encouraging each other as we "...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:4)

Bro. Lenny and Sis. Charlotte (Haerr) Meyer (Chicago, IL) came for a family reunion. We want to thank Bro. Lenny for his willingness to speak God's Word to us. I Corinthians 9:16-17 speaks of a reward for willingness to serve.

Andrew Adrian (Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy) underwent surgery for a hand injury. We are thankful to report that he is recovering nicely and is back in church with us.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

This past month our cups overflowed with blessings after having a busload of brethren visit us from the Congerville, IL, area. We enjoyed having so much time to fellowship together, join our voices together in song and hear exhortations from God's Word preached to us. Visiting ministers for this special weekend on October 20-21 were Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL). We shared many special memories together throughout the weekend and enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by the group Sunday evening. We certainly missed each one after the bus left but hope to get a chance to renew our friendships again in the future.

Other visiting ministers have been Bro. Mike Bauman (Mansfield, OH) with us for the weekend of October 14;

and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) who shared the Word with us Wednesday evening, October 31, and again on Sunday, November 4. May the Lord richly bless each of these brothers for their many labors of love shown to us as they stood and proclaimed God's Word.

Our prayers extended out for Sis. Linda Graves who was ill and needed surgery. We are thankful she is now back home and recovering well.

Our prayers also go out to Paul and Emily Virkler as she has her brain surgery in Texas on November 29. During times of illness we are always reminded of the power of prayer and how blessed we are to have a Lord who loves us all so much! Their new home address is: Paul and Emily Virkler, 4112 Coldsprings Rd., Trumansburg, NY 14886.

'Tis not command nor mere decree,
that makes men come on bended
knee,
to seek His holy face.
When'er the soul's deep needs arise,
in fears and trials it relies,
on His sustaining grace.

Hymns of Zion #205, vs. 2

We are certain that Jacob Farney would enjoy any mail sent his way as he is currently stationed in Japan. His address is:

lcpl Farney Jacob A.
psc 561 Box 3501
Fpo ap 96310 0036

OHIO, AKRON Rachel Pamer Mara Henico

It was a blessing to hear that Rachael Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol) has found peace and is now awaiting baptism. We also are thankful that George Hunyadi plans to bring his testimony to the church at the same time.

Recent visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) and

Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us. Also Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris) was with us and assisted in reading the Memorandum. We appreciated the good counsel.

Evelyn Grace was born on October 29 to Bro. Tim and Sis. Angie Zarkovacki. She was welcomed home by Alex, Rebekah, and Heidi. Evelyn went back in the hospital for a few days but we are grateful she is home again. Grandparents are Peter and Margaret Zarkovacki, Ivone Chant and Edward Koppert. Also Bro. Ben and Sis. Joanne Henico welcomed a new little girl, Lilly Jo, into their family with their son, Simon. Lilly was born on November 10. Her grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico and Bro. Alph and Sis. Denise Maibach (Rittman).

The engagement of Bro. Tom Bako (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Dianna) to Sis. Laura Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy, Rittman) was announced. May God richly bless them as they make plans for their wedding and marriage.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

It is that blessed time of year again when families gather together, voices sing out the beautiful carols and most importantly, the wonderful story of love is told. May joy, peace and hope be with you all this Christmas season.

We thank Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Bro. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) for being willing to come and assist on our pulpit. We appreciate Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth for bringing their family along with them to help fill the benches on Thanksgiving weekend. Holiday weekends can be somewhat empty as many go home to be with their loved ones.

World Relief night and fall clean-up were held to help others as well as helping around the church.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

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 wandering
child...
Gospel Hymns #622

We are so thankful Trent Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) has answered the call and has begun his repentance. We will continue to pray that as you dig deep and build a strong foundation, God will help you stand fast when Satan comes with his many temptations.

October 27 we spent a blessed evening together as we gathered to hear the Memorandum. May God bless Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) for sharing this weekend with us.

November 4 was the wedding day for Sis. Janice Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Bro. Chad Kaeb (Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn Kaeb) of Cissna Park, IL. We were privileged to have several visiting ministers that weekend. Among those visitors were Elder Bro. Tom Stock and Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Ken Schneider and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA). We will certainly miss Sis. Janice and hope Bro. Chad brings her back to visit us often.

The weekend of November 17-18 we were blessed to hear the testimony and view the baptism of our new Bro. Andy Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie). Once again we were thankful for visiting ministering brothers and would like to thank Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) for their labors during this weekend.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian recently moved from our area and will

be attending the Akron, OH, church. We will miss them, but wish them God's richest blessings as we know they will be an asset to the Akron congregation.

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Steffen Carmen Eisenmann

When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united...
Zion's Harp #79

Our congregation was blessed to witness the wedding of Bro. Chet Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Amanda Steffen (Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen) on October 21. May God be with this couple as they establish a home together.

Present for the wedding were the following ministers: Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. MaryAnn, Smithville, OH), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN). May they all feel God's nearness for their efforts on our behalf.

The weekend of October 27-28 was set aside to listen to the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) was here to assist Bro. John with this work. Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) was also here that weekend, as well.

Sis. Marge Gerber (Bro. Jim) was a hospital/surgery patient this month. God grant her healing as only He can.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Kari Stoller welcomed their third child, Brock Aaron, into their family on October 22. Kasee and Ashlyn are excited to have a brother at home now. Grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann Stoller and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer (Milford, IN).

I will end this article on a joyous note. Within two days' time, Latty re-

joined to hear that two more souls have begun their repentance. Andrea Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) and Shawn Gerber (Sis. Shane) have turned from sin and are now seeking the Lord to rule their lives. We pray that God will be with them in the time to come and grant them much grace.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

Special thanks to Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) for coming to assist in the reading of the Memorandum and for ministering to us.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jim Zimmer (Sis. Clara) and his family as he has been hospitalized.

We also pray for Bro. Lawrence Popp (Sis. Vi) and his family as he has moved to a nursing home.

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.

Gospel Hymns #757, v. 3

Praying God will give us all the grace to share His love and peace with others this Christmas Season.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Sarah Bauman Linda Zollinger

Gideon John joined the family of Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Steiner on October 15. Gideon's siblings are Clarie, Elijah, Jordan, Noelle, Tierra and Isaiah. Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner are Gideon's grandparents.

Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler welcomed another granddaughter into their family circle. Makenna Alyse was born on November 8 to first-time parents, Bro. Milan and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle of Sardis, OH.

On November 8, Olivia Melba joined the family of Bro. Matthew, Sis.

Amber and Aquinna Rufener. Bro. Max and Sis. Diane Miller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener are Olivia's grandparents.

Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach are enjoying another grandchild. Bro. Ben, Sis. Joanna, and Simon Henico (Akron, OH) welcomed Lilly Jo into their family on November 10.

Bro. Steven and Sis. Jessica Gasser welcomed a son into their family, Dominic Antonio. Grandparents of Dominic are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and Clair and Sis. Beverly Keever (Mansfield, OH).

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

How thankful we are to hear of souls answering God's call! Justin Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori) has decided to turn his back on the world and seek the kingdom of God.

Visiting ministers, Bro. Matthew Steffen (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), were with us this past month. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Bro. Abram Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori), Travis Mills (son of Heidi Mills, grandson of Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Trent), Sis. Laura Bauman (Bro. Matthew) and Sis. Lillian Maibach (Bro. Andrew) were all hospitalized during the past month. May we continue to keep these loved ones in our prayers, as some are still recovering.

The engagement of Bro. Andrew Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail) and Sis. Julie Stoller (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lori) was made known on October 28. On the same Sunday, the engagement of Bro. Tom Bako (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Dianna) of Akron, OH, and Sis. Laura Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy) was announced. May God bless and guide these couples as they plan for their upcoming wedding and marriage.

On November 11, Bro. Jeremy Calame (Sarasota, FL) and Sis. Elizabeth Reiker were united in Holy Matrimony in Peoria, IL. Bro. Jeremy grew up in the Rittman area and is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Jody Calame. Sis. Elizabeth is the daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker. May the Lord guide their lives together and be the Centerpiece of their home.

We're very thankful to the Lord for the progress of the construction of the new dining room, kitchen, Sunday school room, and lobby addition as they are nearing completion.

"Tis not the manger, but the cross, That sets the spirit free." (Hymns of Zion #36). May God be with each one this Christmas season and in the coming year.

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

This past month we welcomed visiting ministering Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) and appreciated his efforts and the message brought forth to us. Also with us was retired Bro. Glenn Riggenbach, also from Smithville.

Much joy and thankfulness is in the hearts of Bro. Milan and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle as they received one of the greatest blessings and responsibilities given by our God - their firstborn child, Makenna Alyse, born November 8. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle. "And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?" (Matthew 21:16)

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Ruth Gasser Edith Miller

O, Saviour, might I thus as Thee
Likeminded, pure, and humble be!
With Thee, O Lord, I'll walk aright,

A child and servant in Thy light!
Zion's Harp #164, vs. 1

We appreciated the efforts of our Elder brothers as they brought to us the Conference Memorandum on Saturday evening, November 3. Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller in this work. We are thankful Bro. Dave could be with us the next day, as well as Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). May God richly bless our Elders for their care and concern for our souls.

We rejoice with Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Saurer, as their son, Todd, was baptized on September 30 at Columbus, OH, where he resides. We are thankful he is now our brother in Christ and we wish him much grace as he goes forth.

The Lord continues to call souls to repentance. We are happy to report three young ladies in our congregation have made the decision to answer His call. Leah Gasser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue-Ellen Maibach and the late Bro. Greg Gasser), Jana Widmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen) and Julie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice) have made their beginning in the Lord. We pray God's blessings upon them and trust that their house of faith will be built upon the Solid Rock.

Bro. Max and Sis. Diane Miller have a new grandchild, as Bro. Matt and Sis. Amber Rufener (Rittman, OH) gave birth to a little girl, Olivia Melba.

I apologize for having omitted reporting the wedding of Bro. Garth Maibach (Sardis, OH) and Sis. Hannah Beery (Rittman, OH) which took place at Rittman on August 26. Parents of this couple are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery (Rittman, OH). May God bless them as they begin their life together in the Lord.

OHIO, TOLEDO**Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard**

Greetings of love to each of you!

Once again the Lord has provided visiting ministers to feed us. We ask that God will bless Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH) and Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) as they were willing to do His will.

Happy for the safe arrival of a new grandson are Bro. Dave and Sis. Geri Beard. Griffin Michael joined the home of Michael and Lindsay Beard on October 24.

As we gather together with friends and family this Christmas season, let us be ever mindful of that first Christmas and the most precious gift of all.

OREGON, PORTLAND**Brianna Strahm**

Our congregation held Holy Communion this month, following services on Sunday afternoon. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) came to assist our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) in this work. Following the Communion service, our congregation enjoyed an all-church potluck. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), both of Silverton. We appreciate the labors of each of these brothers on our behalf.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Connie Steffen (Bro. Garth) as she recently underwent neck surgery. Although her recovery has been somewhat slow, we're thankful that the surgery went well. She continues to regain her strength at home during this time, and we look forward to the day when she will be well enough to reassemble with us.

We also continue to remember the other brethren among our congregation that suffer ongoing health problems. May the Lord provide His strength and grace sufficient for each one to bear his cross throughout this life.

OREGON, SILVERTON**Cindy Metzger
Melissa Kuenzi**

A new baby boy, Talyn Loren, was born to Travis and Tammy Dettwyler on October 18. He is welcomed by his sister, Kylie. His grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler and Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf (Lester, IA)

A new baby girl, Adeline Michelle, was born to Lyle and Andrea Kuenzi on October 29. Her brother, Henry, welcomes her. Her grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi and Jim and Vikki Buss (Corbett, OR).

Congratulations to Brad Kuenzi (Bro. Art and Sis. MaryBeth) and Candace Childress who were married on November 3.

Alice Gehring has spent time in the hospital and is now residing in a care facility. Our prayers are with her.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler and his wife, Sis. Bonnie (Rittman, OH), were able to travel here on the weekend of October 20 for our Communion weekend. We also thank our other visiting ministers this month, including Bros. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), both of Portland, OR.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA**

We are happy to report that all members and friends in our congregation have enjoyed a month of reasonable health. How thankful we can be when such is the case among us. In 3 John 1:2 we read, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." We are grateful for His gracious providence.

We have enjoyed visitors this month from Silverton, OR; Rockville, CT; Rittman, OH; Francesville, IN; and Secaucus, NJ. We thank each one for your visit. It is so important to us in

the strengthening of our faith to fellowship with loved ones of like mind.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz

We recently held our annual business meeting. Bro. Adrian Bachman (Sis. Shawna) was elected as our new trustee. We are thankful for Bro. Adrian's willingness to serve, and pray that the Lord will provide grace and wisdom for this new responsibility.

In this past month, we have been greatly strengthened by God's Word and the service of our visiting ministering brothers. Our recent visitors have included Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen; Bluffton North, IN), Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda; Sardis, OH), and John Jackson (Bay City, MI), as well as Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy; Forrest, IL) and Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette; Latty, OH). We have also been blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Denver, CO; Rockville, CT; Congerville, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, and Tremont IL; Bluffton North, IN; Bay City, MI; Morris, MN; and Latty and Sardis, 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: Elgin, IL (12/30), Washington, IL (1/6); Milford, IN (1/13); Smithville, OH (1/20); and Cissna Park, IL (1/27). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for December 23, but if local brethren are in the area we will gather for tape or call-in services. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship. We also meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN**Amy Ringger
Serenity Ringger**

"In everything give thanks..." I Thess. 5:18 It's not so easy to be thankful in trials, but other things are easy to be thankful for.

We are thankful that Jasmine Ringger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy) has peace with God and man. She looks forward to baptism in December, Lord willing.

We are also thankful that these ministers served us these last few weeks: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton), Bros. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury), Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern), Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North), Leland Plattner (Zapata), and David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha). Our other visitors were from Bern and McAllen.

The following is the minister schedule for January: (6) Leo, (13) Lamar, (20) Alto, and (27) Gridley.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, even midweek, though we don't have a regular schedule for midweek services. 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, perhaps even a month or more if possible, so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. See the ministers' book for local contact information.

Directions to our church are these: from the intersection of Hwy 71 and 21 on the west side of Bastrop, go east on Hwy 71 about 1/2 mile and take the first exit (by the Ford dealership), proceed on the eastbound frontage road about 4/10 mile. The church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 W. Highway 71, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with limestone siding and the church sign in the front.

In the church, there are two fur-

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

TEXAS, McALLEN**Sandy Kipfer**

Greetings to all in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank our visiting ministers and their wives, Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, with their sons, Wade and Bennett, Taylor, MO), for taking their time and effort in expounding to us the written Word of the Lord. May God continue to richly bless them.

We would like to encourage those who plan to come south for the season or for a winter vacation to consider visiting the valley for a Sunday of worship and/or staying here for your stay. We are small in number and are happy to have visitors come and spend some time with us. The following churches are scheduled for services: (Dec. 2 - Goodfield, IL), (Dec. 16 - Bluffton, IN), (Jan. 13 - Winthrop, MN), (Jan. 27 - Rittman, OH), (Feb. 10 - Silverton/Portland, OR), (Feb. 24 - Philadelphia, PA).

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

TEXAS, ZAPATA**Mary Plattner**

Our congregation had worship services on Thanksgiving. As most all of our winter residents have no family in the area, the traditional thanksgiving gathering for the meal consisted of the church family.

We are thankful to have Bro. Tom

Schrenk (Sis. Joan) here for the winter season and serving us in the ministry.

Those making plans to travel to Texas for some of the winter months are most welcome to worship with us in Zapata.

VERMONT**CLARENDON/NORWICH
Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

Greetings to our brethren. Our small gathering here in Vermont has experienced another milestone and was greatly encouraged once again. The reading of the Memorandum was held here for the first time at the home of Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler. A blessed evening was had for all in attendance. It was very good to be reminded of this precious Heritage of faith that we have, and the importance of staying close to the Word of God. Our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) was here for this exhortation. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) came to help in the work.

Other visiting Brothers this month have been Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae, Rockville, CT). We are so thankful to those who make a great effort and travel many miles to feed us from the Word!

Morey Weiss has recently been experiencing some strange side effects from an anesthetic he received and has not been able to worship with us this last couple of weeks. We pray that he could experience full recovery and strength and once again be in our midst.

May God watch over those who have traveled from our midst these past couple months and bring them safely home. In a small church, if one is missing you really feel the void! May God bless each and every one throughout this week, and as we approach this season of thanksgiving, let us count our blessings and truly be thankful for all that He has done for us!

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations, and dates, please contact Bro. Chad & Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-325-2724). We love to fellowship with believers whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us

know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you.

Service times are as follows:

Morning Service 10:10 AM

Afternoon Service 12:30 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

If anyone is interested in purchas-

ing beautiful head-coverings hand-made from our dear Sisters in Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at (802-776- 5293). Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).



Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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

877-370-9988 (toll free)

www.accounseling.org

Christ-centered counseling for depression, anxiety, relationship problems, etc...

- Telephone consultations with a counselor
- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
- Referrals to qualified counseling and family services in your area
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- Apostolic Christian Way of Purity
- Information and presentations on Biblical financial stewardship
- Materials and presentations on other specific topics
- Mentoring for students in mental health-related fields
- All calls are confidential

Full Time Service Positions in Haiti

The World Relief Child Sponsorship and Caribbean Committee open staff positions for the work with MEBSh in Les Cayes, Haiti. These positions will be centered on the campus of MEBSh in Cite Lumiere with residences adjacent to or near our Brethren currently residing in Haiti. Both positions (described below) will be full time and require a minimum commitment of three years. Financial support will be provided by the Brotherhood and/or WR through the Servant Fund. Candidates for both positions must be willing to learn Haitian Creole at a minimum and preferably also French.

Child Care Support

A Brother or Sister to work in the Child Care Office of MEBSh.

- 1) Prepare financial reports and reconcile bank statements.
- 2) Prepare information packets for new sponsors.
- 3) Order supplies and school packets (from World Relief Child Sponsorship Committee delivered via sea containers).
- 4) Organize correspondence with sponsors.
- 5) Liason between ACWR Child Sponsorship Committee and MEBSh Child Care Board.

MEBSh Construction Department

A sister to assist in the operation and administration of the construction department.

- 1) Supervise and manage the work team guest house.
- 2) Assist with the maintaining financial records.
- 3) Host women on work teams including rural work sites.

Those interested in considering these positions should contact:

Bro. Ted Hirstein

67 Sapphire Point, Morton, IL 61550

309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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

877-370-9988 (toll free) www.accounseling.org

Maintaining Balance and Focus during the Holidays

The winter months have arrived; and for many of us that means less daylight, colder weather, and an abundance of activities and responsibilities associated with the holidays. Interestingly, up to 50% of the population experience a change in mood (such as depression) during the wintertime. Many people find the holiday season to be a stress instead of a joy. Instead of feeling grateful for their many blessings and celebrating the birth of Christ, their focus may be on feeling stretched between the many family obligations, complicated family relationships, or not having family to celebrate with. In addition, they may be "burdened" by the need to find appropriate and ample Christmas gifts for family and friends, attend various get-togethers, dinners, and programs, all while trying to continue our typical busy routine.

Can we keep a balanced lifestyle during the holidays and stay focused on what truly matters? With some extra work and purposeful determination, we can. Following are some helpful tips that can help keep us balanced and focused.

Focusing on the true meaning:

Psalm 29:2, "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

Colossians 3:1-2, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

The true meaning of many sacred holy-days, such as Christmas, has been diluted due to the influence of our culture and also our own tendency to get wrapped up in various activities, expectations, etc. What better way to deal with the lack of balance during the holidays than to remember their true meaning. The birth of Jesus Christ the Son of God, coming to earth as a baby, fully human and fully divine, is indeed something to celebrate. We have many ways to celebrate and remember the significance of this event, and we must keep the focus on the reason why we celebrate.

Maintaining our personal and inti-

mate relationship with Christ is of utmost importance during busy seasons. Our relationship with Christ should be the core from which all other areas of our life radiate. Sometimes when we most need to be connected with Christ and with a body of believers, we have the most difficulty doing it. We need to make efforts to immerse ourselves in a Christ-centered environment, to look for opportunities that will allow us to encourage others and be encouraged by others. We can post encouraging Bible verses on our refrigerator, car dashboard, bathroom mirror, or other places we pass by often during the hustle-and-bustle of the holiday season. We need to take time to memorize Scripture verses that can help us during times we feel blue or are facing temptation.

Maintaining relationships:

God created us in His image as relational beings. His desire to have a personal relationship with us underscores how important relationships are to God. We may be surrounded by people all the time and yet still feel lonely or isolated. Overcoming isolation is a key factor in dealing with wintertime stress. Overcoming isolation involves being around people with whom we can reveal our true self, open up, relate, and share. These relationships are characterized by authenticity, accountability, and genuineness.

Giving gifts is common practice in relationships during the holidays. This process in itself can be a joy for some and a burden for others. Joy can be felt in showing gratitude and love to family and friends. At the same time, giving gifts may be a financial burden or a time burden. We may accidentally get our focus off track by being so focused on wanting to find (or receive) the "perfect" gift. Having a proper attitude is the key to both giving and receiving gifts.

Also, we may want to consider additional ways to maintain the gift-giving tradition while also remembering the less-fortunate. For instance, we can start a tradition of buying gifts for needy families or choosing a ministry to donate to instead of (or, in addition to) one of our gift-exchanges between

friends or family. Let's remember the following Scriptures as we both give and receive gifts *this season*.

Acts 20:35, "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Romans 12:8, "He that giveth, [let him give] with simplicity."

James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

Managing the stress:

Chronic stress is a problem that eventually causes physical and emotional problems for many, many people. People can become burned out (and eventually depressed) due to having difficulty setting boundaries during busy seasons. In addition, a tendency to want to please everyone exacerbates the problem. The problem occurs when good coping skills are not utilized such as when someone attempts to "stuff" emotions rather than express them in a healthy way. "Stuffed" emotions will reemerge by leading to physical symptoms or emotional eating, by causing problems in relationships, or by leading to an "explosion" of the emotion that has been kept under a tight lid for too long.

To minimize the possibility of becoming burned out this holiday season, we need to decide early-on how many activities and how much traveling we and our families can participate in at once. We should not automatically say "yes" or "no" to invitations or requests. We need to take time to pray about them and consult with those close to us.

We can take guidance from the early disciples of Jesus who, when meeting together, were characterized by joy, sincerity, and praise for God.

Acts 2:46-47, "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people."

Child Placement Manager Opening



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

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

For further information and a job description, please contact:

Bro. Jeff Schumacher
 Administrator
 PO Box 151
 Leo, IN 46765
 1-888-443-4283 (GATE)
 jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz
 Counseling Elder
 15417 Doty Rd.
 New Haven, IN 46774
 260-657-1033
 lynnstieg@lightningnet.net

U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

For area work projects, please contact the following Disaster Work Project Committee Representative:

- Kansas:** Paul Kaeb
 Phone: 785-284-3261
 Cell: 785-547-5269
 E-mail: paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com
- Iowa:** Martin Zaugg
 Phone/Fax: 515-379-1693
 Cell: 515-320-2404
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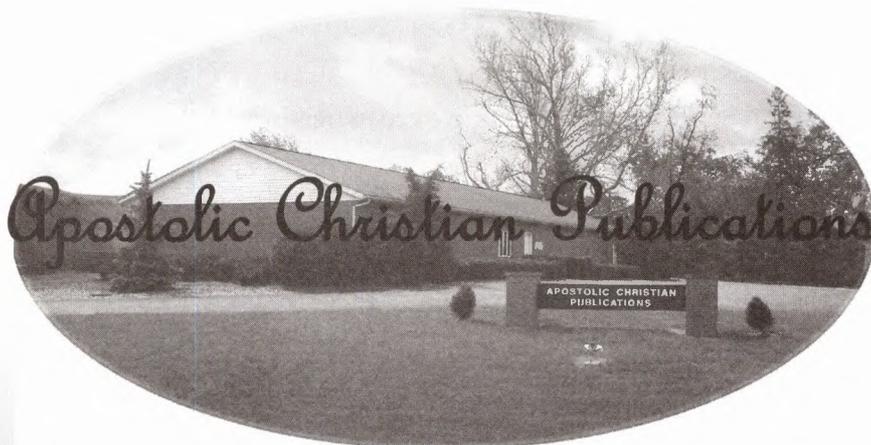
*"Where there is no vision, the people perish:
 but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
 Proverbs 29:18*

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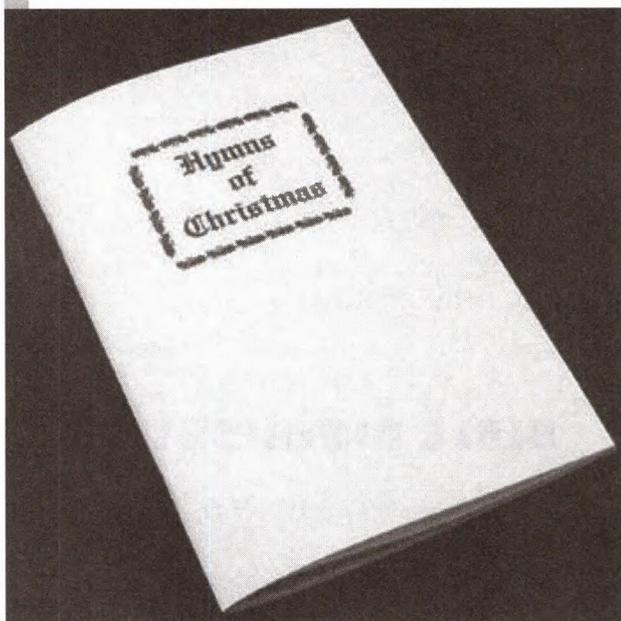
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Jeff Schumacher
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Road
New Haven, IN 46774
(260) 657-1033

Volunteer Caretaker Opportunity

The Washington, DC congregation would welcome your help. They purchased a house in Silver Spring, Maryland, and are holding services there every Sunday.

Due to the small number of members and friends, and because most live a distance from church, they are looking for volunteer caretakers to live in the house and perform routine household and yard maintenance chores. Caretakers should plan to stay 3-4 weeks.

Caretakers could be couples, singles or families who would enjoy fellowship with the DC congregation and spending time near the Nation's Capitol and other points of interest on the East Coast.

For more information, please contact Barry and Doreen Steffen at 410/569-3635 or bdsteff@yahoo.com.

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

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

Lynn Stieglitz
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David Maletich
330-927-1010

The potential applicant should have previous management experience.

Sermon continued from page 2

consider the Christmas story.

Matthew gives an account here, a little bit different than Luke. That Luke spoke of the journey that Mary and Joseph took as they traveled to Bethlehem and there they encountered a city that was full of people. People that had gathered together because of the decree of the king to come and to pay their taxes or to be counted. Everyone went from their own country into their land of their birth to be taxed.

It was a time of distress, I believe, for those people. It was a time of really having to endure things that they didn't want to have to endure. But they were in a land and they were under the rule of a king and of a ruler that said, this is the way it is going to be and this is what you are going to do. So they did it. Because the consequences would have been terrible. They probably would have been taken and sold as slaves. They would have lost their land, their possessions. They would have lost their children and they would have been separated from their loved ones. So they went. They went to pay their dues, so to speak.

But during this time, God was speaking to other people on the face of the world. There were wise men that came from the east. God had spoken to them. These were people, these were men that perhaps weren't at all acquainted with the children of Israel. I don't really know. But in some way, because God had given unto them a living soul as well, God used them in a powerful way. He said unto them and He gave them understanding and knowledge that there is go-

ing to be a star that is going to appear. I want you to follow that star because you are going to find something in life that you have been looking for if you follow that star.

It says, "...there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem," St. Matthew 2:1. When they got to Jerusalem, they inquired, where is He that is born King of the Jews (v. 2)? Where is He? What was the word that was going around Jerusalem, here in the midst of God's chosen people? If it hadn't been for the wise men that had come, the birth of Christ would have happened, they wouldn't even have recognized that anything at all was taking place there. That there was anything special happening at all because life was just going on on a day to day basis. They were existing. They were just existing on a day to day basis. Much like Satan would love for us to just exist on a day to day basis.

But you see, God had something so much higher in mind for man than just to exist on the face of this earth on a day to day basis. Because He had given unto each of those of us and He gives unto each of us that are existing on a day to day basis, he has given unto us a living soul. It was that soul, loved ones, that I think was pricked in the hearts and the minds and the bodies of those wise men. God spoke to their heart and to their soul and said, go and seek for something that is better. Look for it. It is worth searching for. It's worth traveling for. It is worth taking gifts of great value and finding Him and bestowing those gifts of great value on Him.

They came and they inquired. The king says, what king? I'm

the king. There's nobody more important than I. He was threatened. He was threatened by these wise men that came and said, where is He that is said that He would be born king of the Jews? Herod, not being a Jew, I would imagine was threatened. Threatened by the birth of Christ.

We think, well, what a silly thing to be. But can we really say that, what a silly thing to be threatened by the birth of Christ? When we ourselves know that there was a point in our life where we were somewhat threatened by Christ. We find it very, very intimidating to think of Christ and of His righteousness and of His glory and the fact that we are removed from Him. So they're really no different, loved ones. We really are no different that Herod himself.

But the wise men were on a mission. So Herod called the scribes and everyone together. The priests and the scribes of the people together and he demanded of them where Christ should be born (v.4). They looked and they kind of dug into their probably dusty scrolls. Well it says here, that He's to be born in Bethlehem. "... for thus it is written by the prophet," St. Matthew 2:5.

When Herod had heard that, he sent them. He "...called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared." St. Matthew 2:7. He wanted to know, is this thing really happening? "And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also." St. Matthew 2:8. I would

imagine they felt, they probably felt pretty important. We not only have been directed by God. We not only have felt the moving of something deep inside of us to go and search for something, but here is somebody of great importance saying, go and look for him and bring me word again, that I can worship him as well.

They continued on their way, following that star. That star came and stood over where the young child was. They saw that and they rejoiced. They rejoiced because their souls were lifted up with a joy that they couldn't explain. Why would they travel the many miles, loved ones, in search of a child, of a little baby? It's because, they couldn't explain it, but they were following their heart. They were following their spirit. They were following their soul as God directed them! They came, and the things that they followed; the star and the things that were told of the prophets, everything was revealed, just as it said that it would be.

They came and they found the child. It says that they fell down and they worshipped Him (v.11.). They worshipped Him because, when they came into His presence, they knew without a doubt, they knew that they had found what they had been looking for. It was so easy then for them to lay down at His feet those precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Because there wasn't any doubt. There wasn't any question in their mind that they had found what they were looking for. So they left everything of value that they had.

It says, that when they turned to leave, God spoke to them again and said, don't go back to Herod

(v.12). They didn't know. They couldn't see into the heart of Herod. They couldn't know that he was a wicked and selfish and proud man. They couldn't determine that. But God did. God said, don't go back there. These men were so in tune to what God was telling them that they made great effort in going around Jerusalem. They didn't even come close to it. They didn't want to disappoint God in any way. They said, let's make a wide berth around Jerusalem. Let's return some other way.

We can believe those men went on their way rejoicing, grateful and thankful, their hearts, their souls lifted up. They went with a joy because they had found something that God had sent them on a mission to find.

Has God sent us on a mission to find something? Has our heart and our soul looked for something of value? Have we found it? Have we come to the point where we recognize, yes this is it? I know this is exactly what I have been looking for. Here, I can leave all that is of value to me, because I have found that which is of great price. Of a greater price than anything that the world has to offer. Have we taken that wise man's journey yet?

It says that, at the same time, God appeared unto Joseph and said, Joseph, take the young child and His mother and go into Egypt. Because Herod would like to destroy this child. (v.13) Joseph left, it says, by night. He took the young child and His mother and went into the land of Egypt (v.14). He just remained there. Why? Because he was in tune to what God had spoken to him. He was in tune and there wasn't any Bible to turn to.

There wasn't any prophet coming to him. They had seen the angels. But I don't know that there was an angel, maybe there was an angel that appeared to him in a dream. God spoke to him. He listened. He stayed there until the time.

We go back to Herod. Herod, after some time, began to recognize, you know, I am an important man. I told those men to do something. They didn't do it. I'm upset. I'm downright angry because they mocked me. They have mocked my position as king. They have mocked my position, my political clout, my political stature. They have mocked me. So Herod, in his rage, sent his armies, sent his soldiers to Bethlehem and he says, go and slay all the children from two years old and down (v.16).

Yesterday we sat around God's Word. I'm not sure if it was Brother Jim or Brother Ted that said, man is so capable of such horrific crimes. Of cruelties. Think of those poor soldiers who had to go and to carry out that decree.

But that's the mind of Satan, loved ones. Satan is cruel. Satan will stop at nothing. It's true for you and I today as well. He'll stop at nothing. Oh, he comes as a wolf in sheep's clothing, seeking to draw away, to deceive and to misdirect us off the pathway. If that doesn't work, he'll be glad to come as a roaring lion and just rip us to shreds! Such is the heart and the mind of Satan. Because Satan understands. He has a full comprehension of what it means of this Savior Jesus. Satan understands the value of that gift that God gave. Because Satan

understands how far he is removed from God. He understands that better than anyone. I don't think we come close to understanding how sinful sin is before God.

Stop and consider, loved ones - I think it was alluded to yesterday a little bit - how it's hard to imagine when we stop and we read in the Old Testament there. We talk about David and about how here was a man of God who would say, you know, this man did me wrong. I promised him that I would not kill him. But he didn't promise that his son wouldn't do it. So he told Solomon, make sure you bring his hoar head down to the ground with blood. (I Kings 2:8,9) In other words, make sure you go out and you slay him and you kill him. This was a man of God! Sometimes it is difficult for us to reconcile how God was. How God could tell His children of Israel, go and kill everybody. Slay the whole mess of them. I think it boils down a lot, loved ones, to the fact that God is a very, very righteous God. That which is sin before God deserves punishment. No sin will ever come be-

fore God.

You can go back to the children of Israel when Moses was leading them out of the land of Egypt. There was a point where they began to rebel and they began to complain and murmur. God told Moses, stand back. Let me just destroy them. Moses interceded for the children of Israel. (Exodus 32:7-14) God doesn't put up, and will not and cannot put up with a lot of sin. But He loves His creation. He loves His Son. He loved His creation enough to send His Son to this earth, to provide a way that we could be reconciled. That a price could be paid. So that the mercy of God could extend to all of mankind.

If we ever come to a point, loved ones, where we lose sight of the fullness of the meaning of Christmas and of the value of the gift, loved ones, we're going to have to go back to the point and ask our self, how could I stand before God if Jesus Christ hadn't come to this earth? Not a one of us could. Not a single one. If the truth really be known, probably not even a child, because of the inherited sin. But He sent His Son.

Jesus came and He brought a righteousness that He is willing to impart to you and I. Our souls understand that because they were given from God. They desire to go back to their Creator. Let's make sure that our minds understand that as well. That we're glad and that we understand that through Jesus Christ, through this gift, this priceless gift that God has shared unto us, we can have joy. We can have peace. In the midst of a dark and sinful world, there is hope and there is life. Because God loved His creation. The only way He could purchase that creation back, was that His Son would spill His blood there upon Calvary's cross as a price for you and for me.

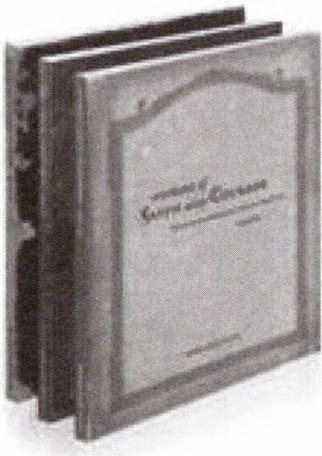
So let's be thankful. Let's be appreciative. Let's understand that this is a time of great joy. But the joy is for our hearts and for our souls. The joy is that we are here and He has provided a way that we can get over there, to that land we call - and we look forward to - referred as heaven. Life everlasting and joy and beauty indescribable.



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HAITI			
<i>Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of December 8, 2007 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/</i>			
Project	Date	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes, MEBSH School Roof	Jan 4-11, 2008	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 rcp@lek.net	12
El Seibo, Lifeline Construction	Jan 22-29, 2008	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	6
El Seibo, Lifeline Construction	Jan 15-22, 2008	Ted Steidinger 309-377-3651 tsteid@route24.net	6
Les Cayes, SEED Agriculture Aid	Jan 25 - Feb 1, 2008	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 frankfarm@iowatelecom.net	9
Les Cayes, AWA Water Aid	Jan 25 - Feb 1, 2008	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	5
La Higuera Lifeline Mission	Jan 31-Feb 4, 2008	Wayne Banwart 309-932-3316 wbanwart@uiuc.edu	Invitation
Croix des Bouquets, Lifeline Medical/Dental	Feb 12-19, 2008	Glen Steidinger 815-692-3473	8
Les Cayes, MEBSH School Roof	Feb 15-22, 2008	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12
Les Cayes, SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 22-29, 2008	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 frankfarms@iowatelecom.net	9
Les Cayes, FRW Vocational School	Feb 22-29, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Les Cayes, FRW Simone Orphanage	Feb 29-Mar 7, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	8
Croix des Bouquets, Lifeline Medical/Dental	Mar 11-18, 2008	Russ Manz 419-399-4053 russ_manz@campbellsoup.com	8
Les Cayes, MEBSH School Roof	Mar 28 Apr 4, 2008	Rich Bertschi 309-467-6110 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes, MEBSH Maintenance	Apr 18-25, 2008	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes, AWA Water Aid	May 16-23, 2008	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	5
Haiti, MEBSH Caribbean Eval.	Jun 6-13, 2008	Tom Hitz 734-454-9229 thitzhome@juno.com	Invitation
Les Cayes, FRW Vocational School	Jun 20-27, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
JAMAICA			
<i>Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of December 8, 2007 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/</i>			
Kingston, CCCD	Mar 8-15, 2008	Terry Miller - 309-696-7804 Roger Stoller - 309-747-3228 rstoller@dtnspeed.net	Full
Jamaica Deaf Village, CCCD Bluffton Sunday School	Mar 22-29, 2008	Courtney Pfister 260-824-5151 fizz@parlorcity.com	Bluffton Sunday School Only
Knockpatrick School, CCCD Morton Sunday School	Mar 22-29, 2008	Al Kaiser 309-256-7251 kecinc@kaiserelectrical.com	50
Jamaica Deaf Village, CCCD	May 16-24, 2008	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	50

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

Mexico Work Teams 2008

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 8, 2007 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Project	Date	Coordinator
Magdalena Construction	Jan 5-12, 2008	Darl Rassi 815-867-2195 mr.rassi@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Jan 12-19, 2008	John Teubel 815-657-8721 jteubel@maxwire.net
Magdalena Construction	Jan 19-26, 2008	Steve Kaeb 217-379-4707 kaebbsb@illicom.net
Magdalena Construction	Feb 16-23, 2008	Bob Knepp 309-923-7335 rnepp@verizon.net
Agua Prieta Medical/Dental	Mar 8-15, 2008	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 kevgerber@yahoo.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 8-15, 2008	David Prevo 309-310-8060 daprevo@ilstu.edu
Reynosa Construction	Mar 8-15, 2008	Tristan Herrmann/ICC-Bradley 309-446-3502 ib_yg@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 15-22, 2008	Denis Fry 260-824-3055 fry.d@mchsi.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 15-22, 2008	Matt Wyss/U of I 309-397-5919 mattwyss@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Sam Kaehr 260-565-3200 sckaehr@adamswells.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Curt Hodel/Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 cjhodel@juno.com
Reynosa Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Jeff Leman 260-565-3815 jvleman@adamswells.com
Juarez Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Jay Grube 260-565-3402 grube@adamswells.cm
Juarez Medical/Dental	Mar 26-Apr 2, 2008	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 cherrmann@verizon.net
Magdalena Construction	May 31-Jun 7, 2008	Doug Herrmann/Princeville Bible Class 309-446-9677 douglas@elmnet.net
Magdalena Construction	Jun 7-14, 2008	Don Hoerr/Peoria Bible Class hoerrfamily7@insightbb.com
Magdalena Construction	June 21-28, 2008	Brad Gehring/Taylor Bible Class 217-228-9849 bradgehring@yahoo.com
Magdalena Construction	June 28-July 5, 2008	Kent Mogler 651-452-8586 kent.mogler@comcast.net
Magdalena Construction	Jul 19-26, 2008	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 Chicago-Champaign Bible Class bcstahl01@hotmail.com



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

Prosperity

Compared to yesteryear — and the days of the early forefathers — we have a comfortable mode as we attend worship each Sunday at our various congregations. Across the states in our denomination there are a host of newer church buildings; and the “older” ones are very nice and comfortable. We have nice, paved parking lots, easily accessible carpools, and congregational layouts that largely are on one floor. Plentiful fellowship area(s), along with spacious dining rooms and Sunday school classrooms make our venues very comfortable and efficient — and reflective of prosperous times. It is truly a blessed time in which we live.

Such was not always so, especially in the early days. Both travel to and from church, along with the primitive church facilities that formerly existed in America, paint a contrast that is nearly unbelievable. While today we can travel hundreds of miles on fast-paced Interstate highways, and then worship in spacious and convenient assemblies, it was not always so, as the following accounts show.

Partridge Township (Illinois)

Worship services were sometimes held in the Engle barn on Partridge Prairie, Illinois, near Metamora. It was here that early ministers, Benedict Weyeneth and John Krienbill, conducted services. Both of these men were untiring in their efforts as they traveled widely to conduct worship services and preach the doc-

trines of repentance, conversion and sanctification.

Marching To Zion describes that “the barns were thoroughly swept and cleaned including walls and rafters. Benches consisted of planks that were laid across logs. Chickens would sometimes wander in, but if they became too noisy, someone would ‘shoo’ them out.” The idea of planks for benches is indeed a contrast with today.

Souls who lived in Peoria crossed the Illinois River on a ferry and walked the remaining ten miles to church at Partridge Prairie. And some came from Morton and Dillon (near Tremont). This was a 25-mile distance. Horse-drawn wagons were used.

For those who walked, it required they leave home at 2 a.m. on a Sunday morning in order to arrive in time for services. After worship and fellowship, they then walked back to their homes. Indeed, they “hungered” and “thirsted” for righteousness.

Congerville, Illinois

Worship in barns was not all that uncommon in the very early days. Meetings began at Congerville in 1857. The people met in barns, homes and outdoors. A “Klopfenstein barn” was the site of early meetings, owned by Peter A. Klopfenstein, grandfather of Joseph M. Klopfenstein, who served for many years as Elder at Gridley, Illinois. It is believed that Elder Benedict Weyeneth conducted meetings

at this barn.

Diligent Servants

Michael Mangold of Roanoke served as an Elder from 1902 until his death on April 19, 1930. He preached for nearly 50 years, and was remembered at his death in a local newspaper:

“Rev. Mangold had been pastor, preacher and minister unto his congregation for nearly a half century. His salary for this was nothing more than to serve his calling. He had attended to sick beds of hundreds. He had united scores in the holy bonds of wedlock. His services had been spoken o’er and o’er again for years and years.”

Another minister with decided longevity was John W. Schmidt, who preached both at Partridge Prairie and Roanoke. A tailor, he was born on June 5, 1844, in Germany. He was a “Mideldister” which in the German language means “with the Elder.” In America, he was called an Assistant Elder. He died on October 7, 1939, at age ninety-five, after having served in the ministry for seventy-two years.

*By Perry A. Klopfenstein,
Gridley, Illinois*

Next Issue: More history

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“What's The Purpose?”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Excuse me for asking, but what's the purpose of celebrating Christmas? It's in keeping with a long standing tradition and our lives are enriched by keeping Christ-honoring traditions. Also, it is appropriate for us to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Without Him, what would we do?

However, unless we are careful, there are some things which take place at Christmas time which may not be appropriate. Christmas decorations and eating a special meal together are fine, but those things in themselves are not the purpose of Christmas. The giving of gifts is good but it can be overdone. It is not the real purpose of Christmas. Going to church and the singing of Christmas carols are more in keeping with the real purpose of celebrating Christmas. Lest we forget, lest we forget!

Romans 8:28 is a very well known verse. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God,

to them who are the called according to his purpose.” This verse is remembered for the first part of the verse, but it is the last part of the verse which teaches us that God has a purpose for what He does. We are called for a purpose and it is not just to save our souls. Revelation 4:11, in the latter part of the verse reads, “For thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” I interpret that to mean that we are created to do God's will and to thereby bring Him honor and glory. Therefore, before we do something, it might help if we ask what the purpose is, and whether or not it is in accordance with God's will. We should not operate on our own.

It is not just the matter of Christmas but all through life we might do well to consider if there is a good purpose for what we say and do, and where we go. During World War II, in order to help conserve gasoline which was in short supply, we were reminded by a slogan, “Is this trip necessary?” In short, let's not

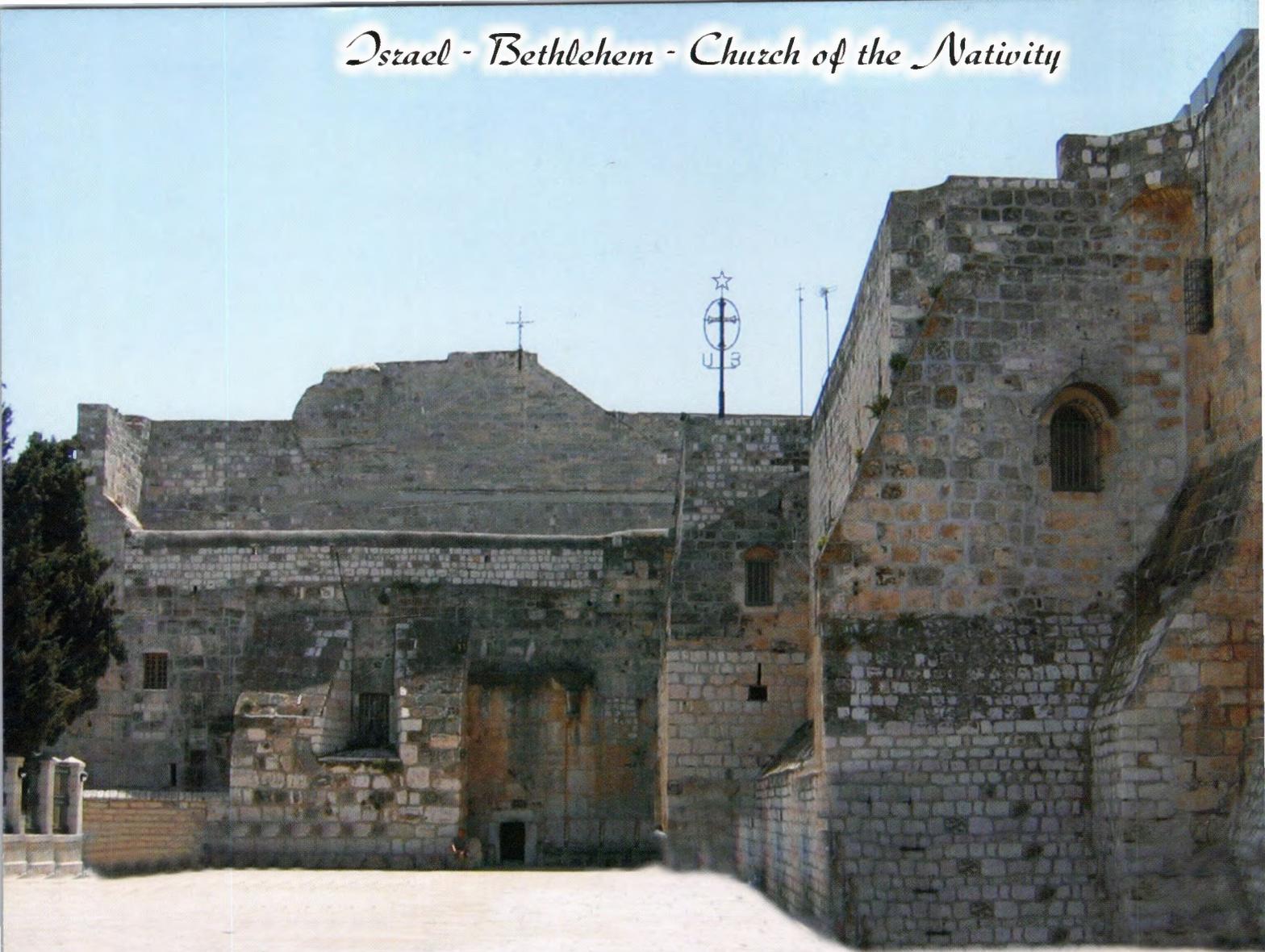
do things that are a waste of time. What those things are, I hope the Holy Spirit will teach each of us. I believe we need a vacation once in a while and I believe we need to celebrate once in a while, our birthdays, our wedding anniversaries, Christmas and Easter, to name a few. It helps to put our lives into nice segments instead of one day after another with nothing special going on.

In regard to having a purpose for what we do, God has an eternal purpose for what He does. Ephesians 3:11, “According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” I would like to think that we, also, have an eternal purpose for what we do. Silver and gold are very cold. There must be more to life than that.

Let's think about “What's The Purpose.” Someday we'll be glad we did.

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Israel - Bethlehem - Church of the Nativity



*Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king,
behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying,
Where is he that is born King of the Jews?
for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*

Matthew 2:1-2

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