

White Christmas

Christmas will certainly be white this year. Like most people throughout the United States, we are sitting under a blanket of snow. We praise the Lord for the beauty and the moisture that it will bring to our land as it slowly begins to melt over the next couple of weeks. The snow has caused a bit of a problem on the roads which gave our students a head start on their Christmas break, three days worth. We have received well over a foot and as I write this letter, we are expecting another foot to add to that.

As we sit and look out the window, we are truly thankful this year for the blessings that God has granted us. Our house stays nice and toasty warm as the temperatures dip down to the single digits and the winds whip at 30 mph. We are thankful that the Lord is providing water for our tanks that will help to water the greenhouse in the months to come. We are also thankful for the beauty we can enjoy as the snow makes the world seem so quiet and pure. It reminds us of how having a repentant heart can make us pure in God's sight and give us a quiet and still spirit as we experience the peace of God in our lives (Phil 4:1-9).

Many people wonder what we do on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Even though our boys live fairly close to us, we do not get to see them for the holidays. Both boys work the holidays, so we try to choose other days to get together. Jeremy lives a couple hours away and financially and time wise, he can't get to our house to gather with the family. Jimmy works DWI in the sheriff's department, and unfortunately, many people choose to spend the holiday season drinking. Sam and Storme are with their mother during these breaks and Angel's three children are with their father. That leaves us home alone. It gives us a chance to rest and be together without the pressures of life pressing in on us. We are hoping that we will be able to get together with Jimmy and Angel for some fellowship over the next couple of weeks.

Health Issues

Jim and I have both been experiencing some health issues which has caused us to seek some additional help. First let me start by saying that we are pretty healthy people. We eat the wonderful foods that God has provided in their natural forms, we get exercise, the right amount of sleep, and we have been able to walk away from the pressures of life and say that there are more important things in life than our schedules and "to do" lists. All of this helps to maintain health. Our purpose in maintaining our health by eating fresh and raw vegetables, fruits, nuts, and seeds is that we can continue to be used of God without the hindrance of being sick or tired.

As I eluded to in our last letter I was fighting a couple of strains of something called Leishmania. It is a nasty little parasite that comes from Mexico. I don't know whether I picked it up from a mosquito or sand fly bite or whether I may have picked it up handling fruit in the store that came from Mexico. Regardless, I picked it up last December and have been plagued with it ever since. It covered the backs of my hands, forearms, and then started creeping up my upper arm. We fought it with all kinds of things, but nothing seemed to help. The itch was terrible even waking me up at night. There was also a great deal of pain when my hands began to split open, ooze, and bleed. After a very quick trip to PA to see someone who could help, we found out that there was another virus that was living with and aiding this little parasite, as well as a malfunctioning of my immune system. I was given some homeopathic remedies and a cream and within 24 hours my hands began to look normal again and the itch was gone. PTL.

Jim has been having dizzy spells for quite awhile, and every once and awhile his legs would give out on him (not to the point of falling). We found out that he has some build up in his arteries that are causing the blood flow to his lower legs to be hindered. We also found out that he has a thrombosis (blood clot) in his carotid artery which has been causing the dizzyness. The things that he is taking will take about a month to have an effect, so we will update you on his progress in our next letter. Again, we praise the Lord for watching over Jim and know that He continues to have plans for him. In the meantime we continue to trust in Him to work in our bodies and help to heal the things that are wrong, knowing that He is the Great Physcian.

Traveling to PA

It is our plan to head to the PA area in the springtime with a group of older students. We will be flying into Philadelphia on April 14th and returning to NM on the 25th. We are studying American History this year and PA is a great place see history come alive. There are five students that will make this trip with us, four boys and a girl. We plan on taking them Philadelphia, Valley Forge, Hershey, to Washington's Crossing, Lancaster, Gettysburg, Ft McHenry, and Washington DC. In DC we will be going up the Washington Monument, touring the Capitol, visiting the Air and Space, Natural History, American History, and the Holocaust Museums. We will also travel to the Pentagon, all the memorials, Arlington Cemetery, National Aquarium, Ford's Theater, and Union Station and the Old Post Office Pavilion where we will have lunch on different days.

This will be a trip of firsts for these students. The first time to fly on a plane, to ride on public transportation (train and bus which they will experience on the Metro and DC Circulator in DC), and to ride on a boat. We are going to travel from PA to DC via NJ. We will drive down the coast to Corson's Inlet at low tide and let the students walk out on the sandbars and into the ocean. Then we will take the Cape May/Lewes Ferry which is an 1 1/2 hour boat ride across the Delaware Bay. Only one of these students has ever seen the ocean before, and that was when we took the kids to San Diego many years ago.

They will experience PA Dutch cooking, be exposed to various cultures, and be put into various peoples' homes for meals. They are excited, and we are excited for them. We plan on having an open house in Souderton on either Saturday the 18th or Monday the 20th from 6:00-8:00 PM. We invite any who are interested to mark these dates on the calendar and stop by and visit us and meet these great kids and hear about their adventures. We will get our next letter out by mid-March with exact dates, times, addresses, and phone numbers.

Classes

From January to May we are going to be offering two different Precept classes. They are going to be Marriage Without Regrets and James. We are committed to teaching Marriage Without Regrets every year. There are so many people who need to hear these truths. This year we are going to hold this class on Sunday afternoons. James will be on Monday evenings. We are praying for good turn outs for both of these classes.

The educational ministry is always a challenge. We are having issues with a couple of the students. We find ourselves dealing not only with the students but also their parents. Some of the parents are to the point where they don't know what to do to help their child, so

we find ourselves in the counseling role as well as the teacher. Our goal is to help the students and the parents, and to strengthen the family unit in any way we can. This can be difficult to say the least.

Student Update

Let me give you an update on some of the students in the ministry. I will introduce you to the older students in this letter and the younger ones in the next. Let's start with the three who are scheduled to graduate in 2009/2010. They will be coming to PA. Kendall is the oldest of the group at 17. He has been with us for three years. He is a very nice young man who has a quiet humor and a smile that lights up a room. He has an interest in pursuing his education in the area of finance and business. Mike is 16 and will be graduating a year early. He has been with us for eight years. We have watched this rambunctious little boy grow up into a respectful young man interested in nuclear or aeronautical engineering. <u>Tracey</u> is also 16 and has been with us for two years. She is very quite, very bright, and loves to play cards (especially if the game involves speed). Tracey wants to be involved in a service and people related career.

We have two young men who are in 10th grade this year. Both of them are also planning on traveling to PA in the spring. Keith is 16 and has been with us for four years. Talk about seeing a change in someone's life; this young man has been a sight to behold. He was a quiet, withdrawn boy with no self-confidence and very far behind in his education. Now he laughs, jokes, and can sit down and have an intelligent conversation with you. He is still a little behind, but making up ground fast. He is a charming young man who has great plans for the future, possibly in law. Ramone is 15 and came the same year as Keith. He has advanced a grade and does well in class. There are still some challenges before him in the area of math, but he has the potential to do very well and go on to college. He is looking towards the medical field for the future.

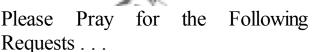
The last student in the higher grades is **Monica**. This is her first year at the PTC and she is 14 and in 9th grade. It is always hard for a new student to adjust to our work schedule and the demands that are put on them. She has been holding her own but is still trying to learn what is expected. She is a very intelligent young woman, but she has no desire to push herself to excel. There are a lot of personal issues that she needs to deal with, and it is my opinion that she thinks education is just a hinderance to the life she wants to lead. We pray that God will get ahold of her, and that she will discover God's purpose for her life.

In the next edition we will tell you about the five younger students and give you more details on our trip to PA.

God's Answers to Prayer .



- 1. God's care over us and allowing us to go to PA to get some answers with health issues and be on the road to recovery.
- 2. Safe travel to and from PA. We followed storms flying in and just missed the storms coming back.
- 3. For the moisture that we have received through the snowfall over the last week or so.
- 4. We have been able to purchase plane tickets for the upcoming PA trip, acquire a van for our use while in the area, and make plans that are beginning to come together which we pray will make this a wonderful experience for the students.
- 5. Continued communication with our two sons and having the ability to have Sam and Storme with us for the educational year. Both of them are doing wonderfully in their studies. They are both very intelligent and willing to learn anything and everything.
- 6. A new member was added to our family in October. Cocoa, a brown, soon to be 7-pound Scottish/Yorksire terrier mix, came to live with us. We were helping to connect one set of friends with another in hopes that they would be able to get a dog. Guess who came home with the dog? She is a sweet little thing and gets along well with Sam and Storme and all the kids in the classroom.



- 1. Please pray that the things that we are taking for our health continue to make improvements and allow our bodies to heal.
- 2. Continuing plans for our trip to PA/DC. We want this to be a very meaningful trip, and that it would allow the students to grow as they are exposed to different people and cultures.
- 3. Dealing with the situations that we are having with certain students and their parents. We need wisdom to help heal the family units as well as the children themselves.
- 4. The upcoming classes for James and Marriage. We pray for a large turn out and that people would ground themselves in the word of God. I think we need this more than ever as I believe we are going to see hard times in the future. If we stand on the Rock, we will not be shaken when the storms come. I pray that we can help people anchor themselves to the true Rock, Jesus Christ.
- 5. Pray for our country as our rights continue to erode away, our economy deteriorates, and war is all around us. We need to pray that we will wake up and heed the warning signs that are out there. It is time to stand firm, put on our armor, and draw our swords (the Word of God) Eph 6:10-18.



Guard Deer? They take the scripture of Don't muzzle the ox" literally!



Surveying deer damage.

Keith, Mike, Ramone, Kendall,

Tracey, Monica, Sam



Angel's Children and their K'Nex projects

Mariah, Christan, Marc





a new gar<mark>den wind</mark>ow



Mr. Kamp teaches heat conduction Sam, Dylan, and Tia watch closely

Kendall and Storme demonstrate potential energy.



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Mrs. Kamp teaches afternoon Bible Younger students are studying Daniel