



October November December 2018

To our supporting Churches and Dear Friends: Greetings in Jesus name.

Again it is a blessing to report to you our co labors in the spreading of this wonderful news that Jesus saves. The Lord has been so good to all of us as we move day by day thru this dangerous maze of life. Every day is a new adventure on this old sea of time and what a wondrous voyage it is and has been from the beginning of our Christian walk.

All of our labors have been in North Carolina this fall which is pretty much as it has been over these last twenty years. God has allowed us the privilege of working with some of his most choice servants and we have seen a good many of them come to an old fashion altar for new commitment to Jesus. Yes there is still a hunger in the hearts of God's children for his will to be done in their lives and the Gospel of Christ is still powerful to meet the needs of all. It is such a joy to see people excited about the glorious work of Christ. It's like a fresh breeze passing thru the top of trees bending them to its' will.

*It seems like death and sickness is effecting so many of the Lord's faithful soldiers now days. But then this is the experience of the flesh that house's our redeemed souls and we are reminded. **2 Corinthians 5:1** For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Only by happy coincidence did the names of the true authors of the song "Silent Night" come to light—thirty-six years after they wrote it.

The story begins in 1818 in a church in the little Austrian town of Oberndorf. Shortly after Christmas Eve, a mouse ate a hole in the leather bellows of the church organ, effectively silencing it. The itinerant organ mender was not due in town for months, and music was needed for the Christmas Eve service. In three-and-one-half hours, Franz Gruber, the organist, composed music for a poem written by Josef Mohr, a priest. It began "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" ("Silent Night, Holy Night"). On Christmas Eve, the two men sang their composition accompanied by a guitar and children's chorus. They were a great success.

The following May, when the organ mender turned up, Gruber gave him a copy of the song, which the man then circulated in his travels. By 1831, thirteen years later, the Strasser family quartet was billing "Silent Night," one of their numbers, as a Tyrolean folk song by "authors unknown."

Time went by, and soon the now popular song was being attributed to several famous composers. In 1854, the leader of the king's orchestra in Berlin wrote to the choir director of the Benedictine school in Salzburg, asking for a copy of "Silent Night" by Michael Haydn, brother of the more famous composer, Franz Joseph Haydn. The choir director asked a student—who just happened to be Felix Gruber, Franz Gruber's son—to find a copy. And you can guess the rest.

Praises and Prayer Request

1. For you who are so faithful to prayer and give that others may go.
2. Mamie and I are able to still travel and do this ministry.
3. For my new pacemaker/defibulator
4. For all the souls who have received some help from the Lord this year.
5. That more souls will come to Christ.
6. For 59 years of salvation and 62 years of marriage.