

Christmas Blessings

2772 Port Republic Rd.
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
November 28, 2012

Dear Friends and Co-Laborers,

It's that time of year again, and this time we are writing from the city of North Chicago which is almost in Wisconsin. The area is also the location of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station -- called the "Quarterdeck of the U. S. Navy." We have been serving at the North Point Baptist Church since the end of October in relief of Pastor Mike Marshall who had had serious surgery a bit earlier. He still has a long way to go, but he's "chomping at the bit" to be back in harness.

The church is a small congregation comprised of both civilian and military families meeting in a Messianic Jewish Synagogue. The B'nai Maccabim Congregation accepts our Lord Jesus as their Messiah but also observes the Jewish feasts and other customs as well, including Saturday worship instead of Sunday. Inside the building are many evidences of the Jewishness of the location -- the cabinet with the beautifully ornate veil concealing the Torah scrolls, the menorah, and various artifacts significant in their heritage and culture. On Sundays, when we meet, it is interesting to see hanging in the large windows side-by-side banners for North Point Baptist Church and Congregation B'nai Maccabim. Three weeks ago a family of four visited with us. They were back last week and said they would return this week. On Veterans Day most of the military folks came in uniform.

While we have been here in Illinois we were able to visit the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago and observe the taping of an "Unshackled" broadcast to be aired next March. The size and scope of the Pacific Garden Mission ministry is amazing. We wonder how many thousands over the years have heard the Gospel there and have come to know the Lord as a result. Eternity will tell!

We had the opportunity to visit Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Watertown, Wisconsin, to meet with students and challenge them to consider God's claim on their lives. While there it was so good to see Nola DeBrum, a freshman at Maranatha. She had started in Majuro Baptist Christian Academy in K4 and just graduated this May in the school's first high school graduation. She spent the afternoon with us and then went to supper with us before we left. We also met a young lady who is a senior education major and who expressed an interest in our school in Majuro.

Our last service here will be Wednesday, December 5th. From here we go on to New York to preach on the following Sunday. The pastor has said he also wants to have a missions conference in the spring when there is more open weather. His church, Shalom Baptist Church, is a place close to our hearts, especially since the pastor was from Tabernacle Baptist Church in Salisbury, N.C. where we served as pastor a number of years ago. Yesterday, we were able to go to Kenosha, Wisconsin, to visit another family who had been in our church in Salisbury. It was so good to see them after over twenty-five years. They were a real blessing to us!

As we come to this time on the calendar, we again realize how quickly our days are fleeting. So many major events have shaped our lives in ways we may not now fathom. But this we know! He who holds tomorrow holds us secure. We do not have the promise made to Simeon "that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ." But we do have the promise that "He that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (be late). At this wonderful season may we be living in the anticipation of His coming! Maranatha.

As always, thank you all for standing with us in the furtherance of the Gospel.

Yours in the blessed hope,

Stanley and Maxine Cline

