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 Full Gospel Fellowship
of Churches and Ministers
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Update

Monthly Newsletter of Faith, Fellowship & Vision

Loved by God

By Latena Willis

Recently, Leon and I were in the Sunday morning service at our local church. During the worship time, I was standing with my arms raised and telling Jesus how much I love and appreciate Him. I was thanking Him for salvation, for my life, for His love, His provision, His care, for my family, and feeling that words were just not adequate to express my feelings....but He knew my heart. I became quite and at that time, I feel that He began to speak to me! These words came to me, "I was there when you were born, I was with you when you took your first breath. I have loved you all of your life." Oh My! How sweet that was!

At that time, I remembered a happening many years ago. Leon and I were very young and were pastors at our home church in Harrisburg. Sometimes, even pastor's wives can become hurt and discouraged. At the close of a meeting, I walked up for prayer. Brother Al Farrah, a very special man of God, usually soft spoken, walked over to pray for me and with forceful words began to speak. "God has not called you and chosen you, even from your mother's womb that you should fall by the wayside. God says, 'I have a plan for your life. I cannot reveal to you the plans I have for you or your heart would faint...'"

Another time, Brother Don Krider was with us and he called me up to pray for me. He said, "Do you know how valuable and important you are to your husband and ministry?" I replied, "No." He said that God was knitting our hearts together as one and when time and miles separate us, and that will happen, we would still be as one. At that time, the only miles that separated us were when we went to work! However, God surely knew our future and He had it planned.

I have thought that surely my heart would have fainted...this is true. Little did we know what the future held for us. We have had the privilege to go many places in the world. We have touched lives in different cultures and have been touched by them! We have loved and been loved by so many different people. God has taken us to the Philippine Islands, countries in Africa, India, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Venezuela, Cambodia, Mexico and Canada. However, it seems the intensity of time and effort has been focused toward the Philippine Islands and in Africa.

On our first trip to West Africa, on the way to the airport for our return home. One of the young pastors made a statement, "Mama and Papa, you are true missionaries. You did not spend your time in the hotels but you ate our food, slept in our beds and touched our lives."

I am still amazed that God has chosen us to go to these nations and love and be loved by people of these nations. It has been a GOD THING. We did not look for it or plan it, it just happened, one step, one day at a time. Leon has been an excellent teacher and we have had the privilege of teaching, sharing, and being an expression of God's love in our travels.

I give thanks to you, Jesus, for helping us to fulfill your plans for our lives. Life is good.

Here is my love song to Jesus. I put it together about 30 years ago, walking down a dirt road in Fox, Oregon.

(continued on next page)

I love you. Jesus, more and more every day
I love you, Jesus, in a special way
Time spend with you is so precious indeed
Time spent with you, satisfies my needs.
I thank you, Jesus, for being so faithful
While carelessly I went my own way
Little did I know all the treasures untold

Could all be mine by spending time with you
You are my Savior, You're my dearest friend
You are my beloved, on you I depend
You give me council, You direct my days
I love you, Jesus, teach me to please you.

Latena Willis December 29, 2008

The Joy of Christmas does not lay in the act of giving or receiving. It does not stand on the foundation of religious activities, patterns or formulas of service and the



Joy of Christmas is not reliant on who you hare your day with or where you choose to be. The Joy of Christmas is the knowledge that through His love, God gave to us the best he had to offer, that which he cherished the most, with no strings attached. The Joy of Christmas is and was given to us by grace and can only be accepted by faith.

May you and yours receive that Joy of Christmas and have a very, very blessed Season of Grace.

From your Fellowship, it's President and the Board of Directors,
Merry Christmas and God Bless You!

A few notes: **O' Little Town of Bethlehem**

Prophecy: "But you, Bethlehem Ephratha, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from the ancient times" (Micah 5:2).

Fulfillment: "Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. 2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, 5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. 6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).

King David was born in Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:1) and therefore Bethlehem is known as the “City of David”. Jesus’ earthly mother and her husband were also of the royal lineage of David and so it is to this city that they returned to be counted and “when the time had full come” (Galatians 4:4), Jesus was born.

Isaiah 9:6-7 says, “For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and the peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

The name of the birth place of Jesus is Bethlehem. The word means “house of bread”. The city overlooks the main highway to Hebron and Egypt and is still a city today.

Please remember all correspondence and offerings for the Full Gospel Fellowship should be sent to the
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