

December 31,2009

Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

Greetings on this last day of 2009!

I trust this has been a good year for each of you. It is always good and profitable to look back over the months and reflect on God's faithfulness and mercies. I can agree fully with Jeremiah as he wrote in Lamentations 3:22,23,"The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail, they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness." This is even more meaningful as we realize that he wrote this book in the midst of all of the nation's troubles.

I remember His faithfulness and mercies this past year in His:

*Leading and directing my steps-* showing His will about where I should be living and serving.

The move from Northeastern PA brought me to an apartment next door to Eckhart Baptist Church in Maryland. The folks here have become a second church family to me. Even though I later moved here to the senior citizens facility back in PA I have continued to attend this church. During the past few months I have been encouraged to take more of a part in ministry at Eckhart Baptist even as they have taken an active part in helping the ARC through relief help for the flood victims in the Philippines. So—I have been searching for a place to live nearer the church and yet still close to my sister. God faithfully provided a small house, rented out by a retired pastor and his wife. This house is directly behind their house which is on the main road near major shopping areas. The men from the church will move me down there on January 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Giving new friends and family-* Living on the edge of "southern culture" has been a happy experience with getting used to all the hugs on a Sunday morning and the accent, hearing my name drawled out as "Bawnie"! It has been good to also have fellowship at the monthly "Ladies out to Lunch Bunch". It has been great to get to know and have times with my two nephews and their families. Eighty nine year-old Dorothy Teano down on 1<sup>st</sup> floor has been a blessing as I have been able to spend time with her and share the Word of God with her even as I helped her through sickness recently.

*Caring for my Physical needs-*I'm wondering if being less active has been the partial cause of some illness this past year. God faithfully brought me through a bad case of cellulitis, weeks of therapy for a frozen shoulder and a bout of violent vertigo. His mercies during these times have been clear to me through the loving care of sisters and church family as well as placing me next door to a clinic with an excellent doctor. These past weeks while being more active caring for Dorothy T. I have felt much better. I'm trusting that the move this week and the active service at Eckhart Baptist will keep me "in shape" this next year.

*Allowing continued ministry with the Alabang resource Center in Manila.* This past week has brought the great news that the seven boxes of relief goods arrived at the ARC in time for distribution to needy families for Christmas. Jean and the ARC staff had been, and will be, working with a few churches in Manila and northern Luzon to get all of the goods sent out. But it was a special joy to have all of that nice clothing to distribute with food just at this time. God was merciful to give Jean some help from a visiting brother and keep her in health also.

God grant you a year of walking in His faithfulness and mercies.

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