

His Birth and Our New Birth



"Behold,
the virgin shall be with child,
and bear a Son,
and they shall call His name
Immanuel,
which is translated,
'God with us' "
(Matthew 1:23).

His Birth in History.

"... that Holy One who is to be
born will be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35).
Jesus Christ was born into this world, not from it.

He did not emerge out of history;
He came into history from the outside.
Jesus Christ is not the best human being
the human race can boast of— He is a Being
for whom the human race can take no credit at all.

He is not man becoming God, but God Incarnate
—God coming into human flesh from outside it.

His life is the highest and the holiest
entering through the most humble of doors.
Our Lord's birth was an advent—
the appearance of God in human form.

His Birth in Me.

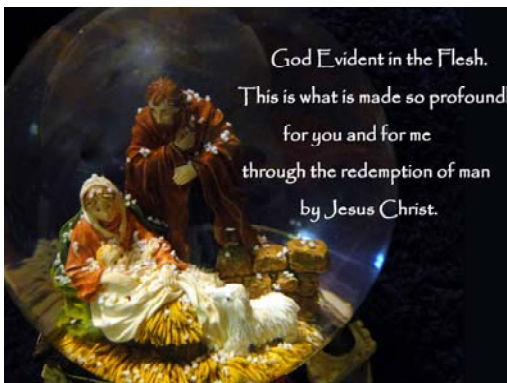
"My little children, for whom I labor in birth again
until Christ is formed in you ..." (Galatians 4:19).
Just as our Lord came into human history from outside it,
He must also come into me from outside.
Have I allowed my personal human life
to become a "Bethlehem" for the Son of God?

I cannot enter the realm of the kingdom of God
unless I am born again from above
by a birth totally unlike physical birth.
"You must be born again" (John 3:7).

This is not a command, but a fact
based on the authority of God.
The evidence of the new birth
is that I yield myself so completely to God
that "Christ is formed" in me.
And once "Christ is formed" in me,
His nature immediately begins to work through me.

God Evident in the Flesh.

This is what is made so profound
for you and for me
through the redemption of man
by Jesus Christ.



December 2010

Dear Prayer Partners,

Are you looking up and thinking HE should be arriving at any moment? He could be here before I have time to hit the send button. What a fast changing world we are living in. We're not telling you this. We are agreeing with you.

In putting my thoughts on paper I began organizing all the pictures I've taken this past 12 months and comparing where we are now to where we were last December and everything in between. It was quite a year for us and I'm so glad I took the time to keep it organized in digital albums or my head would be spinning worse than it is right now. We can look back and see where our time was invested and hope that it was spent wisely since it is the Lord's not ours.

In June I wrote to you that Lou was switching his primary medical care to a local doctor in Mill City, Oregon. Heart stress tests were complete by August and Lou was told by the heart specialist in Salem, "You're too healthy to need changes to medications or further tests." What a Blessing! On Sept 5th Lou had another 13 hour A-Fib episode but reassured with the nod from the specialist that we have been handling it ourselves perfectly, we rode it out in the RV just fine with Lou just needing to rest for the next day or two.

We are spending the winter volunteering with the BLM in exchange for a FHU site for our motor home and camper. (We didn't sell the truck camper after we came back from South Dakota to get our licenses renewed.) There are six buildings that need the floors and walls tiled in the campground and if the tile ever gets here, we'll start on it.

We are interested in volunteering on the Mountain Ministry building renovation in Oregon and hope to see it proceed next fall. It's in the engineering stages trying to firm up building permits. That is a Hard Hats for Christ project that would take years to finish once it is started. An old high school will become a life-skills training center for women with children. It's come through some high hurdles to get this far but we have seen that when the Lord moves HIS hand the mighty obstacles are no more. We pray for it to be so.

May the Lord's will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
May 2011 be filled with His Truth, Love and Wisdom.

Hugs, Lou & Kathy Aschenbrenner

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