

NEW COVENANT PRESS

NEW COVENANT CHURCH "NEWSLETTER" Georgette Snook, Editor Issue # 9 Dec. 2018

MY CHRISTMAS TRADITION---A POEM

Every year, starting when our children were infants, I have written a poem to be included in our family's Christmas letter. God gives these thoughts to me sometimes much earlier than December, and often in the middle of the night! Sometimes it takes several days of editing to complete them as I want them to be. Here's the one for this year:

IT'S NOT IMAGINATION

Imagine being God, then coming down to earth to be a little child, a child of lowly birth.
Jesus made that move, and stayed for many years to live among us humans in this sad world of tears.
He left eternal glory to save us from our sin, so we can move to heaven a new life to begin.
He knew ahead of time it wouldn't be much fun, but He stayed down here until the work was done.
Just accepting Jesus is all we have to do to make that move to heaven and live in glory too.
For it's not imagination; the Bible says it's true that Jesus really did it just for me and you.

GOD'S ELECTION

Are you tired of elections by now? They are necessary in order that the will of the people be known. Too bad that all people do not agree on whom they are electing! In an election, those who are running for office want that position, or else they would not be in the race. Even so when the Bible speaks of the "elect," we must want to accept God's offer. Several books of the Bible use the term "elect" to describe those whom God has chosen. One is Mark 13:24, which states "---He shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth, to the uttermost part of heaven." God has "elected" us, chosen us to be His own! And we can respond by choosing Him---or not.. He has done His part, and now we have the privilege of choosing to be a part of those who will be gathered in.

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

Believe it or not, if you looked for the November issue of this "Newsletter" during the first two weeks of the month, the reason you did not get it on time is because Pastor Randy could not get it printed or on the web due to some error about the way I sent it to him. I can write on my computer without any problems, but navigating and other technical adventures are often beyond me! But with an electronic expert in the family, it finally got published. Thank you, Joel, and apologies to anyone who looked for it and couldn't find it.

GOD'S THOUGHTS

As you read through the Bible, it is interesting what thoughts about a verse or passage God puts into your head, thoughts you never had before, even though you may have read it many times. Every time when you read it, He may reveal something new to you. In I Timothy 1:12 & 13, Paul tells how he was put into his ministry in spite of his previous sinful life because he did it ignorantly, in unbelief. But in verse 14, he tells how God's mercy and grace changed him. That made me remember that God also used David and Moses in wonderful ways, when their lives were changed. These three men were all sinners---guilty of murder! But after all, Christ came to save sinners. He can change us, too, and who knows how He will use our changed lives. He has plans for us since before time began.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Then there are my thoughts. OK, so I am in bed at night, trying to get to sleep. Things are going alright, the covers are warm, our cat is safe in the house, asleep beside me, all is quiet. There's nothing amiss. But all of a sudden, for no reason, a thought enters my head, unbidden, and it won't go away. It's not relevant to anything in my life. Then suddenly it is replaced by another, unrelated thought. So what do I think about when all I want to do is to be asleep? After all, morning is coming all too soon, and I don't want to waste any time being awake before then (which does happen at times.)

My first random thought the other night was maybe reasonable: how come advertisers say a product is under \$20 since it only costs \$19.99? I have never thought that was a good idea. What's the matter with saying it is \$20 to begin with? But I really didn't want to rehash it again.

When I finally succeeded in banishing that thought, the next one came to me. It was about Christmas, and why it is on December 25th each year. Why that date, when there are 364 other days it could have been on? I was never concerned about that before. I know that Jesus was probably not born on that date. So now I'll have to Google it and see why we celebrate His birth then.

Since that task was not going to get done 'til another day, I tried to turn my mind off and go to sleep again. Didn't work. Another thought popped up: People on opposite sides of the political fence have been showing a lot of hatred for each other for some time now. So if I am for it and you are against it, or vice versa, does that make us enemies? Should we hate each other? I didn't want to pursue that thought either, but it didn't want to quit for awhile. After several more such irrelevant thoughts, I finally managed drop off to sleep. Good thing. There were plenty of important things to think about when I woke up the next morning.

ENOUGH ABOUT ME

So how about you? This "Newsletter" needs more input from readers. There must be some interesting things happening to some of you. If you have anything you'd like to see here, please turn it in within the first several weeks of the month so there will be time to write it up. We need church news, prayer requests, want ads, and observations about whatever, (except political, please!) For example, we need to pray for a number of our church members who cannot seem to get here on Sundays, have problems, or illnesses. Many even have chronic illness and would really appreciate the prayers.

WANDERERS CAME HOME

How great it was to come into the adult Sunday School class on November 18th and find Marlin sitting there! He and Diana were home safe and sound from their mission trip to Kenya. They surely must have a lot to tell us about. We look forward to hearing about their adventures.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

This has been quite the year in many ways. Some of it wonderful, some anything but. Whatever happened, though, God knew all about it from the beginning of time. But now with the holidays still ahead of us, we'll be winding up 2018, and preparing to go into next year. Let us enjoy these days while we have the chance; let us praise the Lord for all He has done for us; let us pray that He will be gracious to us in 2019, and let us remember those who have lived through disasters of many kinds in our prayers. Pray for the persecuted folks in this world who are forbidden to celebrate Christmas, and who are not looking forward to the coming year. Pray for God's will to be done in our lives.

