

February 2010 Newsletter

A Word from Your Pastor

I have a really nice screen saver on my computer monitor; it is a picture of the desert. There are some mountains in it, too, but mostly it is a view of rocks, sand, and blue sky. Reminds me of summer - warm temperatures, southern breezes, all right there in front of me. If time allowed, my mind could easily wander into that scene, imagining the smells of sage, the songs of birds (hopefully no buzzards, their "song" might not be all that enjoyable – like my singing!). The heat of the sun beating down, the crunch of the sandy gravel beneath my boots. It's nice to look at that picture and sense the warmth and comfort.

Then, if I turn around, seasonal reality is just on the other side of the window. Snow. Cold. Cloudy sky. There are tracks going across the parking lot; footprints and tire prints. Once in awhile the sun breaks through and it gets really bright outside as the sun reflects off the snow. Yes, it's still winter out there, but inside it is about 70 degrees, that image of the desert is just inches away, and things are nice.

This whole apparent dichotomy reminds me of how we sometimes can look at our walks of faith. A day comes along now and then that brings coldness and biting winds into our lives. Someone is sick, a bill can't get paid, a relationship gets tangled, and life just feels chilled. But the wonderful reality is that, no matter the current circumstances, we have available to us something that can always add warmth and hope to our lives – the Holy Scriptures. When we choose to open the cover of this, *the very Word of God*, read expectantly through its passages, we can experience grace and wonder as they are released into our hearts like the warm summer breezes that flow across the deserts. We can imagine being with Jesus as he walked from village to village. We can imagine being with Paul as he sailed the seas from port to port (we need not be part of the shipwreck!). It is this very access we have to the words of God that can pull us from the chill of life's circumstances. As we read, as we pray, as we envision standing with the disciples by their campfires or as we imagine the hum of the crowds while they waited for Jesus to speak, to comfort, to heal...He becomes ever more real to us. Perhaps we can sense His presence in a more tangible way, a more meaningful way.

The Word of God can be that warm, southerly breeze that refreshes our spirits and stimulates our souls. It can renew us, sometimes revive us, and enable us to continue on despite the coldness of life's situations.

The Word of God is the one source of Light in our lives that is totally reliable, unlike Michigan weather, unlike politics, unlike sports. It is the only true source of comfort, of direction, of warmth in this cold and darkened world.

The next time life has you gazing out a frosted window pane, watching the clouds roll and the wind blow swirl the snow around, resolve to soon open the precious pages of the Holy Scriptures, and let the warmth of His Light shine in your life. Read awhile. Listen. Have conversation with the Lord, just the two of you, sitting on a couple of rocks out in the desert. Blue skies. Breezes. Peace and joy.

Always blessed by the love and warmth of this church family,

Pastor Mik