

## Words from the Pastor – January 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been a little over three months since God allowed me to “set up shop” here at the church. Since September 28<sup>th</sup>, the blessings have just kept rolling through and piling up! Your grace and love have surrounded Polly and me in unbelievable ways and we are ever so grateful. Recently, as the Christmas season progressed, so many of you gave us cards, gifts, prayers, and well wishes; we appreciated them immensely. Most of all, we have been deeply blessed by the witness of kindness and support you have shown...thank you. 2009 turned out to be a good year!

And then, almost before we knew it, the New Year was sweeping us into its arms and carrying us down an exciting path of adventures and experiences. Our Lord never ceases to amaze me at his ability to bring freshness to each day, filling weary hearts with hope, energy, and the desire to do a little more in the name of Jesus, to love a little more in the name of Jesus, to joy a little more in the name of Jesus. We need only to love Him and commit our entire lives to Him! And as we do this, as we submit to His leadership and sovereignty, we sense growth taking place. Sometimes this happens with the passing days, but most often it occurs to us when we look back at last week or two months ago or a year ago. We see where we were then, get a glimpse of the work God has done in our lives, and give thanks for the grace He has shown in moving us down the path of service and caring for others...that path of faith.

Now, as we look at 2010, I pray we also look to the Lord and ask for His direction for our lives. What might we do for Him? In what ways can we serve Him and glorify His name? Are there things in our lives that, in big or small ways, hinder our relationship with Him? Are there things in our lives that need to be increased, adjusted, or removed, to allow us to walk more closely with Jesus? Maybe there is a habit that needs to be stopped. Maybe there is an activity, even a good one, that is consuming time, energy, or emotion, and keeping us from following The Best Way of the Lord. Let us continue to pray for such discernment, wisdom, and the willingness to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit! Let us continue to seek His face before all things of life, all things of the world, and let us do so with reverence and wonder.

I pray a beautiful and faithful 2010 for each member of this precious church. I pray the same for family, extended family, friends, and colleagues with whom we associate throughout the year. May they be bountifully blessed by the radiance and warmth of Christ in our lives, totally for the glory of His name.

In His love,

Pastor Mik