

December, 2009 ~~ Update from William Krauss, Jr.

It's hard to believe that another year is drawing to a close, and that I haven't had a general newsletter to you in a few years; but here goes! **January** began with II Corinthians 4:16 as my verse for the year. What a challenge and testimony to live up to: "Therefore we do not lose heart [that is why we never give up (NLT)]. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day."

February and **March** each had a missions conference that I was able to attend. At both I was able to meet several Avant colleagues and some from other missions working in Alaska that I knew. What about **April**? Tax deadline on the 15th and then my birthday on the 16th (76th). Thursday nights a leader from my church, New Beginnings Community Church, has a Bible study at a senior housing project. My part is with the accordion, leading in some hymns before the study. With the closing of the only large chain grocery store in Ambler, this month we started using the church's van one day a week to take folks from this project on grocery shopping trips elsewhere.

In **May** my church also had another outreach. It was the 4th annual single mother's day event. In connection with one of the church men who has an automotive shop, on the Saturday before Mother's Day, single mothers are offered a free oil change and car wash. And while the cars are being serviced, there are numerous activities for interaction with the mothers and their children. Memorial Day weekend brought a visit from a retired school teacher friend from the church in Ketchikan, Alaska. One day we went to Lancaster County taking in the Strasburg Railroad steam train trip and the museum. Best time was firsthand news of what's going on in Alaska! Pastor and I attended an area meeting in early **June** hosted by World Venture, our church's foreign missionary organization. We were able to meet several of the missionaries that we support.

We had our church picnic this year at the pastor's home at the time of the local **July** 4th celebration. From pastor's lawn we have an excellent spot to view the fireworks as well have another outreach opportunity to be a witness to the many people walking to the fireworks and carnival. July 15th was the date of my inguinal hernia surgery. PTL all went well--discharged in less than 4 hrs., and for a church family I was able to stay with the first 2 days of recovery.

We had hopes and plans for sending out our church's first summer missions team, but that did not come to pass. However, in **August** we did stand behind one of our high school fellows who went with another church team to New York City for a week. I also shared my life's testimony, along with 2 other men, at a **September** service when pastor was on vacation. **October** 16th marked 51 years ago when I flew from Seattle to Juneau, Alaska, to begin serving the Lord there. Oh, yes, this was the month to get a free flu shot at a nearby drive-through--that was quick and different.

We had a presentation by World Vision in **November**, after which I took on a monthly gift of support to help an 8-year boy in Ethiopia. I had the church's Thanksgiving Eve service. Now **December**'s here--time to wish you a wonderful and blessed Christmas and New Year. I'll close with these meaningful, precious words to me from the 2nd stanza of "My Faith Looks Up to Thee:" "May Thy rich grace impart, strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire. As Thou hast died for me, oh may my love to Thee, pure, warm, and changeless be a living fire."

A most appreciative word of thanks to those who pray; correspond; and contribute support, enabling me to remain in Avant's medical, life insurance, and supplemental allowance program.

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