

January 4, 2008

REFLECTIONS BELECTIONS

—from rick

Santa and the Gospel

Yes, I know it's January and time for us to let Santa Claus rest. But there's one more story that I feel I just have to relate.

Thanks to the hard work of the Good News Homes staff, many OTBA volunteers and donors, and "Santa Claus" (fittingly, Harold Smith), people served by GNH had a Christmas to remember. (A special thanks to supporters from Ballardsville, Westport and Covington!)

The GNH-sponsored Christmas carnival (complete with games and a bounce) was a big hit with children and parents alike. One parent's comment was fitting: "It's so great to see someone doing this for other people and not for what they get out of it themselves."

One young boy was shrinking back from the Santa excitement, from more than just fear of a big fuzzy dude in a funny red suit. As Santa quizzed Rose about the lad in a moment of quiet, he discovered that the boy had been in a life situation that left him timid, his self-esteem decimated.

Santa then slipped over to the lad, said "Hi!" to him, calling him by name, which left the wide-eyed boy speechless. He went on, "I hear you've been a good boy this year."—an affirmation the young lad might not ever have heard in his life. After a bit more "Santa talk," Santa gave the boy a big hug and a parting, "I love you."

Later, the lad was part of the group that heard Pastor Tommy Purvis, "chaplain" for the LaGrange families, read the Christmas narrative and explain what Christmas is truly all about.

As I heard this young man's experience, I was moved to tears. I daresay that experience will stay with that child forever. I pray that that moment of love expressed will loom large in his life and will be used by God to draw him closer to Christ.

Many of us forget how few people really "get" what Christmas is all about—much less have a personal relationship with Christ. So many don't have anyone to call them by name, show them true love, and live out God's grace

Youth Workers Fellowship

All youth workers are invited to a fellowship/strategy meeting to be held Monday, Jan. 14, at 7:00 p.m. at Ballardsville Church. (Light refreshments will be served.)

All youth workers, including staff and volunteers of all stripes, are encouraged to attend. Spouses are welcome to attend if they'd like to.

Participants at last October's youth workers' appreciation dinner were so enthusiastic that they wanted to continue working together.

So workers will spend time learning from each other, sharing resources, and planning how we can work together more effectively to reach youth in our area for Christ.

Come and join us!

OTBA Meeting Schedule

Youth Workers Fellowship—
Jan. 14, 7:00p, Ballardsville BC

**Salazar Missions Scholarship
Com.—**Jan. 21, 7:00p, Sligo BC

**Infant/Child Resource Center
Board—**Jan. 24, 7:00p, GNH

**Central Region Hispanic
Ministry—**Jan. 28, 7:00p,
Baptist Ministry Ctr.

Executive Board—Feb. 11, 7:00p,
Buckner BC. Meal at 6:15p.

brought into an otherwise dark world by the Christ-child.

I'm also thankful for a dedicated GNH staff who see their daily work as a ministry of sharing Christ, His Good News, and all His resources with people with great needs.

The Christmas carnival is a good parable of Christian ministry: accepting people where they are—for example, all excited about gifts and Santa Claus—and pointing them to Christ.

What if we spent less time railing against Santa Claus and materialism and spent more energy meeting folks where they are and showing them the One who can take them through the doors of grace

OTBA Tent Available

OTBA has purchased a new tent that is available for use by our churches for outreach ministry. The large tent, 40 feet by 60 feet, has sides available when needed and comes in a storage trailer.

To use the tent, churches must...

—contact the OTBA office to check on availability and initiate the reservation;
—secure event insurance through the church's insurer to cover tent and trailer;
—mail proof of insurance and \$100 reservation fee to the OTBA office;
—provide 5-6 able bodies to set up and take down the tent.

The tent is intended for outreach type ministry. (Sorry! No weddings, family reunions, fundraisers, or such.) Reservations will be confirmed upon receipt of fee and proof of insurance. A trained association volunteer will guide the set-up and take-down of the tent.

This is a quality tent which we hope will increase our churches' effectiveness in reaching out to their communities.

Questions? Give us a call at 225-9449.



New Dawn News

Members of New Dawn Baptist Church/Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Amanecer experienced an uplifting service on Dec. 30 as three adults were baptized, culminating many years of ministry with them.

Jesús Pacheco was visiting from Oklahoma, where he now serves, and was asked to baptize the man and two women. This was fitting since these folks have been ministered to since his early days of service here. After the years of Jesús influence on them, work with them continued through Aquilena Carillo Rodriguez and Luis Salazar and volunteers like Barry and Charlotte Dawson. More recently, pastor Jon Young has invested many hours with them in counsel, Bible studies, and member classes.

What a joy it is to recognize the transformation that has occurred in these young adults' lives as a result of years of faithful ministry. It is exciting to think what God has in store for them as He prepares them for His purposes in life and ministry.

As I witnessed this service, I couldn't



**Treasurer's
Report
Jan. 3, 2008**

Sep. 1, 2007 –Jan. 3, 2008

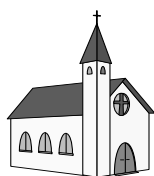
Church Income:

Antioch -----	\$60.92
Ballardsville -----	2,264.31
Bedford -----	2,166.64
Beulah Land -----	126.78
Buckner -----	681.88
Centerfield -----	0.00
Corn Creek -----	0.00
Covington -----	995.05
Crestwood -----	3,750.00
DeHaven -----	1,654.75
Eighteen Mile -----	245.73
Harrods Creek -----	839.29
LaGrange -----	6,848.08
LaGrange Heights -----	0.00
Liberty -----	60.00
Milton -----	1,875.00
Pleasant View -----	100.00
Poplar Ridge -----	1,000.00
Providence -----	307.58
Sligo -----	1,733.76
Union Grove -----	90.00
Westport -----	4,448.95
Total Church Income -----	29,248.72

<u>Undesignated Indiv. Gift -----</u>	<u>150.00</u>
Total Undes'd Receipts -----	29,398.72

Designated Funds

B.M.C. Building Fund -----	3,074.60
New Equipment Fund -----	1,489.13
Salazar Fund -----	1,934.20
Total Designated Funds -----	6,497.93



**AMONG THE
CHURCHES**

Please be in prayer for BALLARDSVILLE, COVINGTON, CRESTWOOD, and MILTON churches as they seek pastors.

BALLARDSVILLE will ordain Ben Winters to vocational ministry on Sun., Jan. 6 at 6:00. Ben began serving DeHAVEN as minister to students. The youth will hold an overnight lock-in Sun. night Jan. 20th, including a trip to Laser Blaze.

BEDFORD will sponsor a blood drive Tues., Jan. 8, from 3 pm to 8 pm at the church.

BUCKNER's men will be leading in a Baptist Men's Day service Jan. 27th.

CRESTWOOD will host a "Critters and Fritters Wild Game Banquet" Sat. Feb. 23rd at So. Oldham High., featuring Tim Farmer.

DeHAVEN on Dec. 16, hosted a Christmas musical presentation, *Song of Immanuel*. Their choir joined with that of Lyndon Baptist Church, with leadership shared by Phil Landgrave and Zach Young.

LaGRANGE's Woman to Woman Mentoring Ministry will hold a celebration luncheon Jan. 6 at 12:30. The Men's Ministry will take a ski trip Jan 19-22.

MILTON has appointed a search committee and is seeking an interim pastor following the resignation of Ferrill Davis, after 19 years of ministry there. Ferrill had successful open heart surgery Dec. 7th, to install a ventricular assist device to strengthen the blood flow through his heart. He has thus far had an amazing recovery and was able to be home for Christmas. Please continue to

to see various Christmas programs in Kentucky and Tennessee. The church is working with LaGrange Presbyterian in their Angel Food Ministry reduced-price food distribution.

WESTPORT is offering weekly sessions of "Sunday School Done Right" teacher training between Jan. 19 and Feb. 19.



The Infant/Child Resource Center...

especially needs boys' clothing, but can put any gently-used clothing to good use. Also they need wipes, large size diapers (5-6), baby powder, lotion, wash and diaper ointment. (Angela Thomas, Board Chair, 222-4197)

The Adult Clothes Closet..

has an abundance of winter clothing and does not need additional supplies there. However, they can use coats, gloves, hats, and blankets. (Evelyn Morgan, Coordinator, 222-1322)

Both ministries are open from 6:00-8:00 on Monday evenings. (They will follow the public school calendar for closure for holidays and for snow closures.)



Marriage Enrichment Opportunity

The Marriage Enrichment Resource Center (MERCY) will present a marriage enrichment seminar January 26, entitled "Dealing with Life's Stresses and Anxieties." Presenter will be Tim Gray, an area mental health specialist. It will be held at Baptist Hospital Northeast