

FROM THE DESK OF BETTY HOOVER . . .

March 2009

“O, the Wonder of it all, the wonder of it all, Just to think that God loves me!”

Dear Friends, Family, and Prayer Partner,

It was asked an elderly Christian who had faithfully served the Lord for many years, “How is it that you have been able to serve the Lord fervently and faithfully for so many years?”

“I have never gotten over the wonder of it all,” he replied. Dr. Wendell Calder of Maine used this theme as he preached at the 100th anniversary of our church. I have pondered his excellent messages and desired that this wonder of wonders will truly thrill my soul and motivate me. The wonder of His love is spiritually discerned – His work of grace. **His love for us and our love for Him in return is a great motivation as we train teachers and reach children for Christ.** I am thankful for the opportunity of involvement in our training and Good News Clubs here. These days of **opportunities in the schools** are surely numbered as we see our government adding more and more restrictions and misinterpreting our constitution when men have fought to protect our freedoms. Freedom is not cheap. Praise God for the love for Him in the hearts of our forefathers which helped to shape our country in earlier days.

I am grateful that my **eye surgery went well** and I now have good vision for distance in my right eye. I enjoyed having my sister, Shirley, come up and stay with me a couple of days at surgery time. She was a help and it was good for us to have the time together. **The other cataract will be removed March 24th.** The doctor said I’d be ready to drive to Maine by April 15th. I am still praying for a traveling partner, but if the Lord does not supply one, I know He’ll take me safely to do chalk talk messages at CEF’s spring rallies an AWANA closing program, and a Sunday School..

Recently was our Triad Chapter workers’ training. It covered our last series for the year – DANIEL. I taught a section called “A Challenge From DANIEL” and focused on the importance of **developing children with convictions, character, and courage that they may stand for Jesus Christ against the evils of this day.**

Praise the Lord that a **student from Piedmont Baptist College will be traveling up with** me to Christian Youth in Action training and then serving as a college bound summer missionary during the summer. Crystal is excited! **Our youth group** (grades 10-12) from church were not able to work out a trip abroad this year; thus, a group of them and their leaders will be coming to Maine to do a week of day camp in Central Maine. I plan to do some training down here ahead of time for them.

For my last neighborhood Bible study, the Lord directed me in putting together a lesson which I called “The Heart of My Christian Faith – God’s Love for Me and My Love for Him.” May He direct our hearts to rejoice and respond yet more and more to **“The Wonder of It All”!**

For My Prayer Partners:

- ❖ **Children in our Good News Clubs** to have good attendance and attentive and receptive hearts as God continues to work
- ❖ Pray that **schools will continue to remain open** for Good News Clubs to meet after school hours and for churches to take advantage of the open doors.
- ❖ My **teacher training** to be used in lives and ministries of others
- ❖ Successful **eye surgery** March 24th with no complications as I have additional risks from the other two eye diseases
- ❖ Every detail of the **April trip to Maine** to work out according to His plan
- ❖ **My focus on His love** for me that “The Wonder of It All” will encourage and motivate me.
- ❖ The Lord to guide in all **my summer plans** and work out the best places and times for my service; the **young people** coming from North Carolina to Maine for summer ministry. **Fruit for God’s glory for all of us!**

Note: I have been having **many time-consuming computer problems** with my e-mail and Windows system. One of our missionaries home from Chile until the end of the month, has spent literally days trying to help me. My next step is to take the computer to the shop. That is the reason this letter is so late.

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