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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

January 3, 2010

Greetings and Blessings,

"If anyone is 'in' Christ, he/she is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."
(II Corinthians 5:17)

We follow a wondrous God indeed. Who could imagine, who could even dream up, a powerful creator of the universe who nevertheless desires relationship with humans. Looking from outer space we are invisible, smaller than ants, on a tiny blue planet floating through an almost empty universe. Imagine, if you can, the tiniest microbe living, washed along in our own human blood stream. Now imagine being able to communicate with it, loving it, even dying for it. Most ridiculous yet, imagine listening to its words, its thoughts, and wanting to share a relationship with it. Seem nonsensical? So it must seem for an outside being to imagine the mighty creator of all actually having a relationship with one of us. Yet that is exactly what Christ came to establish. God is love. God cares about each and every human. God wants to have a daily communication and fellowship with each of us. But he does not force the issue.

Entering into such a relationship is an open door opportunity that we must initiate. "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20) Notice that it is to you or I to open the door. ***We have exactly as much of a relationship with God as we desire to have.*** If we don't open the door, he remains on the outside. If we open the door once, he comes in once. If we open the door daily, he comes in daily. Hour by hour, minute by minute, this truth continues.

Just imagine. In this New Year 2010, if we want to deepen our friendship with God, if we want God to be a vital partner in life with us each day, it is entirely possible! He is ready and waiting! This is sometimes called the 'Emmanuel Principal'. Emmanuel in Greek means **'God is with us.'**

The question remains **'Will we be with him?'**

We open the door through silence. We open the door through prayer, both asking and listening. We open the door through Bible reading. Not just reading for knowledge or facts. But quietly, expectantly, reading just to be 'with' God. Just to be open to experience what he might say to us through the words, the stories, and the life experiences of others that are recorded there. May God show us how to listen for his presence this new year.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin