



Mustard Seed

K a l o n a M e n n o n i t e C h u r c h

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A FAITHFUL NEW YEAR!

In II Corinthians 9:8 we read, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" Christ coming into the world is the greatest gift any of us could ever receive. My joy this Christmas comes from receiving Christ, knowing Christ, and seeing each of you embrace God's indescribable gift. We truly are blessed to be given the most precious and most stupendous gift! No earthly gift could ever match what we have been given in the person of Jesus Christ. As someone once said, "The richness of God's gracious giving at Christmas is seen in this; he did not give some earthly trinket, but Himself. He did not give just to friends, but to a humanity which, by virtue of sin, was at enmity with Him." We are truly blessed to have been given such love that was born on Christmas Day.

This past year has certainly been a time in which we have needed more than ever the gift of Christ to face the expected and the unexpected events of life. We have needed, as the shepherds experienced, "the glory of the Lord shown around them." Just as the shepherds were given God's presence to lead them to Christ, so, too, in 2012 we have been given

the presence of the Holy Spirit to stay grounded in Christ in the ups and downs of life.

We thank God for His faithfulness as He leads us each day. My prayer is that our hearts would show that we are people of faith, hope, and love even when faced with the difficulties in life.

In 2013, I pray that we would always be found faithful to Christ no matter what may come. I pray that our lives would reveal to the world that our hearts are filled with love for Christ, love for one another, and even love for enemies. Stay strong in the Lord and full of His mercy and grace in the days to come. Finally, thanks to all of you for your prayers for our family and for one another. Always remember that you have been given the greatest gift of all – Christ our Lord!

Scott Swartzendruber

