



WindSong NOTES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

SERVING THE GREATER LITTLE ROCK AREA



Volume 7

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Number 1



Yet Another "Cutback"

Bobby B. Boaldin

"Cutback" seems to be the buzzword that many are using to describe how the current economic situation is affecting everyone. Businesses are cutting back on their work force. The service industry is cutting back on the comps once offered to faithful patrons. Chrysler is cutting back on the number of work days its employees will have around the holidays by closing manufacturing plants for a month.

The cutback trend is not only affecting corporations, but families as well. Families are cutting back on the quantity and quality of Christmas gifts purchased this year. According to a company called BIGresearch, 35.2% of people polled are cutting back vacation plans. People are also cutting back on the number of times they dine out each month. One survey says six out of ten people are cutting back on the money they spend for groceries and/or buying cheaper groceries. Economically, it seems no one can escape doing some sort of cutting back to ensure their financial well-being.

In such an economic mess as this, it may seem ludicrous to suggest that you consider yet another cutback. However, in trying times, I think it is especially important that we don't lose sight of maintaining, not just fiscal, but spiritual discipline. In Hebrews 12:1, the

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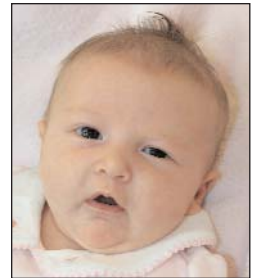
We Wish You a Joyous New Year



BrayLynn Boaldin



Dare Denton



Evelyn Fought



Kayli Gentry



Chance Hatman



Cooper Hatman



Brooke Hinson



Riley Morris



Spencer Morris

ETERNAL PAST—ETERNAL FUTURE

“I am the Alpha and the Omega.” (Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet; Omega is the last). Twice it seems the Father is speaking (Revelation 1:8; 21:6), and once the Son (Revelation 22:13).

This title, “the Alpha and the Omega,” is followed by such words as: “who is and who was and who is to come;” “the beginning and the end;” “the first and the last.” These words testify to God’s fullness and completeness. The eternal past and the eternal future are his. “Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me” (Isaiah 43:10). And that which is true of God is also true of the Son, for “in him the whole fullness of deity dwells” (Colossians 2:9). Thus Christ does not hesitate to call Himself, “the Alpha and the Omega.”

We do not know what tomorrow may bring, but whatever the circumstances, the Lord is in control. He holds the past, the present, the future in His hands. To Him all must give account. He promises, “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (Revelation 22:13). The following verse is a precious promise for those who participate in the redemption offered by Christ. “Blessed are those who wash their robes, (see Revelation 7:14) that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.”

Question: Is the Lord Jesus Christ the Alpha and Omega of my soul? Am I able to sing with heartfelt meaning, “He is my everything. He is my all. He is my everything, both great and small; He gave His life for me, made everything new. He is my everything, now how about you?”

JOHN GIPSON
WINDSONG CHURCH OF CHRIST



Partners In Progress Report of Blessings

Bill McDonough

We thank you for your friendship, prayers and financial support. We pray that the economic down turn has not affected your **Hope, Joy, Love** and **Thanksgiving** to God who has placed you among the top one per cent of the world's population in financial blessings.

Partnering with us, you have shared your blessings with countless thousands of people in some of the most destitute areas of the world.

In Cambodia you have fed more than one thousand malnourished children daily and provided health care from the *Ship of Life* to 36,400 people (who had no hope of getting medical assistance). You kept more than three hundred children in school, who had dropped out due to a lack of family income, and provided 16,000 hours of Bible instruction to university students who had never heard of Jesus, while also growing churches across central Cambodia.

In Myanmar (Burma) you have provided food, clothing and shelter to five thousand people in nine villages that were destroyed by cyclone Nargis. The cyclone left more than 150,000 dead and missing and over 200,000 homeless. Churches are now being planted among Buddhist villages that prior to this devastating storm had never heard of the love of God and Jesus Christ.

Medical teams have been sent to Guyana, South America, in the work that has been on-going since 1987. Our work there has been acclaimed by the Guyanese government as the most significant humanitarian impact their country has enjoyed.

You have given **Hope** to the hopeless, **Joy** to the sorrowful, and the **Love** of God to thousands, who without you, would still be languishing in hopeless sorrow. In their names, we say **Thank** you and wish you and yours a happy, blessed New Year.

Bill & Marie-Claire McDonough



Gift Cards

Joe Chesser

Happy New Year! Let's see, the start of each year means many different things to many different people. You've got the standards: eat less, exercise more, read the Bible...all good things. It's interesting to me that we all resolve to develop better eating habits (i.e. eat less) and at the same time give each other gift cards to restaurants. Seems a bit counter productive. But, did you know that only thirty percent of gift card recipients use their card within a month of receiving it? *Consumer Reports* estimates that nineteen percent of the people who receive a gift card never use it. (I got those tidbits of info from the Freakonomics daily calendar I got for Christmas last year) Wow, nineteen percent!

Okay, so think of five people you spent money on for gifts this year and imagine one of them chunking your gift in the trash. Think of the five gift cards you passed out at the office and imagine one of the recipients getting out the scissors and immediately cutting it up. It makes no sense, does it? Can you imagine receiving a gift and just throwing it away? How would that make you feel? What if you actually saw people throw your gift away? It would break your heart wouldn't it? I'm going to guess that it would make you think twice about giving them a gift again next year.

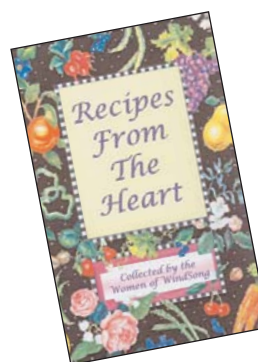
You know where I'm going don't you? Read Romans 5 and look for all the "free gift" language used. You see, we found ourselves in need of a really big gift, and God freely supplied the answer. God's free gift card to us was given out of pure love, and it's got to break his heart to see us get out the scissors and cut it to pieces. It's a pretty amazing gift card he's passing out and the cool thing is, it will never expire in our lifetime. Its value never decreases, and even if we ignore it, despise it, and try to destroy it, it still stands ready to be redeemed when we step up to the register and humbly ask to cash it in. Kind of makes you wish you could help people take

Cutback—from Page 1

author writes, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." The Hebrew writer encourages us to "throw off" or "lay aside" or "cutback" everything that hinders. Is there anything in your spiritual walk that is hindering you from the dedication Christ requires? Is there something in your life that is keeping you from being involved in the ministry and mission of the church? Is there something in your life that you should cutback because it has become a hindrance to being a disciple of Christ? Is there yet another cutback that you should make for your spiritual well-being? If so, don't forget to make this most important cutback. To God be the glory!

Gift Cards—from column 2

advantage of their gift card doesn't it? Hmm, so I wonder with all the resolutions being made, if there might possibly be room for one that promises to share this Good News with those whose cards have yet to be redeemed.



A collection of favorite recipes from **Women of WindSong** is now available.

First copies are \$15 (including shipping)
additional copies are \$13 each

Send a check payable to
WindSong Church of Christ at:

P. O. Box 228
Little Rock, AR 72203

For more information email
wow.windsong@yahoo.com

BULLETIN BOARD

OUR DECEMBER RECORD

Average Attendance	210
Average Contribution	\$10,626
Building Fund	12,550

Membership **Carolyn Armstrong**

With Sincere Sympathy To...

Brooks Allen and his family on the death of his father, **D. B. Allen**, on December 1. The family burial and funeral were December 5.

The family of **Juanelle Hooten**, who died on December 8. The funeral was December 11, with the burial following at Forest Hills Memorial Park.

Ebbie and Shirley Ussery on the death of his nephew, **Doyme Ussery, Jr.**, on December 8.

The family of **Dorothy Jean Wallace**, who died on December 5. The funeral was December 8.

The family of **Mary Keathley**, who died December 14. The funeral was December 18, with the burial following at Edgewood Memorial Park.

The family of **Burl Duncan**, who died December 21. The funeral was December 27, in Brinkley, Arkansas. Memorials may be made to the WindSong Church of Christ, P. O. Box 228, Little Rock, AR 72203.



Marie-Claire McDonough gains U.S. citizenship. Christmas Cafe

December Memories



W.O.W. Ornament Exchange

CONNECTIONS

Carolyn Armstrong, **Betty Armstrong's** daughter, placed membership with us on Sunday, December 7. If you have not yet had a chance to meet Carolyn, make a special attempt to do so and welcome her to our WindSong family.

Thank you to all those who made our **Christmas Cafe** so enjoyable for everyone!

Two new adult Bible Classes will begin on Sunday, January 11, at 9 a.m. **Dewayne Agin** will be teaching a class on "**The Creation**" and **Dennis Milam** will be teaching "**Navigating Through a Recession.**"

Bobby Boaldin will be teaching a class on "**The Life of Christ**" (BNEW 211) at the N. Little Rock campus of Harding University, from 6-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings from January 20, 2009 to May 5, 2009. You may register by email at onlinebible@harding.edu.

Visit our websites
partnersinprogress.org
and
windsongchurch.org