



THE BAY LAKES EXPERIENCE

Bay Lakes Baptist Association

Issue 9

Christmas 2010

Merry Christmas

and a BLESSED
NEW YEAR



Pictured above is me having the privilege of baptizing my granddaughter, Makaiah Hansen. She made her step of faith to turn her heart and life over to Jesus at our BLBA summer camp at Camp Bird. In talking with her and her brothers, there was evidence of change in Makaiah because of her new life in Jesus. I am so proud of Makaiah and her faithful response to trust Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord.

This month, I was also blessed to preside over the memorial for Mrs. Jo Renzelman, a founding member of Mapledale Baptist Church in Sheboygan. Blessed because I met the heritage of a Godly woman. Her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren are actively serving the Lord through their local churches in different parts of the country. Members of Mapledale gave testimony of her influence in their finding the church and feeling so welcomed and loved. Now many of them are seeing their children take leadership. A new generation that never knew Jo have come to follow Jesus through the work of this church. They got a taste for the tenacity of faith that brought a West Texas Baptist to Northeast Wisconsin. Her personal relationship with Jesus Christ and her zeal to obediently follow the Great Commission was joined by others until in 1969, this new church meeting at the Sheboygan YMCA, constituted. The evidence of a changed life in Jo Renzelman has had a lasting impact.

You and I are not only faithfully following our Savior and Lord. We are tools in the Father's hand, affecting our families, our friends, people we know and work with. The life we live in Christ is being built into a heritage of faith that brings Him honor and glory. "...living stones being built up as a spiritual house..." 1 Peter 2:5

God's plan to send Jesus, the Incarnate Word, is Christmas! "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." John 1:14 "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." John 1:4. Light penetrates darkness. The life and light we have because of my Savior, Jesus Christ, is far more than the just light for our personal path. It is also the light of the world to show the way for others. It is the life lived that others may see and follow the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Those who have gone before us join the great cloud of witnesses encouraging us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ.

Whether you are at the beginning of your walk with Christ or nearing that place prepared for you, God is more than able to do abundantly more than we could ever ask or imagine when we let Him lead the way.

May you and your family have a most blessed Christmas!

In His Great Love,
Dennis & Marcia