January-February 2018



"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord." II Corinthians 4:5

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Dear Pastor, Church & Praying friends,

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before...." Philippians 3:13



"Re-set" for 2018... and every day!

The more I think on this verse the more I realise how I need personally to apply it. Yet not only "those things which are behind" in the way of old ways, but to apply even to the "successful" times, the high points of ministry. I thank God I can look back over 2017 to God's goodness, His touch on sermons, on witnessing, on the ministry. But as encouraging as those things are, I certainly can't afford to live on those things which are behind! So it's not only "re-set" for 2018, but this year I pray to "re-set" after every small success, recognizing that no good thing is of me, every "success" is of HIM, and let us "reach forth unto those things which are ahead" in 2018!

A busy start...

Over Christmas and New Year I had the opportunity to preach in Romanian again at a Romanian Baptist church! From the privilege to preach missions the first of the year, I've been asked to preach a youth missions conference in March. Young adults from different areas will gather for a challenge on missions. The first week of January was in Chattanooga preaching revival services and seeing hearts stirred and decisions made for the Lord. The Rock of Ages office was next for two days of meetings, and from there drove directly to a missions service in Mississippi. After services, I drove back home in my first experience of "freezing rain." (In all my years in the deep snow of Romania, I had never heard of freezing rain, and officially decided I <u>don't</u> like it!) I thank God for His safe-keeping for a 3-hour journey that normally takes 1½(!), especially pulling a trailer-load! February took us to Crestview, Florida to preach a Missions Conference. A tremendous week saw God work in & through His people! Among many testimonies was a lost law enforcement officer that decided to come to church but couldn't make it because of shifts, so stopped at the church for prayer; and a young couple living together (being friends of a church member and witnessed to), realized their need of a Saviour, prayed and received Jesus as Lord, then got married the very next day to put things in order before God!

Annual Alabama Prison Campaign...

Preparations for the Campaign is surely a challenge, but *oh*, *the rewards are eternal!* Final totals are included with this prayer letter but in brief, a total of **241 professions of faith**, including 3 at McDonalds, 1 at Wendy's, and a prison officer praying to accept Jesus! I met Steve in prison. Steve had a few months to serve and his wife & children told him they were praying for him. I asked Steve if he knew where he would go if he died... He didn't, and I had the privilege of leading him through the Scriptures to the Lord! He was due to call his wife and children that evening and couldn't wait to tell them!

Salvation in prison services at Manipur Prison, India...

A few days ago, talking with Pastor Thanga in Manipur, India I asked him how the prison services had gone. These were his words: "Yes sir, today we have altar call and many raise hand want to receive Jesus!" He & brother Khailam are still refused the possibility of meeting with the men after services in Manipur jail. PLEASE PRAY WITH US ABOUT THIS!

Coming up in March & April...

Among other things: Missions Sunday in MS; Youth Missions Conference in OH; RoA Missionary Candidate Class Week in TN; Missions Sunday in TX; Missions School to be taught & Leadership Training given in Brazil.

Brother Mark Waddington & family

Praise:

- The hand of God at Missions Conference!
- · Professions of faith during Alabama Campaign!
- · Salvation in Manipur Jail, India!

Prayer Requests:

- For every person that confessed Jesus as Lord
- Pastor Thanga: chance to speak with inmates after service
- For new missionary families coming to Candidate Classes