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# King's Messenger



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM KING OF KINGS

WINTER 2011

*“I will  
honor  
Christmas  
in my heart,  
and try to  
keep it  
all the  
year.”*

*~ Charles  
Dickens*

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## A Time Of Anticipation

By: Pastor Ben Sandin

For many, the days and weeks leading up to Christmas are filled with family gatherings, parties, and a lot of running around. The weeks before Christmas can be overwhelming and chaotic, and we can easily forget the true meaning of it all.

In the church, we call the weeks leading up to Christmas: Advent. Advent is a time of anticipation and promise. We remember in this time, not only that we await the celebration of Jesus' birth, but that we also await his triumphant return. The second coming of our Lord and Savior will be a time of fulfillment, a time of redemption and restoration.

As we wait for the coming of the Lord we wait with hope, peace, love, and joy. These are fruits of the spirit and gifts from God. We wait with a hope that rests not

with ourselves, but with the crucified and risen one. We wait with a hope based upon the promises of God, the promise that all things will be reconciled to God through God's amazing grace. We wait with the peace of God, which keeps us from falling to pieces. In our busy lives we pray for the peace which passes all understanding and gives us the strength to get through our many challenges. We also wait with love; the love of God and the love of those in our lives. It is in receiving and sharing love that we are closest to God. We wait and anticipate the day when God's love finally conquers all the forces of death, darkness, and despair. Finally, we wait with joy; a joy that is found not in the ways of the world, but in God. We wait and find joy in the ordinary and extraordinary aspects of life,



knowing that when the Lord returns, our joy will be magnified beyond comprehension. Advent is a time of waiting, but while we wait God has given us much to be thankful for!

In our current issue you will find these qualities of hope, peace, love, and joy exemplified in the stories of our authors. I pray that you will find their stories both inspiring and uplifting as you wait for the coming of our Lord!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Ben

## A Word About The 'King's Messenger'

The King's Messenger is our quarterly publication. It is packed full of everything from 'information' to 'inspiration'. Each publication is based around a theme with all articles

being written by a variety of writers from within King of kings.

The theme of this Winter 2011 issue is *The Four Elements of the Advent*

*Wreath*. We hope you will enjoy the heartfelt articles. We've made a point of including the authors' photos to assist you with identifying the writers.

## A Living Hope By: Rev. Dr. Philip Hemke



*“I had a foot planted on this earth and one foot planted in heaven. In times of trial or when facing death your two feet get very close.”*

In March 2010 I was told that I had 6 months to live because my Acute Leukemia had not been stopped by my first round of chemotherapy. “What should we do?”, I asked the doctor. He said, “We will give you a second round of chemo and send you down to Karmanos for a bone marrow transplant.” On May 21st, after a third round of chemo and radiation, I received my bone marrow transplant from a 28 year old German. It is now over a year later; months of rashes, a sick stomach and I am in remission. Praise God.

The first thing that happened to propel me forward was the Hope that was given to me in baptism. It was in me and it tickled my passion for life. This same Hope pulled me forward to face life even with its struggles. The bible says,

*“In His great mercy he (God) has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”* (1 Peter 1:3) This is Peter’s reference to baptism that ties us to Jesus’ death and resurrection. Hope is like the bone marrow transplant that I received. Hope was poured into me at my baptism and it has given me life.

Secondly, I have hope in eternal life. 1 Peter 1:13 says, *“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled, set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”* So, even in the midst of knowing you might die you can live and be active, be self-controlled, and know that you have one foot planted in heaven.

Here is the key to action packed, self-controlled living: I had a foot planted on this earth and one foot planted in heaven. In times of trial or when facing death your two feet get very close. You can see over the edge and realize that you may not live. But my day to day hope was buoyed by knowing that I had hope in eternal life and I had hope that God would walk with me into eternal life. Both of these are part of the foot plantings that each Christian has been given in the face of trials.

I hope you have a great Christmas!

*How do you maintain HOPE in the midst of anxiety?*

*My favorite Christmas tradition is decorating the tree, because we do it as a family.*

*~ Elise Hloros, age 12 ~*

## Would you like to contribute?



If you would like to contribute your thoughts to a future publication, whether that be in the form of an article, original poetry, or any other way please contact

Jennifer Meyers directly at [jmeyers@koklc.org](mailto:jmeyers@koklc.org). We warmly welcome your contributions.

Sharing the writing talents of others is what

makes the King's Messenger so unique.

## God's Prescription For Peace

Life is filled with responsibilities and the daily demands placed on us offer many opportunities for fear and anxiety to grip our hearts. Have you ever felt like you were drowning under it all? Do you ever feel like your life is out of control; peace is nowhere to be found? Are you feeling overwhelmed today? I once lived in that place and at times feel the temptation to go there again but, I have a choice whether I succumb to life's pressures or surrender to the Giver of Life. I choose Jesus. In John 14:27 Jesus said to His disciples, *"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."* The Amplified Bible says *"[...Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.]"* We must ask, "Am I His disciple?" "Do I believe Him?" If yes, then we must choose to receive His gift of peace.

Years ago I came across Isaiah 26:3 and it became

an anchor for my soul. *"You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind [both its inclination and its character] is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You, and hopes confidently in You."* This God we love and serve wants our eyes on Him and reading His word is a good place to start. Job was a man who understood what it was to have a bad day. I find great comfort from Scripture. In difficult times I love to read Job 37-42 because it leaves me awestruck by my God and reminds me that He is in control. I can rest in Him, assured that he holds me in the palm of His mighty hand. Day by day the Lord will take care of me and he wants to take care of you too.

Peace is a person; His name is Jesus Christ, a.k.a. "Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6. A question remains, "Who reigns on the throne of my heart?" It's only when the "Prince of Peace" is reigning in my life that I have peace. Over time, growing in relationship with the Lord and amidst the storms of life, Jesus has proven Himself faith-

By: Julie Domenick

ful. What He says, He will do. Walking one day at a time with the Lord gives me peace in the midst of everyday life, spending time in prayer, reading His Word and listening for His voice (Philippians 4:6-7). This is God's prescription for peace.

Do you need peace? I encourage you to commit Scripture to memory so when you are tempted to unravel from life's pressures you can speak His word and combat the thoughts that are coming against your mind. Jesus said over and over again, *"It is written."* He stood on the Word of God and we must do the same if we desire to live an overcoming life.



*"This God we love and serve wants our eyes on Him and reading His Word is a good place to start."*

*How do you find PEACE in the midst of everyday life?*

*My favorite Christmas tradition is when our family sets out a little manger and the night before Christmas we put baby Jesus in it. We have done this for as long as I can remember.*

*~ Stephen Stockman, age 13 ~*

## What does the Advent Wreath represent?

The **Advent Wreath** is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western church. The Advent Wreath is traditionally a Lutheran practice, albeit it has

spread to many other Christian denominations.

It is usually a horizontal evergreen wreath with four candles and often, a fifth, white candle in the center. Beginning with the First Sunday of Ad-

vent, the lighting of the candle can be accompanied by a Bible reading and prayers. An additional candle is lit during each subsequent week until, by the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit. The fifth

candle can be lit on Christmas. The four candles represent HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, and JOY.

We have chosen to share, through this publication's articles, the views from four King of kings' authors.

Enjoy!

## Love At First Sight

By: Frank Kempkens



*“Our day  
still begins  
and ends  
with a kiss  
and saying  
‘I Love  
You.’”*

Eleanor and I met at our place of employment for the first time when our boss introduced us. I told the boss, right then and there, that I was going to marry that girl. I guess you could say it was love at first sight. However, my efforts to get a date were in vain because Eleanor thought I was conceited and so well-pleased with myself that any girl would give their right arm to go out with me. Much to her reluctance and my joy, after many refusals, our first date went great and we learned that we shared many things in common.

After many months of courtship I was drafted into the army and at the conclusion of my first furlough, I asked Eleanor to join me and proposed to her on the train ride back to camp.

My beautiful bride and I will be married 67 years next August and it seems like only yesterday that we took our vows to love and cherish each other at

the Lutheran Service Center in Louisiana where I was stationed awaiting an overseas assignment.

This union has blessed us with three children; Ken, Rick and Doug. God called our youngest, Doug, home last December. We have been further blessed with 8 grandchildren; 6 boys and 2 girls and 6 great-grandchildren, 4 girls and 2 boys.

My business career involved traveling to South America and Europe and on many occasions Eleanor, at our own expense, would accompany me. Therefore, we were not ever separated for long periods of time.

Like most marriages we experienced many highs and lows. One of the most difficult decisions was when I had been asked to take a permanent position in Venezuela with a considerable increase in salary which would have meant chang-

ing the way we lived and leaving our family behind. Our final decision based on our love for each other and our family, was to turn down the offer. Much prayer was involved in helping us arrive at that decision.

Divine Guidance has always been our best approach to most problem solving and we made it a policy early in our marriage to discuss and always agree on matters of great importance. It has never been a one person decision.

Being active in our church's activities has also been a way of strengthening our love for each other and devotion to God for all the wonderful blessings He has showered on us and our children.

Our day still begins and ends with a kiss and saying 'I Love You'.

**How do you  
sustain LOVE?**

## Joy In My World By: Vicki Baker

I journal because I love to read about my past to remember my blessings in the midst of good times and trouble. It shows how God works everything out for the good. That is JOY to me! God continues to show me the joys of everyday life. The old me found joy in instant gratification; shopping, a new car, etc. Joy was stuff. Today joy is a feeling. Through my walk with God, He has revealed joy in all circumstances that will forever leave a lasting impression. I thrive for a joy filled life through Christ. Sometimes you have to search to find joy, sometimes it is right in front of you.

Twenty-two years ago, when my mom passed away, I felt loneliness. She was gone - the end! God has opened my eyes! Four years ago my favorite Aunt (who was like a mom to me) died unexpectedly. Prior to her death I got to spend ten wonderful days with her. They were precious, joy filled, and spiritual. God put people in my life to comfort me in order that I might know His presence. While driving home, listening to "Praise You in the

Storm", I would find myself crying, but with a sense of joy. A joy of knowing that this wasn't the end. If you know me well, God gives me signs such as doves (penguins) to know He is around to confirm a prayer or comfort my heart. This happens quite often. I find such joy in this. Those days were filled with joy as well as sorrow, but my strength was through the Lord. Nehemiah 8:10 states, *"The joy of the Lord is your strength."*

I have learned to find joy by listening, encouraging, being positive, smiling at a stranger or seeing the good in people. Additionally I try to follow the Holy Spirit nudges such as sending a card to someone or calling a friend. Sometimes God gives a glimpse of heaven; your children's laughter or a hug just to say "I love you", or the beauty of a sunset. I also find joy from my wonderful husband, three beautiful daughters, and adorable granddaughter. Sewing and crafting are also ways I find joy. I find a spirit of joy by listening to Third Day, Mandesa, and others. I try to fill myself with good things,

hopefully some will show through. Check out Philippians 4:8 ..... then ask yourself 'how do you find JOY?'

If you can find joy in a task you dislike then that is when you can truly be content and joy filled. God finds joy in us; shouldn't we find joy in others - even if we have to search deeply?

Today is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!



***"The old me found joy in instant gratification; shopping, a new car, etc. Joy was stuff. Today joy is a feeling."***

**What do you do that brings JOY to you and others?**

**Joy**  
and good things

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Join us for weekly worship:

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on Sundays  
&  
on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

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*At Christmas time we make homemade waffle cookies from scratch. It's special because we normally make them with my aunt and my mom. Last year we made them with my grandma.  
~ Jonathon Klotz, age 12 ~*



*My favorite Christmas tradition is going to my grandma and grandpa's house on Christmas Eve. One thing that makes that special is because I get to spend time with my family.  
~ Autumn Findley, age 13 ~*

## Straight From The Kitchen - 'Turkey Dinner Pasta Shells'



Brought to you  
by:

*Karen  
Giasson*



This special pasta dish uses a variety of holiday leftovers. Prepare it ahead of time, chill and bake when ready.

2 cups of  
shredded cooked turkey  
1-1/2 cups cooked stuffing  
1/2 cup mayonnaise  
18 jumbo pasta shells,  
cooked and drained  
2 cups turkey gravy  
Paprika

In a bowl, combine the turkey, stuffing and mayonnaise. Spoon into pasta shells. Place in a greased 13-in. x 9-in. x 2-in. baking dish. Pour gravy over shells. Sprinkle with Paprika. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes or until heated through. **Yield:** 6 servings.

If you would like to contribute one of your favorite recipes, please email it to  
jmeyers@koklc.org.