

# January 2007

*By Pastor Dave*

*“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.... The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:25-27; 29-30*

## **My 30<sup>th</sup> Re-birth day in '07**

30 years. It is just hard to get my mind to grasp –within six weeks or so into our new year, I will celebrate my 30<sup>th</sup> re-birth day. I am in awe of our Master's graciousness to me throughout the years. He has kept me, sustained me, encouraged me, comforted me, and has been my guide. He has healed me, baptized me, provided for me, and protected me. He has never left me alone, and has demonstrated that He is for me in more ways than I can count. I want to give Him the praise and thanksgiving that is due Him for His amazing graciousness and faithfulness. May He be praised!

## **Looking ahead in 07: Hopeless, or Hope in Christ.**

### **Aware & Available of our situation; Anticipating and Asking for Revival.**

I am asking our Master Jesus to give us spiritual eyes to see, sensitive hearts to be moved, and serving hands to be ministers as we look ahead to our coming year. If viewed with only the natural eye; our earth, and the human race seems to be bracing for a pending appointment with catastrophe or disaster. Paul, the Apostle, wrote of our situation:

*Rom 8:22-23, “All around us we observe a pregnant creation.  
The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs.  
But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within.  
We're also feeling the birth pangs.”(The Message)*

Paul wrote of time when the state of affairs on planet earth would be extremely difficult, but also hopeful for Christ-followers. When I step back and take a long look at the growing political turmoil between countries and among people groups within individual countries; at the multitudes of people afflicted with disease and enslaved in poverty; I have two very strong inner responses: a sick-feeling in the pit of my stomach, and a strong sense of opportunity. Though the world stage is growing dark, there is also a vacuum effect being created within the hearts of all humanity which can only be filled by the One who created them to know Him. To me, '07' presents us with a golden opportunity to make an impact for Jesus' Kingdom.

**Our mission to “be neighbors for life,” (Luke 10) calls us into action in ‘07.** The Spirit of God is arousing us into servant-like actions that reflect the heart of God. Our society is yearning for hope, and how will they know our Hope if we are not aware because of our busyness? Our neighbors are crying out for relief and rescue –how will they know the Rescuer if we are not available?

Jesus’ Church is the God-sent messengers of Hope. As we look ahead to ‘07’ will you take some time and quiet yourself before our Lord? Please pray and think about the privilege of our role of being Jesus’ hands and feet. Will you also pray and think about the gravity of our responsibility –if we don’t, who will? Lastly, will you pray and think about the One who is our Hope, and ask Him to fill us with His Spirit so that we might be fully empowered and engaged in seeing our neighbors rescued and set free, made whole, filled with hope, and commissioned in the work of being neighbors for life. Two thousand seven will be filled with challenge, but also with hope that can overcome every one. However, it looks promising. Don’t you agree?