

Caring
in the
Work
Place

Good News
From Around the Plant
January 2012

“What is your life?
You are a mist that
appears for a little
while and then
vanishes.”
James 4:14

Welcome to the January newsletter from the chaplains. The New Year has started and everyone hopes that this year is better than the last. We look forward to the family celebrations at Easter time and the warming of the weather and family vacations in the spring and summer. In this newsletter we will address the question: “What will the future hold?”



Open Meeting

Please plan to attend the **Open Membership meetings** on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 7:45am or 3:45pm at the American Legion in Lyndora, PA

January's Trivia Question

“In the Bible, who was called a half-cooked cake?” Call the Chaplain Hotline (2694) and win!!!

February's Answer to Trivia question was: Silver Winner: Jim Malis – Electronic Services

With the average of our membership nearing 50 years old, we are beginning to experience the heart felt loss of family and friends and even fellow co-workers. We are faced with the question everyone faces in their lifetime: “What happens when we die?” The Far East religions of Hinduism and Buddhism and the recently flourishing New Age movement teach reincarnation until enlightenment or as in the New Age movement based on karma. Islam teaches a Paradise or Hell depending on the will of Allah. The history of religious faith in America is built on the Christian faith which teaches a heaven for those who accept the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and a hell for those who reject that cross.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to teach a class on “Heaven”. The thought entered my mind, “If I could find a place where my wife and kids would be safe from the onslaught of the terrible things that happen to families in today's America----where would I take them?”

South America is controlled by dictators and despots, same for the Middle East and the Far East. Europe has a multitude of problems both financial and ethnic. Canada is becoming more like Europe and Australia has economic, environmental and immigration concerns. Then as I was teaching the class, it dawned on me that the country I sought would need to be a land where integrity, honesty, goodness and virtue were ingrained in the people and holiness was the standard. That place was “heaven.” The question arises, “How do I get there?”

The Apostle Paul in the first chapter of his letter to the Galatian churches says, “When it pleased God....to reveal His Son in me....” (15-16). If God is going to “reveal His Son in me” through regeneration (spiritual rebirth), what is the problem He faces? It is simply this---I have a heredity in which I had no say or decision; I am not holy, nor am I likely to be, and if all Christ can do for me is tell me that I *must* be holy, His teaching only causes me to be hopeless and in despair. But if Jesus can put His own heredity in me then I can begin to see what He means when He says that I have to be holy. God will put the Holy Spirit into your spirit and your personal spirit will be energized by the Spirit of the Son of God--- “...until Christ is formed in *you*” (Galatians 4:19). The proper action on my part is simply to agree with God’s verdict on sin as judged on the Cross of Christ, then life begins and heaven calls.

God gives each of us timeless moments in the here and now, striking that resonant chord in our hearts that echoes eternity. He calls us away from this world with that heavenly haunting and it happens when we’re holding the one we’ve loved for all these years and look into their eyes. Or, it can happen when a grandchild breaks into a giggle or with a solid friendship here in the mill, watching a sunset or gazing at a starry night. Timeless moments and memories are those that send our hearts on ahead to heaven.

Earth’s best is only a dim reflection, a preliminary rendering of the glory that will one day, sooner or later be revealed to you and me. Saint Augustine a 5th century theologian whose greatest work was “The City of God” a treatise that explains Christianity’s relationship to competing religious philosophies wrote,

“Thou hast made us for thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in thee.”

Jesus’ words are for you,” Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will **give** you **rest**” (Matt. 11:28).