



Dear Fellow Redeemed

At long last (at least we hope so), the winter of 2007-2008 will come to an end! Coupled with an early celebration of Easter on March 23, we peer ahead in hope and anticipation of a wonderful spring season. We continue to thank and praise God for reverberations of our joyous Easter celebration even as we dare to begin to look outside. In the beauty and freshness of new spring days, we exalt with the Psalmist as in Psalm 8 the writer says "Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth..." and in verse 3 says "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars..." A distinct blessing of spring is the greater opportunity to view the wonder of

God's creating hand "outdoors."

Being outdoors, again, is a blessing. It provides us with new opportunities to look up in the beauty of a sun-lit day. In the equal beauty of the night, we see wonders unseen during the daylight hours. Such fills us, as it did the Psalmist, with a sense of awe and wonder at God's creation. His "macro" creation includes our victorious Savior, Jesus, as well as all creation springing to life. We, also, as His "micro" creations of life, are blessed by His provision for all our needs, even the most minute. These thoughts can easily come to mind when one takes advantage of a "scenic turnout" along the highways of our travels. One can stop at a scenic turnout and appreciate a panoramic view. One is filled with a wonderful sense of God's creative presence. One can look back to where one has been, or look to either side and note the breadth of the beauty, or one can look ahead to that which is to come. That scenic turnout provides a wonderful view point, a unique vantage point to appreciate God's gifts. God's Spirit blesses whether one sees this in winter beauty or in springing life. Informed by the Spirit, this viewpoint brings an overwhelming sense of God's vast yet tender love. God bless our outdoor season!

This issue of *Michigan In Touch* features many articles which focus on Outdoor Ministries. The many camps, other organized outdoor ministries, outdoor worship services, and personal activities outside can all be seen as opportunities to serve and to be blessed. As in other ministries, the blessings are two-fold. Often we are privileged to be a part of providing outdoor ministry. We can also be privileged to be touched by God's love by those who do outdoor

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ministry. May your reading of this *Michigan In Touch* issue fill you with anticipation of wonderful days outdoors in these spring and summer months in appreciating, reflecting, and serving.

As we seek to receive and share such blessings, we are mindful of other continuing year-round ministries. The reference here is to the work of planting a mission start. It is a joy to share with you the establishing of a mission start in the city of Detroit. This will be the first mission start in Detroit in 57 years! The Michigan District Board of Directors recently issued a call to the Reverend Donald Anthony of Concord, North Carolina to serve as a District

Missionary at Large for this new church plant. At this writing, we continue to pray the Lord's blessing of Pastor Anthony's decision on the call in our mutual effort to plant a church in the city.

As we pray for this and our other mission starts, we also pray for our Pastoral Candidates who, upon graduation from our seminaries, are presenting themselves for service in the Church. As of this writing, requests are being finalized for approximately 15-17 calls for Pastoral Candidates by the congregations of the Michigan District. The process also includes approximately 10-12 requests for vicars for our District congregations. Your prayers are sought for God's guidance through the placement process and for the Candidates themselves. "Call night" this year will occur on Tuesday, April 22nd at our St. Louis Seminary and Wednesday, April 23rd at our Ft. Wayne Seminary. We thank God for those who present themselves for service and with them, whether in a call night worship service or "outdoors," we lift up our eyes and our voices and exclaim "Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth" and carry that Good News to all the earth.

In Him with You,
C. William Hoesman