



December 5, 2011

Dear Friend,

Merry Christmas!

God became a man, died for sin and was raised to life. Such news is worth celebrating with more than tinsel and trees, is it not? In the words of the hymnist, "Love so amazing so divine demands my life, my soul, my all."

There is no end to ministry or opportunities to bring glory to our God. For our annual banquet, we asked Justice Robert Thomas to share his testimony. Pastor Ritch Boerckel was our main speaker, and Representative Tom Morrison concluded the evening. Each sacrificed to come, and none would accept anything in return.

More than this, Justice Thomas invited the entire Supreme Court along with security to attend... and every justice came! He shared why Christ means everything to him, ministering not only to all at the banquet, but also to all of his colleagues. Recently, he was eager to share with me some of the conversations that followed. What an unexpected and incredible evening—praise God!

The first year of our Supreme Court ministry has been a rich encouragement. However, not every ministry opportunity has been so exciting or fruitful. Among the legislative staffers, our goal over the past four years has been to remain faithful. While making office visits, many ask for prayer and brief counseling sessions are common. Many are interested in a pastoral opinion; unfortunately, it's often received as little more than another opinion. As you think of Capitol Commission, please pray for a harvest among the legislative staff.

As for the legislature, our lawmakers were in session two weeks last month. Construction prevented our Bible study from meeting in the chapel, but it turned out to be a blessing—we met in the Governor's Office instead! Friends of ours close to Governor Quinn were eager to help, and now we can meet in the Governor's Office throughout 2012. It's an ideal location, and praise God, the legislative study continues to grow.

It's been a wonderful year, and we look forward to what lies ahead in 2012. As we begin to budget and make preparations, please consider if the Lord might use you to offset some of our costs with a year-end gift.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Shaun Lewis
State Director, Illinois