



Reconciliation Report

Judi's Christmas Missive

Jim Sutherland, Ph.D., Director

5608 Bradford Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37409-2211

Phone: 423.822.1091
Fax: 423.822.1091
Email: Jim@RMNI.org

*Researching, Teaching,
Mobilizing, for the Name—
Serving Primarily African-
Americans*

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WebWatch:

- Library of Congress country studies: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html#toc>
- Mapquest—excellent driving instructions—no signup/charge : <http://www.mapquest.com/>
- Church Management Software programs detailed by *Christian Computing Magazine*: <http://www.gospelcom.net/ccmag/articles/1001/1001cover.pdf>

Dear Ones Near and Far,

Mary and Joseph and the baby are out of their tissue paper, prominently displayed in the dining room. The wooden camels wend their laborious way across the shelf over the stove. The diminutive Dickens village sits once more in the bay window on its hills of cotton snow and the largest tree we've ever had takes up a major section of the living room, where in a phenomena known only to this year, all the ornaments that have faces are facing outward rather than in. Amazing. Most years the season's decorations have been a delight; a few years they have been a burden in an overbooked schedule and one or two years they've been just tinsel--cheap and depressing. This year they are comfort. They don't weary my heart with thoughts of diminishing shopping days; they don't even primarily warm my heart with thoughts of a Tennessee Christmas, with all the family home. Rather, they quiet my heart. The uncertainty of this year with its sneak attacks, wobbly business sector and high alert warnings takes proper perspective beside the baby vulnerable in the germ-infested stable, hunted by a powerful king. God has not been deposed by our shaky world any more than He was 2000 years ago. He will fulfill His purposes for us (Psalm 57:2). "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God." (Isaiah 40:1).



When Susanna was small we took the family to a performance of the Messiah. She listened to the soloist solemnly intone those lines over and again. Finally she leaned over and whispered, "Mama, why does he keep inviting us for tea?" I love that. Few things cheer me more than shared time over a hot cup of tea and in our swiftly tilting planet few things have spoken comfort to the depth of my being like this Christmas. Jesus is the King. We are witnessing preparations for His return. Scary? Yes. Heading to a glorious conclusion? Yes. Confusing? Chaotic? From our perspective, absolutely. "Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low" (Isaiah 40:4a, NIV). Such upheaval can't happen via the mundane and routine.

We love you. You are a large part of the comfort that emanates from this season, for you are the part of Christ's Body we know best. You have laughed and



cried with us through the years; prayed, exhorted, and encouraged. May there be blessings multiplied upon your heads.

My mother, at 81, has accepted our invitation to join us this year. She doesn't use airplanes, so I will fly up to N.Y. and drive back, with Jim returning her. Jim's Dad, 81 on Christmas Eve, will also join us from Hawaii. Naomi, Tim, Susanna and Ethan will wend their way here on different days prior to the 25th. Such a kindness a family is.

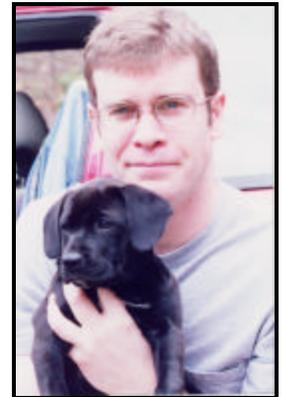
And to you, our extended family, Love and prayers for your keeping.



Reference Librarian Naomi and Pilot Ethan



Susanna, closing in on being a Park Ranger



Tim, studying Mechanical Engineering, and his sidekick Bailey

Prayer and Praise



↑ Jim, and hopefully Judi, are planning to go to the Caribbean island of Dominica to teach a marriage conference. This will also be a scouting trip. Please continue to pray for workers.

↑ Judi hasn't had a migraine in December!

↑ We've begun to revisit the Westside (College Hill) housing project, after some years. We've had excellent opportunities to share Christ. These people are more lost

than in other projects, but equally open to discussing spiritual issues. Please pray for divine appointments and for continued co-workers. Generally at least three of us have been going each week.

↑ Good progress is being made on a financial seminar specifically for Black churches, as well as on a marriage seminar. Yet a third presentation—a mission

presentation for Black churches needs to be completed by March 22, for a workshop at Cedine Conference Center.

↑ Please pray for restoration of shoulders and back for Jim and discipline to do specific exercises.

↑ Please pray for the Lord of the Harvest to recruit workers for the Uganda September 2002 Team.