

Dear Friends,

January 2018

Remember the TV show *What Not to Wear*? The answer to that question is apparently, “Not the same thing every Sunday!” Recently one of our wonderful daughters-in-law, of which we have three, pointed out to us that we were wearing the same outfits in every picture in a recent newsletter! The photos covered the span of the entire month, but looked like they could have all been taken on the same day! Some of you reading this may have noticed the same detail. Prior to the advent of social media and the ease of digital pictures quickly clicked into a computer generated newsletter, traveling ministries could get by with wearing the same clothes repeatedly in various venues! Technology has revealed our secret! Technology and our observant daughter-in-law! At least we know she looks at our newsletters!



## Alan Harris Ministries

You might be thinking, “Cute story, but why waste the ink to share it with me?” Well, perhaps there is a spiritual parallel in there somewhere. In our witness and worship, how often do we say the same things and do the same things over and over and expect people not to notice? And expect God not to notice! Everyone enjoys originality. A new paint job or new flooring brings a refreshing change. A different way of saying “I love you,” to our spouse can keep a romance alive! If we work to keep our bodies, our relationships, our houses and our businesses up to date and functioning efficiently, shouldn’t it be even more important to spend the time, energy and money necessary to keep our church programs and personal witness efforts fresh and effective?

With Jesus himself as our example, we should always be open to learning new ways to relate the truths of the Gospel to the people in our communities. One doesn’t have to get too far into the New Testament to learn that Jesus constantly had his listeners rubbing their chins, trying to figure out His seemingly new perspectives on their long held traditions. Jesus used intriguing and relevant parables and clever logic to reveal the mysteries of the kingdom. No one could accuse Jesus of saying the same things in the same way to every audience. Jesus, as well as Paul and other New Testament writers and personalities presented the Gospel from varying perspectives that individual groups of listeners needed to understand. So maybe, dear daughter-in-law, it is time for us and others to begin this New Year by stepping out of our comfort zones and trying on some new outfits!

We ended 2017 moving from Texas to Louisiana and on to Alabama and Florida, where we ministered through the end of January. In Louisiana we were privileged to serve with *Jeff and Stephanie Garza*. They are pictured below with their family



and some of the members of *Life’s Journey Church* in *Zachary, Louisiana* where *Jeff* is the pastor.

As we moved on into Alabama and Florida, we shared Christmas Sunday with the **First Baptist Church in Lillian, Alabama** and New Year’s Eve Sunday with **Fellowship Baptist church in Pace, Florida**.

A highlight of our January was to be able to be near Alan's parents and plan a little *surprise celebration for his mom's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday*. Yes, the woman in the picture to the right is really 80 years old! We are grateful for the kindness and generosity of their pastor, **Glen Anderson** and some of the sweet folks at **Pensacola Baptist Temple** for helping us pull off the surprise! We think that somewhere in the original Hebrew of the following verse, there is to be found the name Margaret Harris! *Proverbs 31:28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.*



Moving on up to the "cold north," we ministered in Troy and Grady, Alabama during the recent cold spell in the south. We were amused, as other northerners were, at the way schools and businesses close down because of such a small amount of snow and ice. But we witnessed firsthand that the highway departments are certainly not prepared for sustained freezing temperatures, so it really is best to stay off of the roads. We had to head off to our Sunday meeting at the **Riverview Baptist Church in Troy** without showers since the pump on the property where we were staying was frozen. Fun times! (Our greatest amusement, however, was to see businesses actually shut down the night of the Alabama and Georgia championship game!) On January 14, we were honored to minister at the **Community Baptist Church in Grady, AL**, where **John Posey** is the pastor. Community is a special place to us since it is where we were when our youngest son Andrew was born, and is also where he is now a member and the son-in-law of the pastor! We have many special friends there and are grateful for their support and encouragement over the last 25 years. They and others who regularly support us with prayer and financial gifts are used of God to be a part of everything we do and every life God touches and changes as we go where He leads us. When we are able to stay in an area long enough, we try to spend some personal time with the friends God has placed in our lives. *Pictured to the left is Angie with our good friend Jessica Parris on their recent adventure at Kraze yogurt!*



Sunday, January 21, we ministered at **Fountain City Baptist Church in Prattville, AL**. This is another church with whom we have shared a wonderful friendship for over 20 years and who supports our ministry monthly. *Pictured to the right are Pastor Rick Moore and his wife Sherry*. Sherry is the author of two inspiring and engaging suspense-filled novels, *Black Scorpion* and *Black Pearl*, which are both available on Amazon.com.



Until next month and with sincere gratitude,

*Alan and Angie Harris*

Jan 28: Victory Baptist Church, Apopka, FL  
 Feb 11: Lake Pierce Baptist Church, Lake Wales, FL  
 Feb 18-AM: Pine Level Baptist Church, Starke, FL  
 Feb 21-25: Countryside Baptist Ch, Fruitland Park, FL

Feb 28: Heritage Baptist Church, Byram, MS  
 Mar 4: Aurora Baptist Church, Aurora, TX  
 Mar 5-15: India trip  
 Mar 18-AM: Church at Buffalo Creek, Waxahachie, TX



**Alex and Ellain Visa Journey Update:**

*The visa interview date was moved up to January 11. Many of you were aware of this at the time, and were praying for them. **Ellain's visa was approved and was delivered on January 19!** We praise God for giving them favor with the interviewing officer! **Thank you for your prayers and concern and financial help as well.** They are now busy with errands as they prepare to leave the Philippines. There are many things that could not be done until they received the final approval. It is a bitter sweet time for their friends and family as they are happy for them, but will finally have to say good-bye. **Please continue to pray for God's provision of the final immigration fees and travel expenses.***