

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . . And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:1, 14, 16)

Dear Friends,

Winter arrived here in Wheaton with six inches of heavy, wet snow on December 1st. How beautiful it was outside today, December 3rd, the first Sunday of Advent as we observe it in the Western churches. The trees are still outlined with snow; the prairie marsh is beginning to freeze over, and glorious sunshine made all sparkle. “It feels more like Christmas,” I hear people saying. But it is not yet Christmas; it is Advent, the season of waiting expectantly for the One who is to come. “Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus!” was our cry today as we gathered together in our little prayer group. Advent is a time to look forward to the Second Coming of Jesus as we celebrate His first coming as a little babe in the manger--the Incarnation. It is also a time to remember the wonder of incarnational reality, of Christ living in us through His Holy Spirit. As Leanne writes in the first chapter of *Real Presence*: “The Kingdom of God has come among us and into us. To accept this truth is both to understand, and to know experientially, the presence of the Holy Spirit. But, as Lewis points out, this is the one truth that man tends always to fall away from. Left to his natural inclinations, he evades its “awe-ful” reality, and invents for himself shallow and less demanding substitutes for his one redeeming link with God.” And a little further on: “The infinite God is united with the dependent and the derived, with the feeble and mortal, by His Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit, indwelling a man, is capable of reviving the whole personality. Every faculty of man is to be developed and used to the glory of God Who is saving man to the uttermost and Who will bring to perfection the work which He has begun.”

It can be difficult for us as Christians in this increasingly Godless world to take in the full reality of what it means to be indwelt by the Spirit of God. “Another lives in me” is how Leanne prays at the beginning of each PCM school as she teaches us all to practice the Presence of God. And it is in this Presence of Another, the transcendent and holy God, that we are healed, renewed, transformed, made holy even as He is holy.

Speaking of PCM schools, we will have only one school in 2007, and that will be in Wheaton, Illinois, June 24-29. This year we have a new registrar. Gino Vaccaro, along with his wife, Cesli, are taking over the registration task to lighten the load on the small PCM office in Wheaton. Gino and Cesli are longtime friends of PCM and even met at a PCM school way back in the early '90s! Hailing from Mapleton, Illinois, they have been married for thirteen years and have two children, Isaiah (5 years) and Rachel (3 years). They have their own successful private counseling practice, Agape Counseling Ltd., with offices throughout central Illinois. Gino has a doctorate in clinical psychology and a masters in Christian leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary. Cesli is a licensed clinical professional counselor. We are so very grateful for this provision from the Lord and ask that you would pray for them as they undertake this huge task.

Full information on the PCM school will be posted on our website www.PCMSchool.com at the beginning of 2007. A school brochure and application form will be mailed out to everyone on our newsletter mailing list in the U.S. and Canada in January. Additional copies may be downloaded from the website, or we can mail one out to you on request. For contact information, see box.

This Christmas may you receive deeply of the “grace upon grace” that the Lord pours out as you practice His Presence.

Síle Ní-Chionna

A Note from Leanne

Dear Ones,

May the Lord bless you each and every one with His peace and joy. I am busy working against the deadline for finishing a book and didn't get out my usual fall and winter newsletters. And I had so much I had wanted to write you about! So many books to recommend! But that will all, I hope, come later.

At the prospect of the 2007 Wheaton PCM next June, we are unusually blessed and excited. Never before do I remember so much prevailing intercession by our prayer group for a PCM, and starting so early. Perhaps that is because we came close to not being able to have it. The miracle of Gino and Cesli Vaccaro coming to our aid and taking a tremendous task from our shoulders has made it possible. Entirely unexpected, our Christmas miracle came in late November, and I am sure in response to not only our prayers but many of yours. From your letters we know this is so. I wish for you a most joyous Christmas and blessed New Year.

Most sincerely,

Leanne Payne

PCM News

PCM School

June 24-29, 2007
Wheaton, Illinois.

Contact: Gino Vaccaro
Pastoral Care Ministries
P.O. Box 10525
Peoria, IL 61612

Email: registrar@PCMSchool.com

Web site: www.PCMSchool.com

Registration opens February 2007

Donations online:

Many of you have asked to be able to donate to the work of PCM online, and now you can. Go to www.LeannePayne.org and look for the donate button on the top right-hand corner.



After the June 2006 PCM school in Wheaton:
Top from left: Gerry Soviar, Jan Lindell, Mark Pertuit, Carlton Quattlebaum
Bottom from left: Jean Holt, Leanne Payne.