



It's About Joy and Peace

At this time every year, we are confronted with decorations and music that is designed to bring a semblance of **joy and peace** to the world. The problem is that it is presented by a world system that rejects the birth of the Savior of the world in Bethlehem. Speaking of Bethlehem, it is not a place of **joy and peace**. It is an armed camp, with barbed-wire and terrorists who are ready to kill at a moments notice.

The truth is that only those who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ can experience true **joy and peace**. That's what the Scripture says: "*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*" (Romans 15:13).

Paul tells us that **joy and peace** result from believing in the Incarnation...that Jesus Christ is God, the Savior of the world. While the world continues to search in vain for meaning and purpose for life, we who believe in Jesus, celebrate His first coming...and the **joy and peace** He brings to believing hearts.

Even before Jesus was born, Zacharias, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied that He would "*guide our feet into the way of peace*" (Luke 1:79). Following that, there was the dual announcement from heaven that

what was about to take place would be the cause for both **joy and peace** among men

The angelic host announced the birth of the Savior to the shepherds, saying, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased*" (2:14). "*Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord* (Luke 2 : 1 0 - 1 1).



Now...think about this: During the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life on earth, He spoke more frequently about **joy and peace** than He did in all the rest of His three years of preaching and teaching combined. Now...that's merely information until you realize what happened in that last 24-hour period.

It was on that last night that Jesus was betrayed by Judas. He was denied by Peter. He was hated by the world. He was rejected by His own brethren. He was mistreated by the soldiers. He was about to suffer every indignity, both physical and mental. He knew within twenty-four hours He would be nailed to a cross. He was in such agony that He shed, as it were, drops of blood, and cried out that His own soul was exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death.

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"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."

(I Corinthians 16:13)

(Continued from page 1)

Yet...it was in that twenty-four hour period, which could be aptly described as the darkest night in human history, that Jesus spoke for the first time about **His own joy!**

I don't have space to cite all the references, but here are some of the things Jesus said about **joy**:

*"These things have I spoken to you, that my **joy** may be in you, and that your **joy** may be made full."... "You now have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your **joy** no one can take away from you...Until now you have asked nothing in My Name: ask, and you shall receive, that your **joy** may be made full."* Now...watch this...at the same time, Jesus spoke about His own **peace**: *"Peace I leave with you; my **peace** I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you."*... *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*

Then...following the Resurrection...it was this **peace** that He desired His disciples to have. *"When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst of them, and said to them, 'Peace be unto you.' And when he had said this, he showed unto them His hands and His side. The disciples therefore were glad, when they saw the Lord. Jesus therefore said to them again, 'Peace be unto you' as the Father has sent me, even*

so send I you...And after eight days again His disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in their midst, and said, 'Peace be unto you.'"

WHAT GAVE THE LORD JESUS THAT JOY AND PEACE?

It was the same thing that gives Christians **joy and peace** down through the ages. In that reference in Romans 15:13, which I gave you earlier, Paul says that by believing in Christ, we are given both **joy...and...peace**.

But...what did Jesus believe that brought Him **joy and peace**? He believed in the things He knew...there were things He was sure of...His knowledge of His Father, of Himself, His work, and His certainty of the future.

If you are a Christian, you are promised **joy and peace** all through the New Testament. The apostle Paul even wrote an entire Book on the theme of **JOY** in the Christian life! Plant these thoughts in your heart and recall them this season every time you sing the songs of **joy and peace**. Only you...the believer...can put your heart into "**Joy** to the world...the Lord is come."

If you are not a believer in Jesus...you might wonder if there is any other way to have lasting **joy and peace** in this life...other than by believing in the Savior born in Bethlehem. The Bible says "No". Paul says it only comes through *believing*. But...that's really Good News!

JOY AND PEACE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL!

In this age of what we call

Christianity, the birth of Jesus the Christ was introduced by heaven declaring that **joy and peace** were now going to be *available* to men as never before in human history.

If you are not a believer, I ask you, what do you find in your skepticism and unbelief that is of any benefit at all to your life? Deep inside, in the quiet and private moments of your life, is there despair instead of hope? Is there a degree of miserable, unceasing restlessness and doubt, instead of **peace**? Is your heart aching over the emptiness of your life. Do you have any true **joy**?

Have you ever really investigated the claims of Jesus Christ? Have you been hurt by the Church...or some Christian? Has that driven you away from God? Do you see yourself as being too sinful for God to accept you?

I can tell you from experience...but more importantly...from God's Word...that everyone who believes in Jesus as their Savior...everyone who comes to know and love Him...no matter what their previous life was...no matter what their circumstances in life are...THERE IS AVAILABLE...a **peace** that passes human understanding...and a **joy** the world can never take away. That **joy and peace** is found in *believing*. There is neither in unbelief.

God loves you and waits for you to come to Him...to forgive your sin...and to fill you with Himself, His **joy** and His **peace**. I'll send you some help. Contact me. (See bottom of Pg. 7)

-Pat



SEND YOUR MONEY TO STANDING FIRM
MINISTRIES AND THE LORD WILL DELIVER YOU FROM
DEBT, SOLVE ALL YOUR PROBLEMS, HEAL YOUR MAR-
RIAGE, PROVIDE YOU WITH A NEW CAR, AND HEAL ALL
YOUR ACHES AND PAINS!

ONLY KIDDING! ONLY KIDDING! In spite of such statements by a growing number of ministries, God just doesn't promise to do such things when we give to His work, or "plant a seed".

Then, why that big "money" logo at the top of this page? Our policy is not to ask specifically for funds. Now...there are special times when we do mention a need that requires funding...but those times are rare.

All of our teaching materials, including this newsletter, are free. Then...why is there an envelope contained in this newsletter? If you receive our newsletter regularly, you know this is only the second time we've enclosed an envelope.

But it is necessary to let it be known, once in a while, that we DO need support to keep going. If the Lord leads you to give to our ministry at the end of the year, the envelope is just for your convenience.

Our expenses for the past two months have been higher than our income. We needed to buy hundreds of dollars worth of office supplies, tapes, tape albums, labels, CD's, cassette boxes, mailing boxes, CD containers and mailers, etc. We don't expect prisoners or their families to send us money for the Bibles and Bible studies...or for the cost of mailing.

Now...we haven't changed our policy and we may never change it. We have made it clear from the beginning that as long as God supplies, this ministry will continue. If He does not supply the funds to carry on...then...He must have something else for us to do. We are His servants ready and willing to do whatever He desires.

Because we have new people being touched by our newsletter, webcasts, and many other areas of our ministry...it's important from time to time, to explain how we are able to carry on our ministry without specifically asking for financial support.

We are grateful that the Lord has given us the opportunity to expand our outreach through the technology available today. With the help of Ron Procnier, we have been able to save mailing costs by sending our newsletter to many via E-Mail. Ron has also helped us set up a "webcast".

A webcast is much like a radio broadcast, except you hear it through your computer speakers. By the way, if you have an E-Mail address, you can receive both the webcast and this newsletter on your computer. Just make sure we have your address.

We have improved our newsletter this past year, and are receiving encouraging responses. We know God is using it when people call and ask, "Where's my newsletter?" Okay... the truth is

we have missed one now and then, due to increased responsibilities.

I can't thank the Lord enough for my Jan, who faithfully supports me. She is an invaluable asset to SFM and to my life for 43 years.

As we come to the end of another fruitful year of ministry, we want to thank you for your prayers and your financial support. Your correspondence has been a source of real encouragement.

2004 was a year filled with preaching, teaching, sending Bibles and teaching materials across the U.S. and several foreign countries; counseling, Bible studies, discipling, newsletters, webcasts, teaching tapes and CDs; prison ministries, seeing our materials used in home Bible studies and Sunday Schools, and much more.

Again...we thank the Lord for all who have supported our work this past year. Without you, we would not have been able to touch so many for Christ. God is faithful and we give Him all the glory for what He has done. He knows what our needs are...and He will supply.



-AMEN!

Pat's Eye On The World!

DO SOME CHRISTIANS TODAY STRUGGLE WITH FEELINGS OF HATRED TOWARD THE APOSTLE PAUL? ...

According to Dr. Ergun Caner, Assoc. Professor of Theology at Liberty University...some of today's believers would have to learn how to love Paul, if he were alive today.

Caner is also a former Muslim who gave His life to Christ when he was 20-years-old.

In the latest issue of *Israel My Glory*...Caner, now a Bible scholar, writes, "Many former Muslims who are now genuine believers still disdain, scorn, and hate the Jews." Because of the way Muslims are raised, taught from birth to hate Jews...Caner says that even after coming to Christ, many former Muslims struggle with a "lingering bias" toward the Jewish people. He calls them **MBBs**, *Muslim Background Believers*.

He says that he and his brother, who also is now a Christian, went through that struggle. As children, they were taught that Jews drink the blood of Palestinian children. They were taught to see the Jews as "pig people" and "common dogs"...who had taken their land and slaughtered their children.

"As Muslims, we were raised to hate the Jewish people. As Christian converts from Islam, many of us still do." Caner is now free of his hatred of Jews. "Slowly, ever slowly, I began to love the Jewish people, as does our



Dr. Caner

Father. They are God's chosen. And the land of Israel belongs to them.

Many Muslims are coming to Christ in these days. And...as the preacher down south said, "If that don't light your fire, then your wood's wet!"

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO SPOT A FALSE TEACHER OR A MIRACLE WORKER?... Here are some things to keep in mind:

1. The Bible gives warnings against false teachers in II Cor. 3 & 4 and II Peter 2 & 3.
2. Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (II Cor. 13 & 14).
3. The antichrist will be empowered by Satan to perform miracles (II Thess. 2:8-9).
4. The apostle John commands believers to "test the spirits" (I Jn. 4:1).
5. The prophet Isaiah tells us "how" to test the spirits (Isaiah 8:19-20).
6. The Book of Acts also tells believers to follow the example of the Bereans in testing those who teach the Word of God (Acts 17:10-11).
7. The apostle John tells us that to invite into our home or even

greet a false teacher is equivalent to participating in their evil deeds (II Jn. 1:10-11).

8. Jesus commends the church in Ephesus for testing those who claim to be sent from God (Rev. 2:1-2).

9. Jesus said that not everyone who performs "miracles" will be allowed to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 7:21-23).

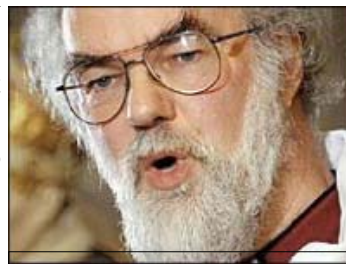
NEW BIBLE TRANSLATION PROMOTES FORNICATION...

I promised to write about this in an earlier SFM "Webcast"...so, here it is. It's true, there is a new Bible translation and according to the London Times, "...this new version of his first letter to Corinth has St. Paul advising Christians not to go without sex for too long in case they get 'frustrated'."

And it's got a well known religionist promoting it. Dr. Rowan Williams, the 104th archbishop of Canterbury, aggressively contradicts the teaching of Scripture on the subjects of sex and immorality.

He says he hopes the new version, titled "Good As New", will spread like an epidemic and have an effect on religious and irreligious people alike.

The new version also changes the original Greek and Hebrew names into modern nicknames. Peter become "Rocky" and Mary Magdalene becomes "Maggie"...Aaron becomes "Ron"



The 104th Archbishop



and Barabbas becomes “Barry”.

The archbishop praises the translation for eliminating what he calls, “the stale, the technical, the unconsciously exclusive words and policies” that are found in other translations.

Here are some pitiful examples found in this so-called Bible:

Mark 1:4

KJV: “John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”

NEW: “John, nicknamed ‘The Dipper’ was ‘The Voice.’ He was in the desert, inviting people to be dipped, to show they were determined to change their ways and wanted to be forgiven.”

I Corinthians 7:1-2

KJV: “Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.”

NEW: “Some of you think the best way to cope with sex is for men and women to keep right away from each other. That is more likely to lead to sexual offences. My advice is for everyone to have a regular partner”

One more...that’s all I can stand...

Matthew 26:69-70

KJV: “Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know

not what thou sayest.”

NEW: “Meanwhile Rocky was still sitting in the courtyard. A woman came up to him and said: ‘Haven’t I seen you with Jesus, the hero from Galilee?’ Rocky shook his head and said: ‘I don’t know what the hell you’re talking about!’”

This new version is translated by a former Baptist minister who calls it a “new, fresh and adventurous” translation of the Christian Scriptures.

It is a dangerous thing to alter God’s Word in any fashion. God gives fair warning to anyone who does so (Rev. 22:18-19).

THE STRENGTH OF WEAKNESS...I want to end this last “*Eye on the World*” for 2004 by sharing

what I believe are some great thoughts on the Word of God from someone that God greatly used in

y e a r s
gone by.
You can’t
find his
books in
the book-
stores,
because
they’re
out of
print. In
fact, some
of the
men I of-
ten quote
didn’t
even want
t h e i r

names written anywhere on the books they wrote.

Here’s something worth thinking about as we close out another year and begin a new one:

“He said to me, My spiritual strength is sufficient, for it is only by means of conscious weakness that power is developed” (II Cor. 12:9).

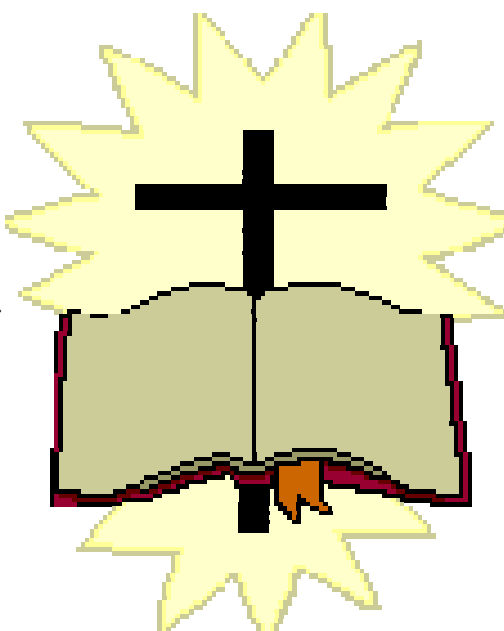
“Early in our Christian life the general conception is that God is a wonderful Helper. Later, as we experience failure, we come to know full well that if anything is going to be accomplished in and through us, He must do it all.

“Everything you need in the Christian life, no matter what it may be, comes from the Father alone. You will see more and more the utter futility of trying to make yourself a keen Christian; that your best efforts are as futile as your worst failure; that your Christian life is to be a continual miracle that the Father must work every minute; that the only thing you have to do is to depend utterly, and altogether, and all the time on Him. You will see that what you need is not more effort or determination, but more of the Father; a deeper, more continual trust and dependence upon Him.”

-D. Tryon

Keep **Standing Firm**,

Pat (I Cor. 16:13)





You're Invited To Our Home
For A Special **CHRIST**mas
OPEN HOUSE!



Choose the day and time that's most convenient for you.

FRIDAY— December 10th, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM

or

SUNDAY— December 12th, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM

*Tour Our Offices

*Meet Ron Procnier—The Young Man Who Oversees Our Computers

*See All Of Jan's Original Paintings Of Churches

*Pick Up Any Tapes You Would Like To Give As Gifts...Or For Your Own Personal Study

*Talk With Pat And Jan, Ask Questions About Our Ministry

*And...Of Course...Have Some Of The Dozens Of Cookies Baked By Our Volunteers

RSVP is not absolutely necessary...but It would be a great help if we had some idea of how many to expect.

There are several ways you can tell us you're coming:

1. If you have E-mail...send us a note that you plan to attend
2. Call our office at 623.972.9892 and tell Jan
3. If we're not in the office, just leave a message on the answering service.

We look forward to welcoming you to our home!





A "MUST READ" REPORT!

The following letter from the mother of a prisoner provides the icing on the cake for our prison ministry this past year.

"Dear Pat and Jan,

Thank you for the spiritual aid you gave my son, John, during his imprisonment in Bismarck State Penitentiary. It led him to Jesus and gave him something to hope for.

He was released from rehab on Sept. 13, bought a house, and got married. He will begin a new job in February.

He took your four words [in our purpose statement] Encouraging, Educating, Exposing, and Evangelizing very seriously. He now has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Next week, he plans to speak at a Gideon's meeting on his conversion. He has been truly blessed by your ministry.

Sincerely yours, L.H.A."

HERE'S MORE GOOD NEWS!

Part of our prison ministry involves the families of men and women who are incarcerated. We send our **Basic Bible Truths** study to prisoners all across the United States, even as far away as Maine. On occasion, inmates write back and ask us to send the same study to their husbands or wives at home.

One wife got the study, finished it in two weeks, returned it with a perfect score and these words... **"I LOVED THIS STUDY!!"**

These reports of God changing lives through His Word, are only possible with your support.

Thank you, Pat and Jan

BIBLE STUDIES



Glendale

THURSDAY EVENINGS

7 — 8 at home of Lifsey's

5702 W.Windrose Drive

For Directions Call 623.878.6892

Sun City School Of The Bible

EVERY WEDNESDAY

8:00 — 9:00 AM

13215 N. 94th Drive

South of Thunderbird

For Directions Call 623.972.9892

You Can Reach Us By Phone

623.972.9892 — 623.972.9688

Cell Phone: 623.326.0319

By E-Mail

standingfirmpat@cox.net

standingfirmjan@cox.net

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623.972.3004

On The Web

www.standingfirmministries.com

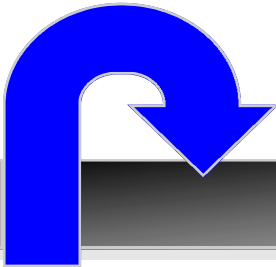
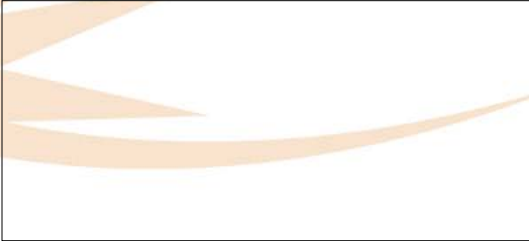
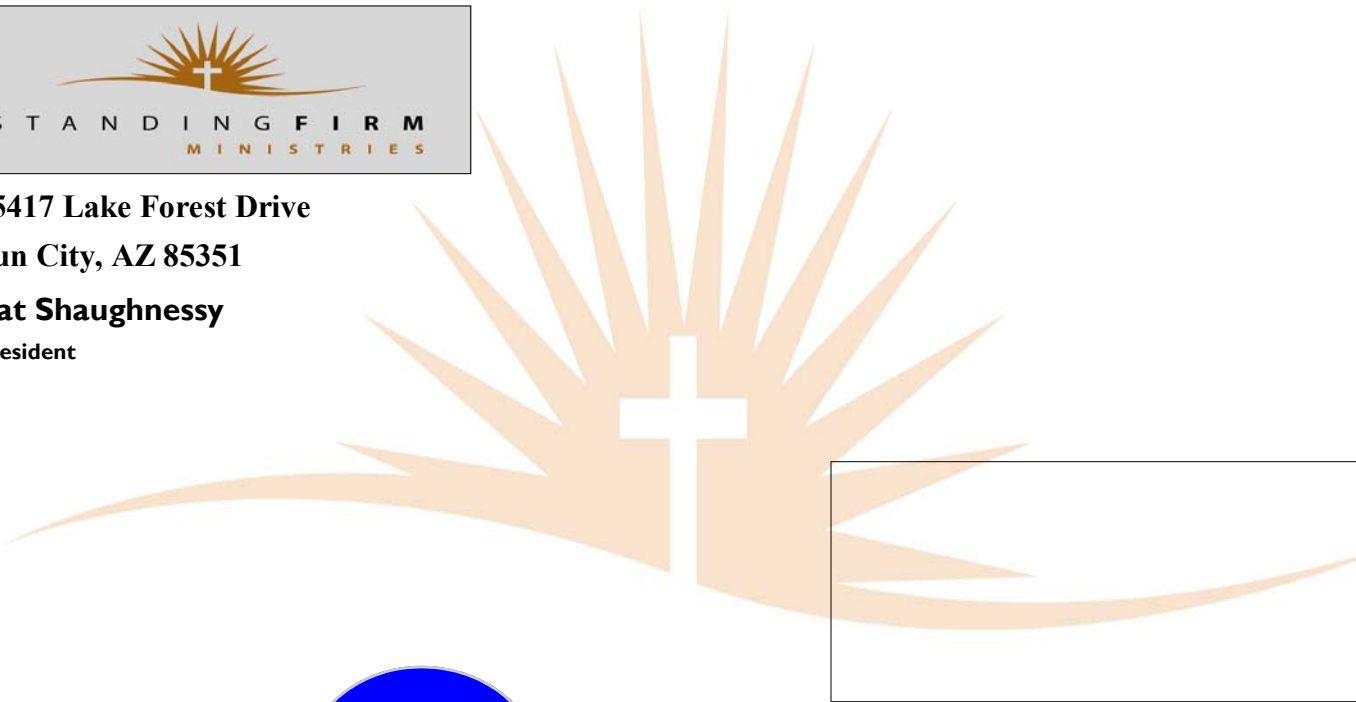


15417 Lake Forest Drive

Sun City, AZ 85351

Pat Shaughnessy

President



INSIDE...

IT'S ABOUT JOY & PEACE

What Is Standing Firm Ministries?

Standing Firm Ministries is an evangelistic, Bible-teaching ministry. Pat Shaughnessy is Bible teacher and President of SFM. Our purpose is described in four words: **ENCOURAGING** and **EDUCATING** believers who desire to learn the Word of God... **EXPOSING** spiritual deception, and **EVANGELIZING** those who have not yet come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This ministry is carried-out in various Bible studies in the Phoenix area, to prisoners across the U. S., speaking by invitation in churches, seminars, retreats, banquets, and wherever else opportunities present themselves. Pat Shaughnessy became a believer in Jesus Christ shortly after being released from jail in 1961. He pastored a church that grew from 87 to nearly 4,000 in Sunday morning attendance. His testimony is a story of the grace of God, as is true with all believers in Christ. The Lord has graciously given him opportunity to speak in a variety of settings across the U.S. and abroad. He has been married to Jan for 43 years and has 4 children and 10 grandchildren. He is accountable for his life and ministry to the SFM board of directors. SFM is a 501c3 non-profit corporation, supported by those who believe in its goals and purposes, and those who have been blessed by the ministry. SFM is overseen by a board of directors who have full authority over all corporate affairs and assets. All gifts are tax deductible.

Support gifts can be mailed to:

**15417 Lake Forest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351**

For more information and more of Pat's testimony:

www.
standingfirmministries.com