

Terri McFarland



December 2018 Newsletter

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Is It Christmas Yet?

I remember asking my parents that question more times than I can count. That was the problem; I couldn't count and had no concept of time. All I knew was Christmas took FOREVER to arrive! Finally, on that long-awaited morn, I would jump out of bed, run to the tree and start shaking my presents hoping one might indicate the content was a basketball, guitar or a horse (*I never got the latter...*).

Of course, like most kids (*and adults*), my impatience was all about me, not, "**Jesus came as our Emmanuel**". Now on the other side, my questions more closely resemble, *How do we finagle the calendar with multiple families? Can we afford gifts? What will Christmas be like following the loss of a loved one?*

Our impatient angst begins at a young age, continues into adulthood, and extends way beyond Christmas. And at times, it makes us feel we are like a plane fighting turbulence while circling our destination.

Last Christmas I gave my husband a drone. After perusing stores and online reviews, I settled on one complete with a video camera. However, to date it has never been flown and remains in its case. Despite my epic fail on that gift (*not my first*), drones have the unique ability to hover like an eagle in an updraft. Suspended in mid-air, they capture images below while continuing in a holding pattern.

Is it Christmas yet?

Mary, the mother of Jesus, experienced multiple holding patterns (*including a false alarm at twelve and a desire for good wine at a wedding – Luke 2 & John 2*), until God told His Son to step into His call. And in the hover, Mary offered love and guidance to Jesus while she captured the memories in her heart.

After young David was anointed King, he too proceeded to actively wait to assume his reign for well over a decade (*1 Samuel 16*). Like Mary, Jesus and David, our learning curve requires an effective hover until the moment God says, *it's time*.



Praise Report:

- God's **grace**
- Traveling **mercies**
- **Passion** for the pace



Upcoming Christmas Event

For God so **loved** the world that He gave...

John 3:16

Hovering ardently, is a gift of **love** we offer and one that is graciously offered to us. We can be assured that in the wait, the Lord will renew our strength – enabling us to glorify and reflect Him in the soar.

Ministry & Family Update

Looking back at 2018, there have been many joys and much heartbreak. **Through it all, the Lord graciously provided sweet avenues** to enrich relationships, teach the Word, assist various ministries, participate on two worship teams, facilitate trips to the lands of the Bible, and to serve in concert whenever possible.

Thanks to generous donors, we were able to purchase a second portable sound system perfect for small gatherings. We have put it to use many times and are thrilled! **Your continued support enables us to keep finding ways to better share Jesus.** If you would like to partner with us on this adventure, you can do so at terrimcfarland.org

Numerous setbacks still have me living apart from my family. I am often brought to tears by those reaching out to support Keith, me and the kids during this trying time. Your encouragement and prayers keep us from succumbing to the surrounding voices urging us to do the easy thing, and call it quits. Thank you for standing in the gap for us!

Please pray with us for healing and a willingness to follow Jesus – *even when the road is hard, the solution seems obscure, and visibility is zero.* I am awed by His presence and unexpected strength guarding and guiding my heart.

May you, too, experience the *awe* of Jesus this Christmas!



Terri McFarland Umlauf





Smiles at our women's study



We Trust in You God!



Please Pray for:

- **Wisdom** and a hearing 
- The **healing** of relationships
- s that follow **Jesus**

For contact info, event details & audio teaching files, visit:

terrimcfarland.org



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