

December 31, 2005

Matthew, Abby, Ben and Brian,

It is the last day of 2005 and, on this New Years Eve, I put fingers to keyboard to write to all of you. A special day to be sure, the last day of year may give opportunity to reflect on the past and in particular this year for the hours that remain and the moments as well.

I am very encouraged by this year, not because of mistakes and my failures; but because of the accomplishments and victories that have occurred simply because the Lord loves me and desires that I love him, trust him, and walk in faith every day. It seems so simple to obey the Lord, yet my experience is that obedience is something that has be refined and learned as opposed to enforced spontaneously; consequently, I am still refining and learning to obey him by his will, his instruction, and his love as always.

When our hope is in the Lord, in all these promises that he has made, we can be certain that the future will be glorious. I did not say it would be easy and, at times, it may seem difficult if not impossible, yet I believe that it way be glorious because he has promised...and God (unlike Captain Hook) *never breaks a promise*. My desire is to develop some a similar integrity whereby my word is true and certain...that I am committed and that, with God's power and will, I will be a person of integrity. Not integrity as is loosely applied to a politician or someone of public popularity; rather, the integrity that comes from God and characterizes him through promises made and promises kept.

In the months (and even years) to come, my letters to you (each and all of you) will continue as has been the case for some time now. I promise that these letters, as my only means of talking with you, will continue no matter what becomes of them or if you don't or can't read them. The letters mean so much to me and, it is through the letters, that I feel connected to you if just as a sort of pen pale...one-sided of course!. I love you, think about you... Happy New Year!