

Adel-gram '98 and beyond...

Dear Ones,

Christmas 1998 has come...and gone. New Years 1999 has come...and gone, and if I don't get busy, Valentine's Day will have come and gone before I get this letter written. I actually thought a Valentine's newsletter would be perfect- a greeting of love from our home to yours. I ran that idea past my sweetheart, who has been alternately encouraging/bribing me since Thanksgiving to get going on this year's Adel-gram. His response was, "VALENTINE'S DAY? How about TO-DAY!"

Since words like today, immediately, now, etc. are threatening in the ears of the procrastinator, I thought I'd just call my pastor for counsel. Then, remembering that my pastor and my sweetheart are one in the same, I was pretty sure his counsel would be "Find your pencil and start writing...TO-DAY!" Even a seasoned procrastinator knows when she's hit a brick wall; I knew I must perform. The next step, of course was to make certain that nothing would prevent my doing this thing TO-DAY. Some call this looking for excuses. I call it reality! So I presented my "Things That Might Require Me Putting Off The Adel-gram until Valentine's Day" list to my sweetheart Pastor.

ME

- 1) Daisy needs a bath*
- 2) Our bedrm. needs wallpapering*
- 3) I should start dinner*
- 4) I'm supposed to have my Music Director's report in to my Pastor tomorrow*
- 5) I need some tea*
- 6) I'm not used to the new computer*
- 7) I'm low on hormones!!!*

HIM

- 1) You haven't bathed Daisy since 1985. I'll do that!*
- 2) We haven't chosen the paper yet and the store is closed*
- 3) We just finished lunch*
- 4) That was due last week, but I'll cut you some slack*
- 5) I'll make you some*
- 6) Here's your legal pad*
- 7) I'll lend you a few*

So it looks like my pastor and I are in agreement. TO-DAY is the day to write the Adel-gram. Even so, it comes to you with all the love that you'd expect in a Valentine letter!

Lots has gone on in the Adalgren clan in '98, but the main event and REAL REASON that I'm so delinquent is that we moved during Thanksgiving (Experience offers this advice: Don't do it unless you have to!). Our home on Sugar Hill was a rental. We hadn't planned to look for permanent housing until spring, but a home in a neighborhood we like came on the market in Oct., so here we are: 403 Woodland Dr.

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Marion, N.C. 28752 phone: 828 652-3538. Despite the wonderful help from family and friends, this move, our 22nd in 33 yrs. was the hardest for me, probably because it took place during the holidays. Our new house is a "Mama Bear " house...not too big, not too small! It has a small inground pool and a built -in playyard which will be great for Annaleigh or any other young-at-heart who comes to visit. Speaking of visiting, we may not be completely settled but the welcome mat is out, so call if you're in the area. The mountains are so beautiful! Alas I have not yet achieved the heart of the mountain goat; for me, mountain driving involves a good deal of faith walking. Paul, however, has always enjoyed roller coasters and will be delighted to show you the sights.

Our family continues to be "close in heart, though miles apart." Amy, Patrick, Damon, Kellie, and Annaleigh are five hours down the road in Charleston. Amy, Pat, Damon, and Kellie are busy in their respective careers and active in lay ministry in their churches. Annie, as she now calls herself, age 2, is just busy, busy, busy! Being the objective grandma that I am, I can only report that Annie is the dearest, happiest, cutest, most fun and affectionate little brown-eyed redhead in the land! (did I mention her astonishing intelligence?) All of the Chasn. crowd were with us for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Eric and Patricia, and Rebecca are 8 hrs. up the road in Shippensburg, Pa. Eric has suffered some serious health problems and has been off work for several months. Times have been tough for these two and we've been both humbled and blessed by their response. They're leaning hard on the Lord and finding Him faithful. Hopefully, Eric's problems will soon be resolved then I think they might move either South or West-as they feel the Lord lead.

Rebecca had the blessing of meeting her biological mother this fall . It was a positive situation and, as Becks says, she feels somehow more complete, having had a lot of questions answered. Rebecca is living with friends in Pa., working and trying to gain vision for her future.

Susan is home with us, going to a local college in the RN program. She works part-time at a tree nursery and teaches a boy's 9-14 yr. old Sunday School class. She seems content to be at home and, of course, we're in no hurry to have the last little chick leave the nest.

Paul is well and well challenged as pastor of the Missionary Alliance church here in Marion. He also heads up a community ecumenical group and has just been elected to the Board of Trustees at a local Christian Academy. He really enjoys the extra administrative duties, but his joy continues to be preaching and discipling. I continue happily in my role as helpmeet. At church, I work in music ministry, women's groups and Jr. High girls. At home I'm dabbling with the mundane...selecting paint and wallpaper, arranging a chaotic kitchen into something more serviceable, thinking spring in regard to garden and flower beds, and considering Y2K preparedness. It doesn't seem like much, but it manages to keep me busy!

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Annie calls us “ma “ and “pa”. If gray hair is a qualifier, there’s a lot more ma in me than pa in Paul . Last week I ran across some of Paul’s love letters written to me 35 yrs. ago. In one letter he remarked that his dream was to grow old with me. Praise the Lord! The mirror tells me that Paul’s dream is beginning to come true.(mind you, I said BEGINNING!)

So goes 1998. Now for the “beyond”. Dear hearts, what an awesome time to be alive! Here we are within eleven short months of the turn of the century. With all of our technological advancements, all of man’s “smarts”, we come to a realization that the one thing we can’t control is the future. Take this Y2K thing. Some say, “BIG DEAL”, some say, “BUSINESS AS USUAL.” What do you think? I, being of a less than complex mindset, have the perfect solution. If the computers can’t handle 2000, let’s just turn them all back to 1900. We could use another crack at things, you know! , We might do better if we could live the past century over. With the illumination of hindsight, we would surely pray more and worry less, listen more and talk less, love more and tolerate less. We might revise our politics and change our priorities, and surely we would cast aside our societal idols and acknowledge God as God. After all, when all is said and done, our future is in His hands!

In scripture, the Lord likens us to sheep. Sweet as they look, sheep are notoriously dumb and will follow their leader even when their leader is going nowhere (or worse!). Well, we, like sheep, have definitely gone astray in the past century, but the good news is...there’s still hope. We can choose a better leader, a leader whose record is impeccable, one who is all knowing, all powerful, and whose motives are absolutely right and pure! We can choose to follow Jesus Christ. We can line up behind Him and be confident that He will lead us to a better way of living on earth and eventually lead us to the heavenly joys of eternal life with God. He is truly our hope for all generations!

Yes, dear hearts, it is indeed an awesome time, an exciting time, a prayerful time and just maybe...a short time! As we follow Christ, there will never be need to fear WHAT is ahead as long as we know that HE is ahead.

Well, it’s time for this preacher’s wife to stop preachin’ and bring this Adel-gram to a close. We send joyful and tender regards and pray that it is the peace of Christ that will rule your hearts forevermore.

With love through 1999...and beyond,

*“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
Life is worth the living...just because He lives!”*

p.s. Do you think my sweetheart pastor will consider this to be my 1999 Adel-gram? I asked him. He said. “No, but I think you should start that one TO-DAY! “

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*ME : Haven't you heard,
Y2K could interrupt our mail service?*

*HIM : Haven't you heard
of the Pony Express??!*