

# Views from the Top

*The Cloudhaven Chronicle*  
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## Cloudhaven news

As some of you already know, the big news this winter has been snow and wind! With much sadness, we had to cancel our annual Christmas at Cloudhaven service due to slippery roads and lack of parking space amidst the piles of snow. Then a major windstorm left us without power for 36 hours and phones/internet for 4 days. More snow is on its way as I write this. By God's grace, we have been fine with our small generator, warm wood stoves, propane cooking, plenty of candles and our heavy-duty snow plow.



## Ministry tidbits

Despite the weather and brief cold/flu episodes, we have hosted several groups and families since our last newsletter. Jim preached twice in Alamogordo but had to cancel opportunities in El Paso and Albuquerque. We participated in the ordination of two fine young men: Sid Druen is the new RUF minister at New Mexico State University and Adam Shields is Assistant Pastor at Grace Covenant Church—both in Las Cruces.

Both Sid and his wife Tere, and Adam and special friend Jessica were able to spend a little time at Cloudhaven.



Rick & Vicki

We hosted dear friends Rick and Vicki Smith for several days as they presented their ministry with American Missionary Fellowship to local churches. The leadership of Border Evangelism and Mercy Ministries (BEAMM) returned to Cloudhaven for their annual strategic planning sessions.



The BEAMM Team

Jim's son Tim has been able to spend some time with us over Christmas this year. He's a law enforcement park ranger at Sequoia National Park in California and an accomplished guitarist among other talents.

## A Christmas story

Our Christmas was a bit unusual this

year. After dark on Christmas Eve we noticed a truck having trouble negotiating the ice on Lakeview Drive in front of Cloudhaven. A family had driven all the way from San Antonio, Texas, to a cabin in our subdivision which they had rented sight unseen. The snow and ice made it impossible for them to get to the cabin. Jim & Tim spent several hours finding the cabin and trying to get them there during which the only key to their cabin was dropped into a foot of fresh snow.



Tim

The rest of their family were coming (with another key) but were several hours behind, so we offered our guest house for the night to the grandparents and three grandsons. By the time they were settled in, it was past 2:00 AM before we got to bed. Dawn came a bit early for us Christmas morning.

After getting the home fires going, we learned that the other family members had made it to the cabin, but were stuck in the snow in the steep driveway. Jim spent a few more hours trying to get them out and transferring the rest of the family and all their provisions up to their cabin.

The story ended well when a towing service got their truck unstuck and they were finally free to enjoy the snow and beautiful mountain views.

Oh, and they even found the lost key by its glint in the morning sunshine.

We were thankful for the opportunity to provide “room at the inn” at this special time of year.

### *More good news*

Thanks to God’s amazing grace, Katy’s mother Luella has been doing very well in her fight with ovarian cancer. She has not had to have chemotherapy since April, and is in good spirits and comfortable at Monroe Manor in Barron, WI. Our deepest thanks to all of you who have inquired about her and prayed for her in the past months.

### *Thanks!*

May God richly bless you in the coming year—as you have blessed us in 2009! Thank you for your faithfulness and for your prayers which have sustained us and the ministry of Cloudhaven well into our seventh year. We also appreciate your Christmas cards and notes—especially with family pictures! Keep ‘em coming!

### *God with us*

We pray that this Christmas you found time once again to marvel at the wonder of the eternal Son of God condescending to unite himself inseparably

with humanity for all future eternity. Fully God and fully man, Jesus Christ stands unique in all of history.



The angel announced the Good News

Properly understood, the incarnation was the only way that the Triune God could have redeemed a people for himself out of fallen humanity. There was no other alternative.

First, for God to remain holy and just, the sins of the redeemed could not go unpunished. As death is the just punishment, our Savior had to be fully human to receive that sentence in our place. [Rom. 6:23] God, who is the fount and sustaining source of all life cannot die. But Jesus, the God-man could and did on our behalf. Because of his nature as fully God, that human death was efficacious for a multitude.

Secondly, it is *righteousness*—a perfect track record of doing only what is right—that is required for us to gain eternal life. This is defined based on God’s law which is in turn a product of his unchanging character. Again, our Champion had to be fully human to accomplish complete obedience on our behalf. Hence, Scripture makes the point that he was “...born of a woman, born under the law.” [Gal. 4:4-5] Again, because of his deity, Jesus’ perfect righteousness could be reckoned to the accounts of a great many people. These people are all of us throughout history who have received the gift of faith in God’s promises and in his Messiah, our Savior, Lord and King, Christ Jesus.

### *Soli Deo Gloria!*



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“I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.”—Is. 44:22

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