

that I needed to operate a successful Atlas office and had fairly firm plans in place on how that would be accomplished. I was prepared for the first time to serve God in a full time Christian role. "Humble" was probably not a good word for how I approached this opportunity but it definitely seemed like a decades-old calling to help others was finally being realizing.

We serve a God who is full of surprises. The first surprise in this fledgling ministry was the onslaught of Covid-19. Most of my plans did not change at that time, but they were definitely delayed for about a year. The silver lining for me was that it gave me a huge amount of time to develop the background organization for the ministry and to prepare the office for the eventual opening. That was a blessing for me because it gave me a safe place to be with tasks to do and helped me survive many of the negative aspects of Covid.

As the ministry opened and evolved, God continued to surprise me with things that altered my "plan," things that were remarkably better for our clients and the ministry itself. Somewhere in this process, I was able to move from "in front" of Jesus as I attempted to lead for Him to "behind" Him where I was able to simply follow Him as He continued to provide surprise after surprise. The end of 2022 has been spent sharing this philosophy with the new Atlas staff, growing together as we "join God where He is working" each day.



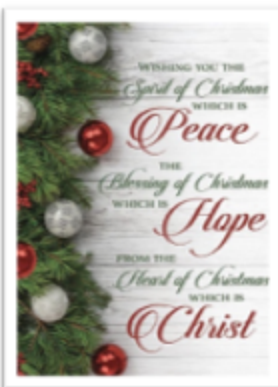
Thank You for Your Past Support and Ongoing Partnership with Us

Our increased financial need seems a little concerning at times. I have always believed that God's normal pattern of supply for many ministries often comes at the point of actual need, sometimes just after what we think is the absolute deadline. With Atlas He has not followed that pattern. God has generously provided more than we have needed at this time and we have stored His provisions in the ministry bank account for the future.

The Atlas board stepped out in faith and trusted God to provide the additional expense of our new staff positions. Our cash on hand made it easier to trust God because He had already provided for four months of these added salary costs. We fully trust that donations will continue and that significant year-end giving will carry us well into 2023 while also providing the needed extra funding to hire critically needed mentoring staff.

As we trust God to provide, we need your continued or new financial support to help Atlas grow in 2023. We would love for you to be a part of and to experience the excitement of God working in the clients' lives as Atlas is able to better help growing numbers of people in need. We are so thankful for all the ways that you have joined with us in the past and look forward to new associations as more and more people become involved in the Atlas partnership.

Advent Leads Us to the Birth of our Savior



As I draft this newsletter, it is December 1st. We are five days into Advent, a time when we wait for the birth of Jesus and the remembrance of Immanuel, God with us. In our busy, rushed, month-long celebration of the holiday season it is easy for us to miss the world-changing significance of this single birth. God came and walked among us taking our human form as a means of reconciliation for us with the Father. As you celebrate this year, I encourage you to slow down, rest in the Lord, and even stop the human celebrations for a significant part of this time.

I wish you times of close relationship with family and loved ones. I wish you people who hear you when you share the deeper parts of your life with them. I wish you happiness in the season, but more important, joy throughout the coming year. I wish you peace, comfort, and even a sense of joy in the difficult trials that you may face in this messy world. All of my wishes for each of you are found as we seek to love our God and His Son, Jesus. Our small human ways of loving only slightly reflect the massive love that God has for each of us as we know or seek to know Him.

I wish a Merry Christmas to you and those loved ones you gather with on the 25th, but even more I wish you a merry Christmas month of December as you seek Him in the midst of the hustle and bustle that is life.

November 2022