

*Thursday, December 16, 2004*

*Scripture Reading: Acts 8:9-13*

*Text for today: "Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed." Acts 8:13*

We keep hoping for the big ones...great, amazing miracles like a cure for cancer, peace on Earth, an end to suffering. Year after year when we don't see peace in the Middle East or an end to suffering, we think miracles don't happen and we question God's presence in the world. In reality, God's presence in the world is demonstrated by small miracles that we often don't recognize as God's work.

In one of Ed's favorite movies, "Oh, God," God says, "You want a miracle? You create a fish." Ed can't create a fish, but he can walk into any grocery store in Decatur and buy any kind of fresh or frozen fish you can imagine. Now that's a miracle! It's the kind of little miracle that we take for granted every day: trees sprouting new leaves in the spring; fresh running water from a tap; a warm home in the dead of winter. The birth of a baby is such a beautiful miracle, and one that is clearly the work of God. The birth of a very special baby in Bethlehem is the greatest miracle of all...the miracle of God's grace.

Watch for the miracles around you...the wonder of the world God gave us. Our friend Connie reminded us recently to tell yourself, "Something wonderful will happen to me today," and then wait and watch. Expect a miracle!

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the many miracles that we experience daily. Open our eyes and guide us every day to expect and experience the wonders with which you have blessed us. We are especially thankful for the miracle of Jesus' birth. Amen.

*Ed & Lucy Acheson*