

# THE ACORN

Since we used the acorn as our prayer symbol we will now be calling our newsletter THE ACORN. We hope it will be the seed that keeps you engaged in what God is doing in and through us in the Balkans!



## MELLINGER'S MISSION MOMENTS



### Looking Back - 2006 What a Year

As we have ended 2006, We want to take a minute to reflect back on what a year it has been. We knew that some changes were in the works but never would we have imagined what was in store.

We are thrilled and excited about how God has lead and is leading. We are on the home stretch of the deputation schedule. We have 5 more Sundays of presentations to make. We are still needing about \$25,000 of our Annual Support and about \$35,000 of our start-up cost. If all goes as hoped we should be

cleared to go by mid February.

Our home finally sold in early December and we will be out of it by Mid February (just the time for our Estimated time of Departure). Praise the Lord – God is good and never late!

Over the holidays we traveled to Iowa (Diane's folks) Kansas (Al's family) and Florida (a niece's wedding). Over 4000 miles on the car on those trips alone. Saying good by this time is different as we

are not planning on seeing these folks again for a few years.

Our oldest is in LA for his last semester of university and then he graduates. So we have said goodbye to him for the last time before we go. What a strange feeling. God is good and we are totally at rest in His hands. Our youngest is still near by so we should see Him a time or so before we go.

It is like starting all over again and even though it is a strange feeling it is good one as well!

## Christmas with the Family

We had a bit more time to spend with family not having church responsibilities this year and that was good. We were able to be with Diane's family in Iowa during Thanksgiving and again the end of December for her niece's wedding.

From mid December until the day after Christmas we were in Kansas with part of my family. Since we lived there for 8 years we also were able to see many old friends as well.

And with all the travel we were able to stop and stay with others that we knew enroute. We had a great time visiting with Bishop David Kendall and family in Greenville, Illinois (I was on David's staff for 12 years) as well as Diane's Aunt and Uncle and family in Warsaw, Indiana.

So you can see we made a great many contacts and was able to spend some time with people we love and care about before we head out.

## Prayer Partners Requests

For all our prayer partners – THANKS for PRAYING this past year. We are going to need it even more over the next few months. So Here is what I am asking for:

- 1) A Quick resolution to our Annual Support and Start-up Costs – Pray that Churches would let us know their intention sooner rather than later to both of these totals so we can account for the money and be cleared to go.
- 2) That we would be able to clear all the steps to get our VISA and any other Documents needed so we can go when cleared
- 3) That the people we are going to work with would be ready for us to come. That our gifts and skills would work well with what they are needing done and that any transition would be smooth and bring God glory.
- 4) That we would adjust well and quickly learn the language.



Christmas with the families were great times of celebration.



## Pal's Gourmet Cookies and Candies

If you had been to our Blog in the fall you would have seen a link to Pal's Gourmet Cookies and Candies. The name comes from the nick name given Al by the youth group (P for Pastor and AL for Al – put it together and you have PAL).

Some have asked: Why did you do it? Well I love to bake and have always done a big Open House at Christmas. Since we were not planning this I needed to do something to fill my time during the holiday's. Also in the past people have said I should sell the cookies – they would buy them, so I decided to see if it were true.

I thought some might want an update and to see some of what we did. I lost track of the exact count



"I love to bake and have always done a Big Open House at Christmas. Since we were not planning this I needed to do something to fill my time during the holiday's."

Al

but we made over 10,000 cookies. Which included the desert part of the Southern Michigan Conference Pastors Families Christmas Dinner and an open house in McPherson for any old friends who wanted an

update. It was fun but we have taken most of the supplies to do it to Kansas and I no longer have the equipment to bake any large quantities. Maybe in Bulgaria?



Diane with Alexis Davidson at the SMC Pastor's Christmas Party (one of her favorite people)

### Diane's Been Busy Too!

Diane when not traveling with Al doing church presentations is busy with several things.

1) She is taking 3 classes all correspondence to complete the qualifications for missionary appointment.

2) She is working the local YMCA Branch and the Corporate Office doing data entry.

So it is like she is going to college and working some weeks almost full time.

We both would rather be busy than have nothing to do so that is good and God is helping us all the way.

### PRAISES

#### THIS YEAR

- 1) Our House Sold
- 2) We have had a full schedule of churches to visit and share the Vision with
- 3) Our Family is responding well to our move
- 4) Most of our stuff is either sold or placed where it is going to be kept.

Funding is coming in well (although I wish it were coming in faster – But God is never late)

## CALENDAR 2007

January 7 – Somerset Beach Fellowship  
January 11 – Westland FMC – Youth Group  
January 14 – Monroe Free Methodist Church  
January 18 – Westland FMC Youth Group  
January 21 – Ypsilanti Free Methodist Church  
January 28 – Westland Free Methodist Church  
February 3-4 – Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church  
February 5-7 – SMC Pastor's and Spouse Retreat

After this it will be determined by where we are at with our Annual Support and Start-Up costs.

## PARTNER CHURCHES (As of Publication Date)

Brownstown – Lighthouse of Hope Community Church  
Dearborn Free Methodist Church  
Deerfield Free Methodist Church  
CrossRoads Community Church  
Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church  
Three Oaks Free Methodist Church  
Portage Free Methodist Church  
Milan Free Methodist Church  
Jackson Free Methodist Church  
Somerset Beach Fellowship

## Web Blog and Web Site Best way to stay connected!

If you have an email account and are not getting our weekly Prayer Update – You should. It is easy to get, either email us at [almellinger@yahoo.com](mailto:almellinger@yahoo.com) or go to the blog [www.almellinger.com](http://www.almellinger.com) and put your email address in the box on the upper left side and follow the directions. If you don't have regular email you can go to our site when at a friends house or the library.

There are links to all kinds of resources and info on the Balkans and FMWM (Free Methodist World Missions) in general. It is updated regularly and is very helpful when promoting missions with your group or church. Check back often to see what is new!



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