

## “Winter Has Arrived “ by Pastor Mike McGee

We have watched places on TV that have been battling winter, and now we are bundling up and we are running from our houses to our cars and then into our destinations. Now some people love winter, but I prefer the more civilized months in spring and fall. So what can we do to enjoy winter more? Listen to this scripture from Paul about 2,000 years ago:

“But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” 1 Corin. 14:40

How about we use these times of house- hugging to make some improvements in our living spaces? I went to visit a friend this week, and after a time of talking and catching up, he happily led me to his workshop to show me the order and neatness he had recently achieved in it. I was impressed, because the last time that I had seen it, it looked like a well enjoyed “man cave.” It was so much easier for him to work in it and to find things, and what a great accomplishment!

I have heard a lot lately about “hoarding”. There are shows which go into a person’s home to examine the mess of too much stuff and the detrimental effects that this can have on one’s life. As you probably have seen this show, it is a real shock! But have you ever been inside a real hoarder’s house? I remember years ago visiting an elderly lady who stacked boxes and bags to the ceilings throughout

her house. She only had pathways carved out so you could travel from one room to the next. There were people sleeping in certain rooms on beds that were not even visible, and I imagine that these people had to climb over mountains of junk to even lay down. As you know this is a mental illness. It is also a terrible fire hazard and it also imprisons one in, their own house.

Now, let's get back to winter. How about during these cold months we did some house cleaning and gave a lot of those things that collect dust to a good charity? Or just as good, give them away to a friend or family member. A minister friend told me some years ago that once you own something, it then owns you.

Now, also as a minister let me ask you to use these months to take a good spiritual inventory of what is in your spiritual body. You know during the year we accumulate some "stuff" that we need to get rid of from our lives. How about asking the Holy Spirit to help you to open our eyes up to areas that need attention and changing. One of the steps in Alcoholic Anonymous and of Narcotics Anonymous is to take a good spiritual inventory. This comes right out of church teachings, and it works in giving a person back their order and lives.

During this winter, I plan on taking some prayer time to ask God what is cluttering up my life with him. What junk needs to go? What maybe taking too much space in my life that may be keeping me from seeing the real picture. One of the ways to come “clean” is to realize that we do have a God with an orderly way of leading us and healing us. We have a God who is always on time! Please call God in this winter time of shivering and often times of loneliness to warm you up and cheer you up . Let God help you with “stuff” you may need to let go and get rid of. Let go, and let God! God Bless.