

## AN HOUR ON ICE...

The Middle School/High School youth group had an ice skating outing last weekend. I had only been ice skating once in my life and that was 36 years earlier. However, my wife and I were determined to participate in this outing with the kids. I, as expected, hit the ice hard with my first fall occurring only seconds upon entering the arena. Many were on hand to witness and take photos, some of which you may have already seen. I had to enlist help from Sarah Smith to get back up who also enlightened me that if I place my skate toe down, as I had apparently, yet inadvertently done, I will fall forward.

As I repeatedly fell, I realized an analogy of ice skating to walking in the light as a Christian. I John 1:7 informs us, "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." This verse, which should be very comforting to us as Christians, assures us as we fall down with temptation, we can get back up. Even if we fall one hundred times, or even a thousand times or more, as long as we are walking in the light, our Father will forgive us. Another assurance is found just two verses further in verse nine of the same chapter: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We are also told in Romans 5:20, "Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more." We have comfort that God's far-reaching grace is more than sufficient to cover our sins.

I had a very enjoyable time with our youth on their outing. I thank Lee and Lynlee Toothman for their time to provide a wonderful atmosphere for our young folks. I also found while skating with my younger daughters, it is easier to pull someone down than it is to pull someone up.

For the elders,  
Tony Williams