

Siloam Missionary Homes

"providing housing to missionaries for a lifetime..."

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WINTER 2011



All I Want For Christmas Is *WHAT?*

Yesterday, as my son in law, Mike, and I were leaving the driveway, Preston, my grandson, came running to see where we were going. As I rolled down the window to talk to him, Preston looked up at us with this huge smile on his face. I told him to run down to the office and have his Nana (Joyce) take a picture of his smile with his two front teeth missing for this newsletter. He looked at me a little puzzled when I started singing *All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth* and then we all laughed. Something so simple and yet it created a memory. For this letter, I have encouraged our staff to write about what has gone on in their lives and the lives of their families this year.

I praise the Lord for so many things that He has done. Both of our children are healthy and serving the Lord. **Rachel**, our oldest, has a wonderful job and lives near us on a farm. After work, she spends many of her evenings with us. She has been such a help to us. Of course, we thank the Lord everyday that **Mike and Abbey** and our three grandchildren are on staff with us. Mike is my right hand man. He works so hard as director of the mission, planning projects and taking care of all the responsibilities of maintaining the Siloam Missionary Homes' campus. I also thank the Lord for **Milton and Betty Wilder** that minister as Missionary Pastoral Care. Along with meeting the spiritual needs of the missionaries, they work in the office, answer the phones, give tours and help any way they can. When Sandy, our bookkeeper retired, Betty was willing to step in to do the books. Some of you may not know this, but Milton and Betty raise their own salaries and are buying their own home next to the mission. I appreciate their dedication, their hard work and their love for the Lord. I also thank the Lord for **Henry Hagood**, our director of buildings and grounds. He and his wife, **Lin-**

da, live about 6 miles from Siloam. Keeping the property mowed with the help of **Ken Williams**, a local volunteer, and maintaining this campus and helping Mike is a huge responsibility. Henry's wife, although working a secular job, is always here too, helping us any time we need an extra hand. **Eric Foehr** is the volunteer coordinator for Siloam and has done an outstanding job putting together work groups. **Joan Johnson** is our accounts receivable volunteer, here every week to do the deposit, answer the phones and also helps anyway she can. **Pat Jordan** volunteers when she can, helping us get the Family Center ready for guests. **Sandy Copeland**, our newest volunteer, is helping Joyce in the office. I don't want to forget to thank our wonderful **Board of Directors** for all their insight.

Siloam Missionary homes has grown and it takes a lot of people to keep this ministry going. Today, our campus is over 33 acres. We have watched with amazement God's miracles in providing the needs. This past year we paid off the mortgage, purchased seven additional acres, completed phase one of the game room for the missionary children and are building missionary home #14. Wow what a year!

Joyce and I celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary this year and God continues to bless us with good health and the ability to travel and share our passion for the ministry. We also do two radio programs, "A Place Missionaries Call Home" and a new radio program, "Mission Magazine Radio" that keeps us very busy. This could not be possible without you, our prayer warriors and our partners in ministry, and our sponsors, Coble Trench Safety, Crabbe Services, Delancey's Restaurant, and our producers Robby Dillmore and Joey Roberson.



Preston Rich...
"All I want
for Christmas
is my two
front teeth!"

Every year we plan a big Christmas party here at Siloam for all the staff and missionary families. (Maybe this is something you would like to participate in. See designated gifts on last page of this letter.) I want all of them to know how much we appreciate their hard work and their dedication to serving the Lord. Christmas has always been a cherished memory for me and my family and we want *their* Christmas to be that way, too. When you get this letter, hopefully all of the families here will have their Christmas trees up. The property will be decorated and there will be excitement in the air. We will have presents for the children, provide a roller skating and pizza party, have a special dinner and gifts for our staff and missionary parents. Praise the Lord for this big family.

In closing I want to thank you, my dear friend. Words can not express my heart felt appreciation for your sacrificial giving, your prayers and most of all your friendship. We could not have provided homes for **97 people from 15 countries**, paid off the mortgage, or bought the property without you. I'm sure that Preston wants more than his two front teeth for Christmas. But, when I look at Preston's smiling face, with his two front teeth missing, I see all the missionary children here. Thank you, thank you for making this place possible and for helping us with Christmas for our staff and all these missionary families. As we gather with family and friends this Christmas, may we all reflect how the Lord has *blessed each of us to be a blessing to others*. Merry Christmas!

— Larry George, President

"THANKS" From The Missionaries

I REALLY THANK YOU! For everything you do, we are truly grateful.
We consider ourselves blessed to live here! — *Jill K.*

Thank you so much for this lovely place of rest. Our week here was truly restful and refreshing and we feel much more ready to return to ministry.
Our appreciation is boundless! — *Michael S.*

We want to thank you for your love and friendship. In this time here at Siloam, we have crossed some real hard waters, but by your love and God's amazing grace, we have come out of them. Thank you for all you do each day for the Lord.
We pray daily for you as we walk around the complex. — *Jan B.*

★ HE IS WORTHY ★

On June 2, 2005 I had been seeking the Lord's direction for my family and me. Some of you may know the story so I will spare you the details. Let's just say it was an extremely pressing year, physically, mentally, financially, and spiritually. Abbey, Macie, Preston, and I had just returned from N.Y. for a brief stay there studying and praying, honestly just seeking the Lord trying to figure out exactly what He wanted me to do with this life that He had wonderfully given to me. I mean, I have the best wife and at the time had two of the best kids - now three. As I said, the year had been hard but thankfully the Lord saw us through it. I heard someone say once, "If He'll never put on us more than we can handle, then He must think that I'm pretty strong."

After a lot of seeking, praying, weeping, and sleepless nights, on this particular morning I was reading in II Timothy and He led me to a verse that I had read over many times, 2:7, "Consider what I say, and the Lord will give thee understanding in all things." When I read that, I remember thinking, "Okay Lord, but that doesn't help me right now." But then I started to think of the context in which Paul was writing. Here is a man in prison awaiting his own execution, writing a letter of encouragement. So then as I back up to verse 3 it says, "Thou, therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." With that now in my head, I have to say that I am far from a soldier, but the Lord clearly says that there will be hard times in this life especially when it comes to serving Him just because it is a battle as Paul tells us again in Eph.6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against

spiritual wickedness in high places." You may be thinking what does this all have to do with me now? That was over six years ago.

Well, today I can say that just like He was telling me then, life is not always going smooth, or going exactly as "I" plan. However, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has given me the equipment to stand and withstand against the enemy. Though he may throw discouragement at me when we don't get the response that I was hoping for volunteers to finish the house, or the yard work becomes overwhelming, or the finances for the mission are in the red, or when it just seems like I can't finish anything that I start just because there is so much to do in the short time that I have, or whatever the case may be for that day. HE takes me back to that verse and says "Mike, its okay." "Fear not, therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows" (Matt.10:31). "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in the churches of the saints" (1 Cor.14:33). Through all of the fears - that is not of the Lord; all confusion - that is not of the Lord. The Lord reins on High. Praise the Lord! To answer the question about understanding - at the beginning of every day this is truly what matters. "For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles [Nations] that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth" (Acts 13:47). All of those other things seem so important that I find myself consumed in thought about them and most of the time rushing around frantically trying to make sure it all works. But, "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world" "HE IS THE LIFTER OF MY HEAD" "HE IS WORTHY OF MY PRAISE!"

— *Mike Rich, Director*

Extend the joy of Christmas to Siloam Missionary Homes in memory or in honor of someone special. Each person honored will receive a card with acknowledgement of your gift in their honor, as well as being listed in our next newsletter.

Amazing 2011 In The Rich Household

The Lord has done some amazing things in our family this past year! First, Mike & I celebrated our 10th anniversary and we have seen the Lord grow our marriage to new heights. I am so thankful for the leader He gave me and our family! It's amazing to live in a marriage of respect, love, security and being completely taken care of.

Our oldest, Macie has grown up a lot this year which is both exciting and sad. She's no longer the little girl, but our little 'tween'. We have enjoyed watching her cheer, excel in school and meet new friends at Siloam. God is truly teaching her many things and her eyes are very open to His plans. Our middle child, Preston, was baptized this year! We are so proud of him. He just finished his first year of football, which we loved to sit by the sidelines and cheer him on! He is our sacrificial and thoughtful one who is always trying to make everyone comfortable and happy. Our youngest, David, accepted the Lord, and he got glasses and he can SEE now! He is now reading, which was quite a feat for me in our homeschooling! He truly is our laughter and we love hearing his stories!

2011 was a wonderful year and we look forward to 2012 to see what He will do through us!

— *Abbey Rich, Family Center Hostess*

FROM THE WILDER FAMILY

Betty and I are responsible for Missionary Pastoral Care at Siloam Missionary Homes and are part of the SMH missionary "family." However, we'll share with you a little about our other family that resulted from our marriage back in 1962.

Melina is our older daughter, who is married to Randy Rabon, an ordained minister of the Gospel. Randy and Melina are both graduates of Columbia International University in Columbia, South Carolina. After serving churches in several states, they recently moved back to Columbia, where Melina is Office Manager in the Dean's Office of the Seminary and School of Ministry at Columbia International University. Randy is currently seeking employment, so you can pray with him about that need. Their sons, Johnathan, 13 and Nathaniel, 10, attend Ben Lippen School on the campus of CIU.

Our younger daughter, Paula, is a single mom of three girls and one boy, who lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. She is a graduate of Guilford College in Greensboro, is an English Instructor at

Guilford Technical Community College in Jamestown, North Carolina and is a writer. She plans to begin earning her Master's degree soon. Her oldest, Nicole, is a sophomore at Greensboro College and Katie is a freshman at Western Carolina University. Kristina and Michael attend Page High School in Greensboro.

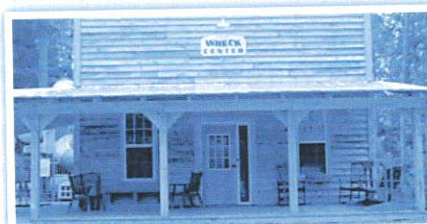
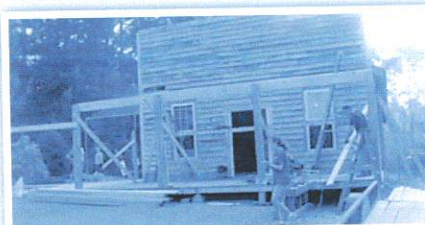
Christmas time is, of course, a time for families to get together. Our family now gathers at our home in Snow Camp, NC, where we have lived for only three years, not time enough to establish "traditions" connected with the location as in the previous 37 years when we lived in the same home. You develop memories associated with the place you enjoy Christmas. As we gathered for Christmas dinner in 2007, sitting around the table in the parsonage where we lived for so many years, one of the girls said, "You know, this is the last Christmas we'll spend here in this house." Betty said, "We're not even going to go there!" The memories brought a little sadness to the occasion.

Betty and I share the same story about

the houses we called home when we were growing up and where we celebrated Christmas in our young years — both houses have since burned. We can't go back to those places where we made Christmas memories, but thankfully, we can enjoy those good memories in our hearts and minds anywhere. For example, you no doubt have memories of the many family members with whom you've spent Christmas, the toys you received as a child. You remember the best Christmas present you ever received. So do we — it was a baby girl named Paula, born to us on December 24!

We also remember placing the star on top of our Christmas tree at our first Christmas together, in our little 8' x 42' trailer. This year will be the 49th year we will place that same star, a little battered, at its honored place to decorate our tree.

And we don't have to live somewhere a long time to be able to enjoy in our heart and mind the greatest memory of all — the reason for our celebration — Jesus Christ our Savior and His entrance into the world and into our life.



From top left (clockwise): Glen Hope Baptist spent a Saturday in June putting stucco on the new missionary house; Grove Park Baptist Church youth putting up interior walls on Wreck Center; Maple Grove Church stocking shelves of Dad's Country Store; "I ate a cricket at Siloam Missionary Homes" ... Mebane Presbyterian Church youth; Mebane Presbyterian Church youth working on Wreck Center; Summer Work Project — our Wreck Center (missionary kid's game room) — completed; Missionary family enjoying the Wreck Center during Family Fun Night; The SMH Board of Directors looks on while we burn the mortgage — a long prayed for miracle; The DeYoung family and Board of Directors dedicate "Camp Glory Farm" in loving memory of Tom DeYoung.

Donations made in Honor and Memory of...

In Honor of -

Rodney & Texie Wilson
50th wedding anniversary
By - Al & Carol Millen and
Roger & Donree Howerton

In Memory of - Irvin Oliver Byrd
By - Ilene Byrd

In Honor of - Jason, April, Noah
and Sarah Richardson
By - Rodney & Texie Wilson

In memory of - Tom DeYoung
By - John & Debra Collier,
Glenn & Ruth Davis,
Lester & Carol George,
William & Margaret Kollar,
Scott & Mari Smith,
James & Martha Tanis,
Bob & Barbara Vos, Kathy Wykes,
Helen & Michael Wykes

From Betty's Kitchen

We all like easy, quick and good recipes at Christmas time. Last year a friend gave me this recipe and I shared it with several of the missionary ladies here at Siloam. Our family and friends all enjoyed this quick but good fudge. Hope you enjoy also. — *Betty Wilder*

Easy Microwave Chocolate Fudge

- 1 lb. of confectioner's sugar
- ½ cup cocoa powder
- ¼ cup evaporated milk
- 1-1/2 cup stick butter
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- Nuts (optional)



Sift the sugar and cocoa together. Add milk and butter. Microwave for 2 minutes on high or until the butter is melted and the mixture is bubbling. Add vanilla and nuts and stir. Pour into a pan and refrigerate. (Note: You may have to adjust the time based on how your microwave cooks.)

Siloam Missionary Homes is now able to receive your donation through an "Electronic Funds Transfer." This makes your monthly giving easier. Ask us how!

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COFFEE CLUB MEMBERS

Christmas Around the World



As I sit here, thinking about Christmas, my mind wanders to places that take me far and near. Of course, I don't remember my first Christmas, which would have been spent in Brazil, South America, where I was born. My dad and mom were missionaries and he was upriver in an Indian village, not able to come into the town where I was born because the river was too low to travel.

From the age of one until I was ten, I was in California with my parents, who had taken an extended furlough to care for their aging mothers. My most memorable Christmas during those years was when I was about five years old, when under the tree I found a doll dressed in a wedding dress, almost as tall as I was. She was beautiful! At ten years old, my family and I had traveled from California to Kentucky to celebrate Christmas with my second oldest sister, Gloria, as we made our way to Miami to return to Brazil as missionaries.

While living in Brazil, my sister and brother and I attended a boarding school, situated on the banks of the Amazon River. This was located about 1,000 miles from where my parents were serving. From 5th grade, until I graduated as a senior, we were unable to travel to Guajara Mirim for Christmas, but on a couple of occasions, my mom and dad were able to come and be with us for the holidays. One of those times, they were able to stay for about a month in one of the staff houses and we did not have to stay in the dorm for Christmas that year. That was very special! I don't remember the presents, but I remember my parents sacrificing the cost of travel to be with us.

Since leaving Brazil as an 18 year old, I have married, had two beautiful daughters and now a wonderful son-in-law and three precious grandchildren. So, Christmas has changed a lot! From the Amazon jungle, to a cooler climate in North Carolina. Now, our Christmas morning tradition includes home made cinnamon rolls, juice and coffee as we open our gifts.

So, I guess as I look back over my 50 + years (you'll have to guess exactly how many ☺), I can see that I have so many things to be grateful for – a Godly heritage from my parents; for my family who has filled my life and heart with love; and for a Savior who came to earth so that I might know Him.

I pray for each of you who read this newsletter, that you will be filled with the love of Christ and of those who gather with you around the Christmas tree. Take time to reflect on all that God has given you and thank Him. I am grateful for the path that my life has taken *"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord; plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

Merry Christmas! *Joyce George*

MY LOVE GIFT: I would like to join the Coffee Club with a monthly pledge of
☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ (Please send my Coffee Club cup.)

One Time Gift \$ _____

Please designate my one time gift for:

DONATION FOR (check appropriate box):

- ☐ Family Center ☐ General Fund ☐ (specify project) _____
☐ Larry & Joyce George salary ☐ Mike & Abbey Rich salary
☐ Milton & Betty Wilder support ☐ One of the 109 Team
☐ Christmas or where most needed

Please make checks payable to **Siloam Missionary Homes**

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All gifts are tax deductible and receipts will be mailed at year's end, unless otherwise requested.

