

December 2016

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

Merry Christmas! The words seem to shout "BE JOYFUL," "LET'S CELEBRATE!" To me, Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. Some may look at the place where Jesus was born in negative terms. But to me it was a warm, quite and cozy place - like the home I grew up in. The wind and snow that would whirl across the open field in front of our house was a beautiful sight to see and better yet, inside the George house we were warm and happy. Mom would use her artistic abilities to draw large pictures of Christmas to put on our front window and then finish trimming the edge of the picture with large colored lights. The Christmas tree *had* to touch the ceiling! Christmas is celebrating the birth of Jesus, a time to reflect on the love of our Savior. That is why we spend so much time and effort to decorate the Siloam's campus. We have spent literally weeks decorating and from our point of view, Siloam Missionary Homes is the most beautiful place on earth. In the evenings, I watch as the missionaries and their children walk around and look at the lights. I also see a parallel to this in the life of missionary families having a place to call home.

Brent and Selena have 9 children and have spent the last 3 years on the road raising funds to start an orphanage in South Africa. It's not that unusual to spend up to four years raising funds, but what is unusual was that they lived in a pull-behind travel trailer for 3 years. With 9 children ages baby to 19, plus home schooling, life can at times be very challenging. This year, thanks to so many of you, they live at Siloam Missionary Homes in the Rice House, a 2,700 square foot home with 3 bathrooms and four bedrooms. And yes, their house is the one that is covered with Christmas lights. Selena said when her children first walked into the house they ran to different areas, excited about the size of the house and all that it had to offer. It's memories of my childhood celebrating Christmas that I try to pass on to the missionary families. Life is busy and difficult at times, but with the renewed spirit of Christmas, we can celebrate being together.

As we begin celebrating Christmas, I do so with a thankful heart. Rachel, our oldest daughter, has done an outstanding job coordinating and planning all the decorations for our annual 'Catch the Spirit of Christmas' event. Mike and Abbey and our three grandchildren are doing well in Hampstead and we will join them to celebrate Christmas in their new house this year. My Mom and Grover (my stepdad) will be celebrating Christmas as newlyweds.

We have been so blessed with a great staff that keeps Siloam moving ahead, a good Board of Directors, and generous volunteers. I praise the Lord for the 30 families from 24 countries that called Siloam Missionary Homes "home" in 2016! We also look forward to ground breaking early next year on the 25th Anniversary House.

Have a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year**. Thank you for your prayers and financial support for my family, staff, and Siloam Missionary Homes.

Joyce George

Milton Wilder
Betty Wilder

Larry George
Harry Hagood

As we close out 2016, enclosed is our gift to help Siloam Missionary Homes continue to provide missionaries "a place to call home."

Name _____ Amount: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____