

Siloam Missionary Homes

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

P.O. BOX 705 • SNOW CAMP, NC 27349 • (336) 376-8200 • E-MAIL: joyce@siloamhomes.org

www.siloamhomes.org

DECEMBER 2017

MERRY CHRISTMAS Bedford Falls



The Classic 1946 movie "It's A Wonderful Life" is one of my favorite Christmas movies and has become a part of our Christmas tradition over the years. When my grandson, David, comes to Papa's house and we want to watch a movie, he will always call out "It's A Wonderful Life, Papa!" Even if it's July. I put the DVD in the player and we sit on the couch and watch the movie. The story is about George Bailey and his family and the loss of a bank deposit that he sees as a scandal to bring down the bank, his family name and his way of life. This all takes place in a small midwestern town called Bedford Falls around the Christmas season. It's about the fact that he wanted to travel and see the world, but the stress of taking care of his father's bank became his way of life.

In a desperate state of despair, George Bailey contemplated jumping off a bridge when an angel appeared in the water crying for help to show George he was needed. George makes a wish afterwards that he had never been born. And so the angel grants his wish. Through a series of events, he then realizes how much he enjoyed life and that he missed his family and friends and wanted to get it all back again.

In writing to you today, I thank the Lord for giving our family the unique privilege of being part of Siloam Missionary Homes. As we close a year of celebrating Siloam's 25th Anniversary, my memory races back to many past Christmases here at Siloam. Because of our faithful partners, and the Lord's help, over

275 missionary families from over 93 different countries have called Siloam Missionary Homes their home, especially at Christmas. I could think of no better place to be at Christmas than this wonderful little missionary village in Snow Camp, North Carolina. Walking around our little town I can see the Merry Christmas sign that once was strung across the M66 highway many years ago in my hometown of Mendon, Michigan now hanging here. That is where the thoughts and idea for a beautiful Christmas were planted in my heart. It was a community of people that not only lived life together, they worshiped together, looked out for each other and loved each other.

I cherish one Christmas when Joyce and I were invited to dinner at one of the missionary families' homes. We sat in the living room with the lights low, looking at their Christmas tree with all the beautiful wrapped presents under it. Their little children were picking up and shaking presents and trying to guess what was inside. The wife turned to us and with tear-filled eyes quietly said, *"This is so wonderful. Last year we sat around a bare tree in our home overseas with very little to give our children for Christmas and look at this. All these presents. Thank the people for giving this for our family!"* I wish I could have had all of you with me that day to witness the joys of Christmas.

As Joyce and I walked home that night, hand in hand, there was a sense of excitement, of great joy and thankfulness. The air was crisp, the sky bright with thousands of stars, and we basked in the glow of the evening. Getting

into bed, we thanked the Lord for allowing us to witness God's faithfulness. When we see all the glitter, twinkle of lights, missionary children playing and the falling of snow we are reminded of those innocent years as children when we celebrated many Christmases together. None of this can distract us, however, from the Birth of Our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. If it were not for the willingness of God to send his only Son, Christmas would not have been possible. The Lord Jesus gives us hope, a love for Him and a love to share.

This year I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider including Siloam Missionary Homes in your Christmas offering. This offering not only helps us to maintain our 33 acre campus and 13 houses, but also helps us provide for some of the needs of missionaries. Most of all, it carries us into the New Year.

I praise the Lord for the work being done on the 25th Anniversary House and we are doing everything we can to try to complete this debt free for under \$150,000. Please help us pray about this.

Thank you, my dear friends, for your financial and prayer support for my family and for all of us here at Siloam Missionary Homes.

I greatly appreciate our staff and the many volunteers for everything they do to help make possible our ministry to missionaries.

*Merry Christmas
from all of us.*



Intern Program Update

I love this time of year; the crunch of leaves under my feet, the smell of a woodstove in the air, and most of all the cooler temperatures. God has been doing great things on the farm as well as within the community of Siloam. The Lord has brought us three amazing interns to help us in the daily tasks. Sarah, Kendric, and Brandon. Each one has grown so much throughout their stay here and has learned a variety of tasks. From gardening to office work, each individual has uniquely been able to play a huge part. Their flexibility has been such an enormous blessing to the staff.

Our interns are required to raise their own support in order to live here at Siloam. We provide housing and utilities, as well as Bible study materials, and of course the new experiences; however, they individually raise their own support to provide for things such as: gas, food, etc. **If you would like to help to support an intern personally, please email me at: rachel@siloamhomes.org. or give us a call (336) 376-8200.**

I am so thankful that God has provided this help in allowing Camp Glory Farm and Siloam Missionary Homes to reach even more for His kingdom. For more information on how you or someone you know could be a part of the internship program, please go our website: www.campgloryfarm.org.

— All for God's glory, Rachel George

Celebrating 25 Years

This year signaled twenty-five years of ministry at Siloam Missionary Homes. During those years several missionary families have found peace, rest, even a sense of "normal" because of the prayers, gifts, and faithful work of the staff members and countless volunteers and supporters. For my family this story is all part of a history to which we are just now being introduced. A history filled with the blood, sweat, tears, and prayers of His servants and the answers of an ever-faithful, ever-present God.

During the 25th Anniversary Pig Pic'n Celebration in September, I had the opportunity to talk with supporters who have been partnering with Siloam from the very beginning and I was humbled when I considered the sacrifices they have made, and are still making today. One of our board members and his family left Friday evening to drive all night, helped with the event on Saturday, then drove back on Sunday. *How many organizations of any kind can say their board members show that kind of dedication?* When asked why they are so passionate about Siloam, both the husband and wife commented that **it was not just about what Siloam does for the missionaries, but also what it does for those who come to help – this place**

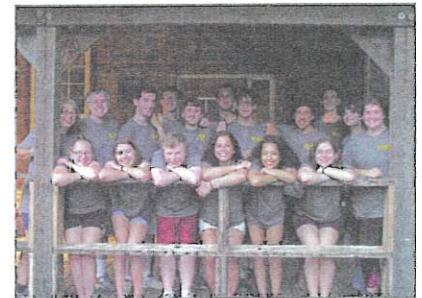
changes lives! What a great thing to hear as our family makes plans to transition to Siloam this next year.

Later during the celebration I was taking photos of the supporters as they enjoyed the gospel concert and I began to think about the future. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a small part of what God is doing at Siloam. He is opening so many doors of opportunity and we continue to rely on Him to guide us and direct us in the path we should go. The first twenty-five years have proven, without a doubt, that nothing is accomplished without diligently seeking and trusting in God, and the future will be no different. We will continue to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We will continue to lift up prayers to the God of all creation. We will continue to trust in Him for the provision of all our needs. And we will continue to rely on the gifts and labor of our faithful partners. Why is it important that we remain steadfast in this work? Because by the grace of God this place will continue changing lives for the next twenty-five years (and beyond). To God be the glory, great things He has done.

— Michael Gay, Vice Chairman

Summer Work Teams Accomplished a LOT

We had a great summer with the work teams who came and volunteered their time, their labor, and their finances to help with projects all over Siloam's campus. Over 100 volunteers came from Osceola Baptist Church, Wakeshma Community Church, Bethel Baptist Church, Maple Grove Church and Mebane Presbyterian Church. They worked in the Chapel Prayer Rock Garden, replaced the barn roof, landscaped our camp sites, replaced decks on three of our homes, worked on the playground, cleaned up the Wreck Center and Exercise Room equipment...the list goes on and on! Thank you, everyone!



25th Anniversary House Update

"It is God's will not only to hear our prayers, but to give us the best and the richest answer which He, the Almighty and Omniscient God, can devise. He will send us the answer when it will benefit us and His cause the most." O. Hallesby

In reading Psalms 69, Dr. Adrian Rogers said, *"If you were sinking in quicksand, the devil would pat you on the head."* Over the past several months we prayed for direction from the Lord to move forward with building the 25th Anniversary House. The foundation and floor had been poured. The rough-in floor plumbing was completed. The well and the septic were ready. Looking at the available funds, we prayed and asked God to help stretch the funds and be with us. After much prayer and conferring with our Board of

Directors, we came to realize that God wanted us to step forward and in faith use the funds we had and to keep going as long as the funds last. We appreciated so much New Covenant Builders' involvement in drawing the blue prints and getting the project off the ground to the point that we can do the project with mostly volunteer labor.

It's been 15 years since I have been deeply involved in a building project, so I felt very overwhelmed. Henry Hagood, our Maintenance Director, and Gary Hodges helped me get things ready for the next step. I called Drew Vaughn at Universal Forrest Products and sat down with him and Cory Moyer to take the floor plan and pre-manufacture all the exterior and interior walls. Gina and Wayne, in contract

sales at Lowe's, contractor Steve Wooten, Mike Rich and Doug Forbis helped figure roof decking, shingles, windows and doors. Then I called Neil Applegate from Wakeshma Community Church in Athens, Michigan to see if he could bring a work team. With all this coming together, I also asked Mike Rich if he could come help us coordinate framing in of the shell and roof. We did all this so we could have it all under roof and protected by winter.

We set a time line, not knowing if anyone could come, if the weather would be clear and if manufacturing could get the walls built in time. The date to begin was planned for Monday, October 16, 2017. We were taking the first step... *"Lord we need you!"*

STEP 1

- **October 15th** - Mike Rich arrived to help get everything ready to begin work on Monday.
- **October 16th** - it rained until 11 that morning. We picked up the bathtub from Carolina Supply (Thank you Doug Shoffner and Chris Moise at Carolina Supply who donated the tub. Praise the Lord!) The work team from Michigan arrived that evening about 5:00 PM.
- **October 17th** - The walls arrived at 8:30 am. They began to put the walls up in sunny skies and beautiful weather.
- **October 18th** - Mike and I went to see Kevin Langley with a shopping list of exterior doors that we needed. Kevin has a ministry to help ministries like ours. We were able to get all of the exterior doors and one special window we needed at no cost and headed back to the project. Do I hear an AMEN? (No Cost!! PTL)

- **October 19th** - The work team finished all the exterior and interior walls and wrapped the house with weather wrap. They also worked on a couple of window and door openings.
- **October 20th** - The work team headed back to Michigan with a job well done.

This week has been a true hand of God at work. All the exterior and interior walls are up and ready for the next step. All of the roof decking paper and shingles are here (Paid For PTL!)

A Special Praise - to date everything is paid for as we move on to Step 2.

STEP 2

- **October 24th** - the windows arrive (Paid for PTL)
- **October 27th** - The roof trusses arrive (Paid For PTL)
- **October 30th** - 8:00 am we will put up trusses and roof decking and paper. (paid for PTL)



Project Income & Expenses To Date (10/24/17):

- Income: \$86,308.49
- Expenses to date: \$73,912.97
- Left to begin Step 3: \$12,395.52

Needed to Complete:

With volunteer labor, Larry hopes to finish the house with an additional approximately \$75,000 - \$100,000

Honorarium and Memorials

Given in memory of mother,
Sylvia Loy by Joe Loy

Given in honor of
Marshall & Peggy Twiddy
50th wedding anniversary

Given in memory of
Tom Kissinger by Janet Johns

RECIPE *Tiger Butter*

*Betty Wilder,
Missionary Pastoral Care*



Each year at Christmas, we all like to have simple but great recipes to share with family and friends. Last year I made this simple candy and because Milton loves peanut butter and chocolate, this hit the spot with him. Hope you enjoy and have a very Merry Christmas as you celebrate our Savior's birth.

- 24 ounces white almond bark
- ½ cup crunchy or creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup semi sweet chocolate chips
(milk chocolate will work fine too)

Line a rimmed baking sheet with waxed paper. Set aside. In a large mixing bowl, break up almond bark as best you can. Place bowl in microwave for about one minute. Stir well. Microwave at 30-second intervals, stirring after each, until bark is melted and smooth. Stir in peanut butter until melted and well blended. Spread out onto waxed paper lined baking pan. Place chocolate chips in a small bowl and microwave at 30-second intervals, stirring after each, until smooth and melted. Drop dollops of chocolate onto peanut butter mixture in pan. Swirl with a knife. Place baking sheet in refrigerator until hardened or allow to harden completely at room temperature. Break into pieces and store in airtight container.

From the Mailbox

I wanted to say thank you for the tremendous blessing this place is to us. This past weekend, our daughter Brianna told me she needed some professional clothes for a field work class at Liberty University. I found some clothes at the Treasure Chest and she likes them a lot. Also, we picked up some chocolate eclairs from Dad's Country Store and enjoyed them as a special treat! Thank you so much to everyone who makes this possible for us to have these generous gifts.

— Ben & Catherine, missionaries in Asia

Dear Coffee Club Members,



I wrote this not long ago, and thought you might like to read "The Desire of My Heart." I pray it will bless you.

I always had a desire in my heart to go back to Brazil, the country where I was born and spent 9 of my first 18 years growing up. I have continued to love that place, the people, the flag...its part of who I am. It is part of the "desire of my heart."

In the first 16 years of our marriage, I longed to be back there, in ministry. My heart was broken and I got to the point that I asked God to take that desire away. BUT GOD had a plan, a purpose for my life. Jer. 29:11, "for I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord..."

After Larry got saved, the Lord began to do a work in his heart that there was something for us to do. God was putting a desire in his heart. When he came home that Saturday morning and asked me about providing homes for missionaries, it was as if the light came on and I was excited! God's plan and purpose for me - the desire He had put in my heart was being fulfilled.

Over the past 25 years of ministry at Siloam, we have had many miracles, many victories, and many struggles. God brought Mike, Abbey and the kids to work along side us for 9 years. Then He brought Rachel to work with us 5-1/2 years ago. My cup was full - God had truly given me the desire of my heart.

The past three years have brought many changes into our lives. Larry was diagnosed with Parkinson's. Mike, Abbey and my grandchildren moved....And I struggled, asking God why and what was His purpose? Many tears, many questions...why?

A couple of months ago, we visited a church in Greensboro. A lady stood up and talked about a ministry their church is providing - ESL classes (English as a Second Language). As we left that day, I told Larry that I would like to get involved in ESL. He looked at me as if I had grown a second head. Not knowing what I could do about it, I didn't pursue it. But then the Lord began to bring non English speakers to Siloam. Guess who? Brazilians!

So, now I am exploring how I can get involved in ESL, especially to help the missionaries that God brings to us that need English. God gave me the desire of my heart, when I needed Him to act on my behalf. He IS keeping His promise to fulfill His purpose in my life. He is bringing my "children" to me...my Brazilian children.

Thank you, each of you, who help us make this ministry possible. God has blessed us abundantly through you. May He be glorified in all we do.

"Your 'Coffeemate,'"

Joyce George, Office Manager and Co-founder • joyce@silomhomes.org

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

☐ Rachel George

☐ Larry & Joyce George

☐ Milton & Betty Wilder

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

All gifts are tax deductible and receipts will be mailed monthly and at year's end.

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