



Merry Christmas
and
A Blessed New Year!



Today, Mike and I were watching old videos of Christmas times past....when David was two years old and we spent Christmas in Iowa at Grandpa and Grandma's house. Oh how I wish that were still true today...but Mom is celebrating her Christmas in heaven as she has for the past 12 years. At her funeral everyone spoke of her amazing compassion and love for children. She was a gifted kindergarten teacher, children's Sunday School teacher, librarian, grandma and mother. Like the precious Savior that she loved, she was a woman of great compassion and selflessness. She spent the last days of her life helping me take care of Elizabeth when she was born. As I watched her in the video loving on David at the age of two I couldn't help but weep for the past 13 Christmas' we never got to share with her... and my children will have to wait until heaven to get to know their compassionate and selfless Grandma Val.

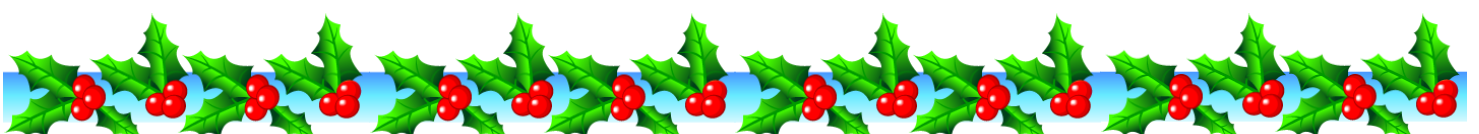
Many of you reading this have mothers that are no longer with you, I'd like to share with you this poem that blesses my heart so much.

My First Christmas in Heaven

I've had my first Christmas in heaven, the glorious, wonderful day.
I stood with the saints of the ages who found Christ, the Truth and the Way.
I sang with the heavenly choir, you know I love so to sing, oh, it's celestial music we brought to our Savior and King.
We sang the glad songs of redemption, how Jesus to Bethlehem came, and how they called his name Jesus that we all might be saved through His Name.
We sang once again with the angels the song they proclaimed that blest morn.
When shepherds heard the glad story that Jesus the Savior was born.
Oh dear ones, I wish you had been there. No Christmas on earth can compare with all the rapture and glory we witnessed in heaven so fair.
You know how I always loved Christmas, that wonderful holiday, with all my loved ones around me, the children so happy and gay.
Yet, now I see why I loved it and oh, what joy it will be when you and my loved ones are with me to share the rich glories I see.
So, dear ones on earth, here are my greetings "Look up til the day dawn appears and oh, what a Christmas awaits beyond our parting tears."

Your Loved One

(1990 Seed Sowers)





Elizabeth helping at MOPS
(Mothers of Pre-schoolers)

Elizabeth, at the age of 12, is also a lover of children and following after her Grandma Val with a heart full of compassion. She has accumulated several weekly opportunities to take care of babies. On Friday mornings she, David and I work at the church taking care of preschoolers for the MOPS ministry. You may remember that I started this ministry eight years ago with 10 moms attending, now there are 50 moms and 75 preschoolers! Elizabeth is also babysitting for a small group at church during their weekly evening home meetings. And just recently she has started babysitting for a 2 year old a couple afternoons a week all by herself! She has always wanted to have a baby brother or sister and now she has several!

Our little town of Waxhaw has a tradition of a Christmas Parade and every year JAARS enters a float with hopes of turning peoples hearts towards the real meaning of Christmas. This year David ran along side of the float handing out candy and information about JAARS and Elizabeth rode on the float dressed in a native Asian outfit and carrying a Bible. As you can see the sign on the float read "The Gift of God's Word to every nation, people and language." We want to say 'Thank You' to all who are a part of the Bible translation team, helping to give His word to those still waiting, through your prayers and giving.



Elizabeth & David at
Waxhaw Christmas Parade

Financial update

Although our support was at 100% this past year, for several months a few partners have had to reduce their support and now our support has dropped down to around 80%.

As we have said before, God is in control and we believe he will put it on the hearts of those he wants to be involved with us. We believe that Bible translation has eternal significance, which is why we have invested our lives in it. Would you pray and seek whether God would have you be a part of reaching those still waiting for His Word in their own language? We know that if you seek God's will, He will reveal what he wants you to do.

If you would like to be more involved, here are some suggestions:

- Refer us to your pastor or church near you. If you can give us their name and phone number, we will contact them and offer to visit them and talk about Bible translation.
- Become part of our financial and/or prayer team, write to us for more details or go online at our website www.wamplus.org. (Click the "Partner with Mike & Wendy" box on the right side). You can also send checks to Wycliffe Bible Translators at the address below on the right. Please include a separate note indicating "for the ministry of Mike and Wendy Buchanan."

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*Your Partners in
Bible Translation,
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