

CHRISTMAS 2017

That special time of the year is almost here, isn't it? Seems like the "Reason for the Season" can so easily be lost with Christmas decorations, holiday parties and the like. Seems like a person has to be intentional about celebrating that eventful day when Christ entered human history.

Even though Thanksgiving is now in the rear view mirror, we remain thankful for Jesus entering our broken world. God's plan, even though not understood by us sometimes, exceeds anything our finite mind can comprehend for His plan encompasses all of life—past, present, and future.

We sometimes question His plan, especially when tragedy strikes, as it's hard to accept when we don't understand. We're reminded of the Scripture which says that God's ways are not our ways. We just finished reading the book *Same Kind of Different as Me*, which we highly recommend as well as the movie version which we saw recently. God's plan unfolds in a surprising yet beautiful way in the true story that is told in its pages and on screen.

We continue to be involved in various ways here at Wycliffe's International Center, where there are plenty of opportunities for ministry. We are grateful for those of you who are partnering with us.

This Christmas we will be with many of our family. Oldest son, Sean, and oldest grandson, Westley, are both property inspectors and doing well. Westley just became engaged to Vanessa. Daughter-in-law, Sue, and other grandson, Danny, are both gainfully employed and enjoying their work. They live about 50 minutes north of us.

Son, Brett, is in regional sales for a metals production company and daughter-in-law, Tanya, teaches at a school for the highly gifted. Their son, Karsten, is in college on a golf scholarship. His brother, Harrison, is in high school and on the golf team. They live about 35 minutes south of us.

Daughter, Nina, and her husband, Shawn, still live in Lynden WA. He is a city firefighter and Nina is employed at a building security company. Son, Tony, lives in Siloam Springs AR. He heads up a maintenance crew at a Christian college there.

Cheryl's dad passed away in September in Kalamazoo MI. He was 96 years old.

Dick's mother, Caroline, is 95, and on hospice in a nursing home in OK. Although we and others shared the gospel message with her over the years she resisted until a few months ago when she invited Christ into her heart and accepted his forgiveness. God used a woman friend to bring it about. She said Caroline was lucid and shed tears so we have confidence the acceptance was real.

May each of you experience the Christ of Christmas in new and meaningful ways in 2018.

Dick & Cheryl

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