

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 3

# Have A MERRY Christmas

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## ✕ The Power of Hope ✕

*"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." Proverbs 13:12*

### LOOK WHO'S COMING TO TOWN



#### Good News

*An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest..."*  
 Luke 2:8-14

Emma and I (Doug) were driving home from school this week when we saw an unexpected sight that brought a smile to our faces... Santa coming to town... on his Harley!

It reminds me of the intense anticipation our children have had while waiting for Christmas morning... the kind of "hope" that keeps them awake all night on Christmas Eve, giddy with excitement for what the morning will bring. A favorite memory... the girls' unbridled joy when we opened the blinds in our family room to reveal a trampoline in the backyard a few years back.

We have all felt that intense anticipation, a deep longing and

heightened hope, that this would finally be the Christmas that Edline and Edithe would be with us. Our whole family would be together at last. After all, it's unthinkable that we could still not have the girls home when the adoption was finalized in court December 21... last year!

Our Christmas hopes have been crushed though... delays with the US Embassy mean we

will be separated for Christmas yet again. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick..." Yes, our hearts are sick. We don't understand. We continue to wait.

We long for the day we can finally share the good news... "Our girls are home!"



#### Unbridled Joy in Haiti!

The beginning of December saw a team of 15 from The James 1:27 Foundation join me on a trip to Haiti where they built a play ground and threw a Christmas Party for Open Door's Orphanage. A MUST SEE... visit Open Door Haiti on facebook to see the unbridled joy of 25 orphans playing on their

new play ground for the very first time! Each of the team members also brought wrapped presents to share with the children at the Christmas Party... eyes wide with wonder, squeals of delight, and genuine gratitude filled the room as each gift was opened. What an amazing celebration!



# Our Amazing Daughters!



**Marisa**, 17 and in 11th grade, is creative, hardworking and responsible. She is now driving and was blessed by a family friend with a 2002 Honda Civic. She is the Design Editor for yearbook and excels in the Inter Baccalaureate Studies program at school. She has begun looking at colleges, where she hopes to study graphic design.



**Jaclyn**, 15 and a Freshman, is ambitious, fearless and outgoing. She loves performing in her school's chorus and drama programs, and had the wonderful opportunity of singing with her school at several of Disney's Candlelight Christmas Services. Jaclyn also sings and performs at church.

**Emma**, 13 and in 7th grade, is kindhearted, devoted and creative. She excels in her classes in the Pre-IB Program and had a great season running Cross Country. Emma's favorite TV shows are Cake Boss and DC Cupcakes, and she has over 5000 "pins" on Pinterest, fueling her passion for baking and creating.



**Mary-Faith**, 11 and in 5th grade, is fun, dedicated and carefree. She is an avid reader, loves listening to music, and is an all-around techie. Mary-Faith is doing great in school and is a proud member of the Safety Patrol. She adores Gizmo, her two year old Shitzu, and has fun playing with him.



## 2013 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

### US/CANADA

Spoke at conferences for Dare2Share, Sonlife and YFC Canada... spoke at camps in FL, WI, PA

Trained youth leaders in Portland, Seattle, and at SYMC in Indianapolis

### HAITI

2 New Church Buildings  
Solar Power at Orphanage  
Medical Clinic Expansion  
New Library for School  
SOYM Training Center  
15 SOYM Graduates  
1000 Kids Educated & Fed

### AFRICA

Trained Youth Leaders with J-Life Africa in South Africa, Kenya, Burundi and Malawi.

### PHILIPPINES

Trained Church Leaders for New Tribes in Palawan



## A FULL HOUSE

We are so grateful for everything God has given us. We love life in Florida... the sun, the beach, the parks, the friends....

We love living near family... Doug's parents and sister and brother-in-law and both of Jennifer's brothers and their families all live within 25 minutes of us.

The girls' schedules are busy, which keeps us running between school, practices, performances and events, but we love it. And our favorite time of the day is dinner time when we can all be around the table together.

## A FULL PLATE

**Jennifer** still temps as a Dental Hygienist, but the majority of her time is spent at home keeping up with four busy girls. She leads a jr. high small group, leads



worship at church, began leading worship for a Women's Ministry this Fall and volunteers at school. On top of all that, she also handles the administration for our ministry. Life is busy, but Jennifer loves it!

*Serving Christ,  
Doug, Jen & the girls*

## THANK YOU!

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR FAMILY AND MINISTRY IN 2013. YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT, LOVE, PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT HAVE BEEN A BLESSING TO OUR FAMILY AND TO THOSE WE SERVE IN THE LOVE, POWER AND GRACE OF OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION TO HELP LAUNCH US INTO AN EXCITING NEW YEAR OF MINISTRY, ALL GIFTS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE AND CAN BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

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ONLINE GIVING IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT  
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