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Merry Christmas to our dear friends and family! This is a time of great joy as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Unfortunately, for some there are feelings of sadness, not joy, because of strife in relationships with family or friends, or the loss of someone near and dear to them. Let's take a moment to remember why we can say Merry Christmas, even when we, at times, may not feel so merry.

"But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." - Genesis 2:17. When the first man, Adam, took and ate fruit from the forbidden tree, sin and death entered our world. Because of Adam, all men and women born into this world became sinners (Romans 5:12) desperately needing a Savior.

The evidence of sin and death in our world is all around us. Because of sin, mankind is separated from God and under His eternal judgment. Divisions within families and between friends seem more acute than ever. Violence, political or otherwise, is on the rise. Yet many in this world do not want to hear and believe the Good News about Jesus.

People today are no different from the people of Jesus' day. Sin, hate, divisions and death are sad realities in a fallen world. Jesus chose to enter our fallen



world to reconcile sinful people to Himself and, yes, even to bring peace into our broken relationships with one another. Jesus chose to enter our fallen world to die on a cross to pay sin's penalty for each person who believes in Him. Jesus chose to enter our fallen world because He loves us and has compassion on us. It is in Jesus, as Christians, that we find real Joy and Hope, and why we can say "Merry Christmas."

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." - John 3:16

As of December 1, we officially became retired members of Ethnos360 Mission. Up until now, we have both continued serving EBI remotely. Todd will continue working remotely through the end of 2026 as he fully transitions his replacement into his new role at EBI. He will also continue with weekly meetings with the Administration Team and Business Office.



Todd just completed a couple of big tasks for EBI in early December; an analysis of staff recommended support levels for 2026 and updated budget projections through 2030 for our accrediting agency (TRACS). Yes, we have good news! Ethnos360 Bible Institute is now an accredited 2-year Bible college! After a ten-year process, EBI has attained candidate status and can issue an accredited degree.

We are thankful to be settled here for our first Christmas in Clarksville, Tennessee! Retirement, moving to a new state, and starting everything new has been an adjustment; however, the move from Michigan to Wisconsin five years ago helped us to have realistic expectations. Our neighbors are retired and very friendly. We see deer regularly. We have seen more Fall colors than we expected.

We live 15 minutes away from Sara, John and five of our grandkids, and one hour from Amy and Dave. We have enjoyed being present at football games

(Isaac), a karate tournament and lessons (Isaac, Jasper and Aria), to go on birthday “dates” with Aria and Margaret, to have Sara and Silas over for lunch after school drop-off, to have a harvest party with the Sharp family, to go to holiday band concerts (Aria and Isaac), and to go to Nashville to see Christmas lights with Amy and Dave.



Thanksgiving week in our new home was special! It was our “trial run,” and our home worked very well for the whole family to be together. ALL our kids and grandkids came together in our home – Danny, Anna, Nora, Helly (and their dog Tottie) drove in from Colorado.



We were all able to sit around one table for Thanksgiving dinner. We played cornhole, the kids climbed our one tree small enough to reach, they gathered sticks in the woods and rode their bikes and scooters in the cul-de-sac. We even got a great family photo – the last time we were all together was Amy and Dave’s wedding three years ago.

As good as all this is, and more than anything else, we are thankful for Jesus. Without Jesus, we would have no reason to celebrate. We hope and pray you will celebrate Him the most this Christmas.

Merry Christmas, with love,
Todd and Sue



Free Mini-Courses



Financial Partnership Explained



Support



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