

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Oh, the wonder of it all
!**

As we think of Christmas, it reminds us of the 1978 clear starry night in Israel, looking out over the hills of Bethlehem and thinking about what the Shepherds thought as they heard the Angels' announcement that our Savior was born in Bethlehem. The picture is so vivid in our minds, it gives us goose bumps today. Why did he come? To die that we might have eternal life. "For God so loved us He sent his only begotten son to save all who believe in Him". Not believe in our works, but in Jesus alone. John 3:16



Also, as we reflect over our lives, we think of the thousands of campers and staff that came to Scioto and heard this message. And now, the people we assist in Eastern Europe are hearing this same message. Praise God for His unchanging Word and love.

A little update on our family -

The Pearson's moved to Orlando Florida in September:

- Matt has taken the position of Executive Director of Camp Sparta in Sebring. They will move to the camp in Sebring in May.
- Wendy is busy helping remodel the dining hall, ordering food, planning menus, and cooking for retreats.
- Greg is finishing his Senior year at The Master's Academy, playing Basketball for the Eagles, and getting adjusted to new school and friends. On weekends they go down to Camp Sparta and help.
- Geoffrey is a freshman at The Master's Academy, involved in their art program and getting adjusted as well. He loves to cook, so will be a great help at Camp this summer in the Snack Shop and Kitchen.
- Both boys are now as tall or taller than Grampa.

The Edwards still serve at Scioto Hills:

- Dan and Kayla had their second baby, a little boy, Liam Elijah, born in October while we were in Slovakia. He joins his cute little sister Violet.
- Abby, 18, a freshman at Shawnee State University. She lives in camp housing with Jade and works part time at Scioto Hills. She just returned from a mission trip to Brazil and loved it.
- Cassie, 17, a junior at South Webster, loved her volleyball season, just finished her acting part in the school musical, "All Shook Up", and looking forward to Cabaret.
- Josiah, 12, is in fifth grade, loves school and growing by leaps and bounds. Having a brother join the family made him (*literally*) 'jumping for joy' happy - 4 sisters was enough for him. He loves soccer, baseball, and trapping with his dad.

- Emma , 10, is in fourth grade, loves school, and growing up much too quickly. She also loves soccer and right now playing Bidy Ball.
- Their whole family is busy helping at camp with retreats and rental groups.

Gary joined Medicare this year. Nancy will next year. Wow, those years flew by so fast.

Because He first loved us

Gary and Nancy