Merry Christmas 2024

'Tis the Season to be overwhelmed by the goodness of God. As we reflect upon 2024, we are struck by how much God has grown each of us this year and continues to shower us with his amazing undeserved grace. 2024 was a year of lots travel, trust, and lots of camping!

Katrina is in the ninth grade now and part of the inaugural class of her brand-new high school. It is the 50th high school to open in the Orange County School District. She is enjoying rooting her school on in all the sports while they set records and create new traditions for generations to come. She is also continuing her growth through the scouting program and has recently earned Life rank and became her troop's Senior Patrol Leader. (For those who don't speak scout, that means she is the top dog in leading the youth.) She is most excited about singing at Disney World with her choir this month. She is also actively involved in our youth group's leadership team and continues to try to align her life with what she is learning in God's Word.

Drew is in the seventh grade and finding a lot of joy in music. He is in his second year of playing the euphonium and this year he started playing the trombone in jazz band. He is found camping most months with his scout troop and has been stretched to try new things because of this program. He spends most of his free time enjoying his video games and texting his friends.

Ali is in fourth grade and loving life. She continues to sing with her school choir and recently was accepted to be an assistant stage manager for the upcoming school musical. She is also in scouting, both Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, she says Cub Scouts is her favorite because they camp; she is an outdoor loving girl. She spends many hours a day playing outdoors with her neighborhood friends.

Nate continues to lead the Wycliffe Community and Missionary Kid Care team and is doing his part to prepare to move off of the property, following the sale of it. He is in his 6th year of leading our church community group as we complete year four of studying the gospels. Yes, it can take over 4 years to study these when you slowly plod along and read every passage in all four gospels together with just 4-15 verses a week. We have learned a lot!

Val is mostly mom, wife, somedays a substitute teacher, and four times a year The Wycliffe Connection Coordinator. Loving on our Wycliffe families is a true delight and something she looks forward to at each program. She enjoys serving in the adult leadership roles in scouting for all three kids and growing in her knowledge to have a better youth-led program. She's also enjoyed her long-term sub jobs in two different fifth grade classes this year. Teaching is truly a joy!

This past summer our family enjoyed a huge cross-country road trip that took us through Arkansas, where we saw friends and family, then on to Colorado for more time with friends and family. We enjoyed a stop over with some more friends in Nebraska, and then on to lowa for a month of more friends and family. A cross country road trip was overdue and we enjoyed every minute! If we didn't catch you on this summer's road trip, hopefully we can catch you in the years to come!

Thank you for being on our ministry team and for the ways you encourage and love us! We appreciate you so much!!

We wish you a wonderful Christmas season! Nate, Val, Katrina, Drew, and Ali Buntina

