



<u>I'll Be Home For</u> Christmas

After traveling this great country of ours we look forward to heading to our home state of Maine. Maine is home not because of its beauty or the many other things it is known for but for the family and friends who we so dearly miss.

I have been pondering this journey our family has undertaken and come to this conclusion. The greatest cost we will personally face in fulfilling our calling is not the comforts of America or material things but time with the people who we love.

Life carries on as you are gone as it should but we will make every effort to keep you as close to our hearts as possible through writing to you. Thousands of miles may separate us physically but we are only an email, letter, or phone call away.

Please remember to pray for us. But most importantly remember to enjoy the friends and family who you have around you in this holiday season. In the word of Clarence the Angel in the movie "It's A Wonderful Life". "No Man Is A Failure Who Has Friends". Enjoy the treasures you have. I have learned our only real treasures in this world are the relationships we have and we treasure you. Merry Christmas.

-Rav

December 2003



LESOTHO CHRISTMAS

The Basotho people have not descendant from a Christian heritage and therefore do not celebrate Christmas as a common holiday. The Christian families do celebrate the birth of Christ and follow similar traditions to those of Britian.

The major differences would be the means of their celebration. To honor such a significant holiday as Christmas, a Christian family may kill the family chicken and split it up amongst 8 people. This is a treat as protein is rare in their diet.

The Sesotho Christmas greeting is "U ja Kresmese e monate!" which means "Eat a good Christmas!". Everyone is expected to have food and share it when they have visitors. It is a time of the year when the Basotho eat more than just their traditional meal of cabbage and papa (stiff corn porridge).





Christmas Wish

We pray that you and yours have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Let us not forget during this time of parties, shopping and gift giving the reason we celebrate this Christmas season. Our saviors birth.

We pray that God will cause his face to shine upon you and give you peace during the holidays and in the coming year. - Julie

Itinerant Update

The month of December will be spent with friends and family at home in Maine, USA. In order to prepare ourselves for the immersion back into that unique culture we have been practicing a few common phrases that we will share with you.

- <u>CAH</u>- Anything with 4 wheels other than a truck
- HARBUH- A place to find boats.
- YAD- The area outside to door leading to the Boondocks.
- <u>BOONDOCKS</u>- The area 50 ft. out from the YAD.
- SUMMAH- One or two days in late august.
- <u>AYUH</u>- Means YES but not always



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Praise & Prayer

Praire

- Our Van is still trucking down the road
- Our Kids have adjusted well to traveling
- We have been able to minister effectively with fruit of salvations and healing

Prayer

- Our needed support would come in
- Safety in travel
- More ministering opportunities and wisdom



One Day Soon I Will Be Santa

This Christmas season I sat and imagined what it must be like to be on the receiving end of the ministry of MAF. It must be nothing less than a child on Christmas morning. I will give you an example. While chatting with some of the pilots in MAF's hangar in California they gave me a stern warning, "Never Forget The Mail For The Missionaries" they said. "And If you Do, Believe Me It Will Be A One Time Accident".

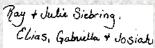
Now as we are a part of this ministry we realize how MAF is a lifeline to so many all over the world. In Lesotho alone, MAF is the only viable avenue for medical clinics to the mountain tribes of the Basotho. Wow, what a responsibility. That is why I say some day soon I will get to be Santa to these people flying in my 206 sleigh.



This is Our 300+ Horse Sleigh



This Our Chief Elf





This Is Our North Pole



Delivering Presents From Our Sleigh