

December 31, 2004

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings from "cold one day," "hot the next day," Florida! A few days ago, we were covering the plants and bushes to avoid the cold killing them at night and the last couple of days the temperatures were in the 50's at night and the 70's during the day. We may not have "seasons" as you have there up North, but we certainly have a variety of weather changes.

We missed having Mom and Dad (Hansen) being with us over Christmas. As you may know, Mom could not make the long trip because of her painful back situation, and the injection she had in November. However, they plan to travel to Texas in January, and visit us perhaps in the early Spring, Lord willing.

Sarah and her family were with us for our "traditional" Christmas dinner. It is so special having them living back here in Florida since late summer. We are all very thankful to be closer to them. (Only about seven miles away!)

Tim had a flight booked from Washington, DC, arriving in Orlando about 11:00 pm Christmas Eve. He had to fly back home Sunday afternoon, so our time together was very short. As you may know, he is the manager of a RadioShack store and this is a very busy time of the year for him, but we had a wonderful time together here in Florida!

Jeff continues to be very busy at work as an electrician. He did very well at school this past semester. Both Jeffrey and David have worked out their schedules for college this next semester with me the past couple of evenings. These are busy days!

David (McGhee) came home from work Wednesday, Dec. 22, quite sick—burning up with a fever, but with medicines and the prayers of many, he got better much quicker than the previous time he had the "flu." Several folks in his office have been sick.

Thank you for your very kind and generous gifts to us. We pray God's richest blessings on you this coming year.

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*Tsunami!* A word which now brings up troubling images of vast destruction and death, the result of a shift in the earth crust, 6 thousand feet below the ocean's surface, just off the coast of Indonesia. Many tens of thousands of people were instantly ushered into eternity, before the sun set on December 26th. Words like "tragic," "indescribable," and "horrendous," are heard over and over again, as news of these awful events is flashed across our television screens.

Sad to say, there is another "tragedy" taking place, each and every day, as tens of thousands of people slip into a Christless eternity. Many of these people have never heard the name of Jesus, even once. "Politically correctness" means nothing when it comes to eternal matters and man's relationship with God. The Word of God is very clear that there is only way to Heaven and that is through God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. *"Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* John 14:6 We just celebrated the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the World, the One of whom the angel spoke to startled shepherds, on the foothills near Bethlehem, *"I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."* What an urgent task we have, as His children, to take the Gospel Message to lost people, whether they are in our own neighborhood or are living in the "regions beyond."

We are very thankful to the Lord for His allowing us the privilege of being with NTM for so many years. We probably wouldn't have guessed 31 years ago that we would still be with New Tribes Mission here at the threshold of 2005. However, we did come into NTM intending to be career missionaries and we therefore stepped out in faith, believing that the Lord would provide His grace, strength and daily provision to us. We thank Him for His faithfulness to us over the years.

Thank you for your gifts of support this past year and for gift to us this month. Your gifts to us are greatly appreciated. They came at a real time of need. Thank you!

It is such a blessing to be involved with all of you in a ministry that has eternal consequences. We thank you for your partnership with us in taking the Gospel to the unsaved, including tribal people around the world, through New Tribes Mission. We appreciate each prayer that you have said to the Father, on our behalf, as well as for each of your gifts of support. All of us may not be on the "front-lines," on a foreign mission field, but our involvement in this ministry **is a vital and important "link" in the chain** of those who are involved in taking the Gospel Message to people who have never had one opportunity to hear the Name of Jesus.

So...from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your faithful prayers and gifts of support this past year. We trust that this letter finds you doing well.

Have a wonderful and joyful New Year.

Joyfully in Christ,

*John & Linda McGhee*