

Christmas 2006



We have included this picture of a set of hand puppets representing the Christmas Story to wish you a very blessed Christmas and continued blessings in 2007.

It was Christmas of 1975. Bryan was 8, Amy was 5, Helen was 2, and Gloria was under construction. This year we started a cool tradition of performing a hand puppet show of the Christmas Story. Those first puppets lasted until they were stolen from our rented storage area. Since then, Marlene has replaced the first set, but divided the puppets among our children, a king here, another there, the angel, Mary and Joseph in another, with the understanding that when we got together we would bring our various puppets and repeat the tradition. We got together just once. This year with some work and dedication, each of our children shall have their own set. These puppets are for Amy and Roger, though two of the kings and the drummer boy were on loan from other sets.

This summer Bryan, Elizabeth and their two children, Tiffany (11 years) and Grant (7 years) traveled down to Southern California for Elizabeth's nephew, Daniel's graduation. It was almost a year since we had seen them, and we were glad for the occasion. What a delight to sit down in our living room and hear a mini-concert as Tiffany played her Violin and Grant the piano. They even had several numbers they play with Grant accompanying Tiffany. We were really impressed!

Amy and Roger spent an extended furlough in the USA between April and August. Their mission field is not easy, and the rest

& recreation was beneficial. They divided their time with both their families and siblings. They spent a hunk of time here in our home, which we LOVED. We celebrated their children's birthdays, Alyssa's first on July 1 and Nathan's third on July 17. They returned to their work in Paata, Chuuk in August. The school they have been building is now in full swing. They have a new missionary couple, Matthew and Karisse Lee, working with them. We request your prayers and support for them in their special work.

Helen and Scott still live in nearby Redlands, about a 20-minute drive from Banning. Scott has been expanding his networking services into new areas, working with businesses to provide fast internet service and networking. Helen recently began teaching nutrition at a local community college. Gareth will be five next March 13. He is so much fun. Lately he has taken to "writing"



letters and cards and really loves getting picture postcards, which he is collecting. Brenden was one year old September 20. Watching him is a challenge, he is quick to be where he should not be. A typical boy. He seems to be more interested in physical action than talking. No wonder Helen keeps so trim and fit.

High points for Gloria this year have included teaching in June and July three two-week sessions of Summer art camp for the distinguished Redlands Art Association. She appreciates interacting with family, especially spending time with Gareth. She fondly remembers the special birthday celebrations including the two for Alyssa and Nathan when Amy and Roger were here. Another high point this year was when she obtained certification as an art teacher. This should open doors of employment in her favorite field.

Phil and Marlene have had a great year. Both have lost weight. A very high point for us was our trip to Ecuador. Working with the North Ecuadorian Mission Women's Ministry and the Quito SDA Hospital, we conducted a memorable Home Nutrition Instructor training. After nearly 60 years of training that included lectures, tests, food laboratory, and practice, 28 students graduated from the program.

Phil is especially fascinated with his new "weather station" he installed a few weeks ago. Weather data on air speed and direction, temperature, barometric pressure, rainfall, etcetera comes in from the station directly to a computerized indoor receiver. He has already arranged to transmit the data to the Internet at <http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=KCABANNI1>.

One exciting change in Marlene's work has been starting to provide prenatal classes to the pregnant women at the local jail. She goes out twice a week. At any given time there can be about 25 to 30 pregnant incarcerated women. This is the highest risk population we serve.

We are very thankful to God for good health, wonderful family and friends and special opportunities to serve. The world is in a terrible mess, but what we see happening are surely signs that Jesus will soon return as he promised. May each of us be ready and living close to Him in these difficult times.

All our love, Phil & Marlene