



The Steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. " Lamentations 3:23-24 (ESV)

Dear Friends,

Over these past few months we have been pressing into the promises of God's word and He is always faithful! We have seen His hand of protection, provision and comfort during difficult times. We witnessed the miracle of our son, Brandon, coming back to Jesus while in the emergency room — we were on the phone with our kids, Brandon and Sarah while Sarah led Brandon in a prayer to rededicate his life to the Lord. We have been blessed to be able to be vessels of God's acceptance and comfort to Brandon as he walked through brain surgery and cancer treatments. He has just begun a six week treatment of chemo and radiation, which will be followed by a year of chemotherapy.

We have seen the Lord's hand of direction and provision as Kathy agreed to take the lead role for The Finish Line. She will be responsible for this vital Wycliffe USA prayer project that highlights the prayer requests of first time New Testaments, first time Old Testaments and first time Complete Bible translation projects during their last three years — a time of intense spiritual resistance. We have been sharing with churches and individuals and welcomed many new partners and even saw long term partners increase their giving! We are beyond humbled and thankful for how the Lord has provided this year and are currently at 82% of our Wycliffe budget. A generous partner has promised to match dollar for dollar any new or increased gifts that come in by the end of the year! Join us in praying this brings us to 100% of the budget so that Kathy can begin her new role in 2023!

This year we launched our youngest son, Jonathan, off to Vanguard University. Both of Byron's parents graduated from Vanguard in 1960 when it was Southern California Christian College. He is adjusting well and we have been blessed to discover that it is a wonderful fit for him. Naomi is currently in her junior year at Westmont College and will be graduating early next year with plans to pursue her teaching credential. Byron and Celeste recently purchased their first home in Alaska! With three of our granddaughters in tow, they are officially a wilderness family. Sarah and Daniel moved their family of seven to Louisville Kentucky where Daniel will attend seminary. Daniel is pursuing his MDiv. with plans to become a professor in the future. Ben and Emma welcomed their second son, Ezra, our 10th grandchild, in May!

We pray that the Lord will bless you richly during the holidays and in the new year. May you also see His faithful hand of care in your lives.

Love and Prayers,

Byron and Kathy Pirola



Jonathan Naomi Benjamin Brandon Sarah Byron

December 2022



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Christmas Around the World*



"Merry Christmas" in Igbo, one of the many languages spoken in Nigeria, is *E keresimesi Oma!* Christmas in Nigeria is a time when families come together to celebrate and enjoy time together. Many people have Christmas parties that last all night long on Christmas Eve. When morning arrives, they go to church to worship God and thank him for all he's done.

"Merry Christmas" in Dutch is *Vrolijk Kerstfeest!* And unlike many countries around the world, Belgians typically celebrate the gift-giving part of Christmas on December 6, which is St. Nicholas Day. The night before St. Nicholas Day, kids put their shoes in front of the fireplace. Then in the night, St. Nicholas (or *Sinterklaas*) climbs down the chimney and delivers presents, leaving them in and around the kids' shoes.



"Merry Christmas" in Maori, one of the many languages spoken in New Zealand, is *Meri Kirihimete!* Since New Zealand is in the Southern Hemisphere, Christmas falls during their summer. People often like to barbecue for Christmas lunch and enjoy spending time outside or at the beach, soaking up all the sunshine.

"Merry Christmas" in Georgian looks like this: გილოცავთ შობა-ახალ წელს! The traditional Christmas tree is called a *chichilaki*, and it's made of dried wood that's shaved into long curly strips to form a small tree. It's then decorated with small fruits and sweets, and often has a wooden cross at the top.



*Taken from www.wycliffe.org/blog/posts/christmas-around-the-world

May the God of peace be a very real presence as you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ during the Christmas season and beyond! Praise be to God who came to dwell among us!

We pray that the Word who became flesh more than 2000 years ago will also become a real presence among the communities around the world who are still waiting for His Word.



Go To pirolomissions.org for more info, previous newsletters and pictures!

<https://vimeo.com/699885368>

Mail Contributions to:

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Checks should be made payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators with a separate note saying, "Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Byron and Kathy Pirolo. 229198"

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