

MOUTHPIECE

DECEMBER | 2024



Christmas Joy!

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" Imagine: the Lord of the universe left His throne in heaven to be born in a humble manger here on earth. Then, He willingly gave His life to save us from our sin! The hope Christ brings is certainly a cause for "great joy!"

Just before diving into our Christmas concert tour, we returned to south Florida to present pre-show music for Experience Bethlehem. This incredible free event is held under an 8,000 square-foot tent and includes over 60 volunteer actors, live animals, and more! Visitors embark on a 45-minute guided tour through Bethlehem as they experience the wonder of our Savior from the cradle, to the cross, and beyond! Afterward, they are given the opportunity to respond to a clear gospel presentation.

After singing for about 3.5 hours a night for 3 nights, our voices are weary, but our hearts are refreshed! There are still 3 nights more, but so far over 1,200 people have attended and several have accepted Christ as Savior! What a privilege to be part of this worship experience!

(To learn more about this exciting event, visit www.experiencebethlehem.com.)



Stories of Grace

We recently had the opportunity to serve alongside hundreds of volunteers and staff at Samaritan's Purse in Charlotte, NC, helping prepare shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. This year, their goal is to process 3 million boxes from that location alone!

Our son, Marciah, is on staff there and has shared many stories of the impact these small gifts have had on lives around the globe.

One girl received a Bible with a portion written in braille in her box. Only God could have known she was blind and would need to receive that particular box in order to "see" the plan of salvation for herself!

January Events

5 | Sunday Services
Citrus Springs, FL

23 - 28 | Private Event
Orlando, FL

21 | Concert
Sanford, FL

MM MERRILL
MINISTRIES



Life on the Road



When things don't go as planned, negative thoughts try to sneak in and steal our joy. You've probably experienced it too! While traveling I-85 in Charlotte, NC our RV electric steps engaged repeatedly. One lady honked and held up a scribbled note reading "STEP DOWN." When I got off the road, I found nothing awry, so I disconnected the wiring, unbolted the motor and zip-tied the steps up. That night I "fixed" it, but at 11 PM the steps clunked in and out 4 times! Exciting!

Then, when I tried to extend our 30' slide-out, one corner jammed. After much coercion, we heard a big bang, then a clicking sound: probably a broken gear tooth. In near-freezing GA weather, a friend brought a tractor and a hydraulic jack to "help" guide the slide in so we could travel to AL. It's been in 2 weeks (800+ miles) which makes living tight, but Tricia and I are still in love. Finding parts and a repairman is fun, but rather than focusing on difficulties, we're "rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer." (Rom. 12:12)

Side Notes

- As we finish up our Christmas concert series, we're also creating our new VBS program, Crosscut Creek! Writing curricula, designing graphics, creating snacks, crafts, and games, collecting costume and prop items, programming audio and lighting code, writing music, designing set pieces, and more is keeping us hopping! It's a massive project and we still have a lot to do! Please pray with us for wisdom and speed as we work toward completion!
- Thank you for joining us on this journey! We appreciate you!



MERRY
Christmas
FROM
THE MERRILL EVANGELISTIC TEAM

