



Is it time for Merry Christmas and carols already? Hard to believe this year is about to end and we are looking forward to the New Year. It was a busy November with lots of ministry work. Patti and I were in Prattville, AL for a Drive-In Ministries Board of Directors meeting. Some members could not attend because of travel restrictions. Our BOD member Dr Wilfred Johnson from Chimaltenango, Guatemala did call in and give us a brief update on all things Guatemalan. driveinministries.com



With so many cancellations for ministry events, we have had to look at different ways to continue to “share the good news”. One positive thing that this lockdown has done is have men and women that are incarcerated look for help and ask for bible studies. We have had requests from VA, IN, LA, TX and TN recently. We mailed them the “Crossroads Prison Ministries” bible study that was supplied by Jack and Scottie Barnes of Forgiven Ministry in NC. ForgivenMinistry.org They complete the first lesson and mail it back to Crossroads. Crossroads then sends the next lesson and each one is reviewed by a volunteer mentor. After the review, the mentor will mail the completed lesson back with an encouraging letter to the individual. What a great way to share God’s Word with the “least of these.”

About Crossroads

The Crossroads Prison Ministries mentorship program connects you with mentors who help you study the Bible. Mentors write to you, answer your questions, share stories from their own lives, help you see how God is speaking to you through His Word and encourage you to continue to grow in your faith. Through the mentorship program, Crossroads offers more than one dozen different correspondence Bible study courses, and each course contains up to fourteen lessons. The courses are designed to help you learn more about God and how to follow Him. If you are interested in joining the program, please fill out the attached application form and mail it to us today!

We had a great Thanksgiving with most of our family able to attend. Patti had been planning Thanksgiving at Orange Beach, AL near Gulf Shores for a year. As you can see from the photo, we had a good crowd even with those that could not be with us due to distance, work, and other family obligations. The weather was perfect and allowed swimming in November and night walks on the Moonlight beach.



We were at The Mission of Hope for two fathers training sessions last month. One session was “The Power of the Father’s Words” and the other “The Power of the Father’s Blessing” for around 40 men. God has continued to bless us with the chance monthly to work with this amazing organization. missionofhopeministries.net

As 2020 ends, we are continually thankful for each of you and all you have done and continue doing to support our work. Though the year brought many cancellations, adjustments and reduced opportunities for ministry, your faithful prayer and financial support never failed to inspire, encourage, and bless us. Many of you suffered hard times with illness and the loss of loved ones. We will continue praying if you let us know how we can pray for you and your family. We continue tithing 15% to those in need and will donate again this year to the Honduras “Casa de Pan” children’s feeding program for Christmas gifts. We plan to donate this year and next to the people of Honduras, millions that are suffering from two back to back major hurricanes this year. It will take many years for them to recover from the devastation there.



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas and many blessings for you and your families. Joe and Patti

www.JoeMcDonaldMinistry.org

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PO Box 91275 Mobile, AL. 36691

a Ministry of Evangelism, Encouragement and Education

Christmas 2020



2020 has been a year of firsts for the McDonalds, most of which the whole country has experienced. It was the first time in my lifetime the whole country “shut down,” a first for wearing masks, going one at a time to the hospital to visit, leaving rows empty at church. We, as a family, have been blessed through out this strange time. We never lacked for company, we had family dinners, we visited my mom every day, and we had plenty of toilet paper! God has certainly visited the McDonalds, and for that we are very thankful! My heart is with those who lost loved ones during this time or were very sick. I am praying for your peace in God for this crazy time in history.

Praising is the norm for my yearly Christmas letter, and as grim as things seem right now, I “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!” Jesus was born and lived and died for our sins, He is a wonderful reason to rejoice! We have experienced many blessings this year with our 6 children, their families and extended family!

Starting out with Andrea, our oldest, she continues to serve as a Police Officer of the court in Mobile. Right now, working at Strickland Youth Center; we are very proud of her service! Laura, oldest grand, and her husband Joey, along with Little Peyton (5), our great-grand, are currently looking for their “forever home.”

Jennifer and Ellis moved back to Alabama (finally) and live in Enterprise. We are proud of Ellis’s service as a Major in the Army, and Jennifer, as well, as a military spouse! Olivia (18) graduated HS in Arizona this May but is now an official Alabama driver. Mitchell (10) is in the 4th grade.

Nicole and David, still our closest neighbors, are such great help to us! Kathleen graduated from USA as a RAD Tech in May and she will be Mrs. Phillip Breland in about a week, and Ryan (19) is a sophomore at USA. Mallory (14) is in the 9th grade and will be her sister’s Maid of Honor.

Sarah and John moved back here from Missouri 2 years ago and we love having them so close. Jacelynn (18), is a Senior at CHCA and JJ (13) is in the 7th grade. They are quite the sports family! Brittany and her husband, Pablo, have an awesome painting business, Precision Painters, are doing well and we are so happy they chose to live in Mobile!

Joey and Veronica bought Joe’s family home, within walking distance, and we have enjoyed their visits. We thank Joey for his 21 years of service in the Navy, Veronica has been through many moves and we thank her too. Mia (8) and Joey (6) and our youngest grand, Naomi (2) keep us smiling with their delightful antics. (heartoffleshlit.com, Veronica’s journal, now available in print.)

Sean and Jennifer live in Phenix City, Alabama. Jennifer stays busy with her crafting jobs, Sean works for Plant Kinetics, Inc. Mikaela (12), Cole (11), and Alex (8) keep everything rockin’ at the McDonald house.

So, keeping up with the McDonalds, even during a pandemic, is doable, especially when you know we are trusting in our Savior, Jesus Christ, for everything in our lives. May God bless you and yours this Christmas season keep you safe, well and at peace as we live in the world, not of the world.



Don’t forget to visit my web site, ProfessionalMom.com and get the follow-up on Christmas at the McDonalds!

Love and Prayers, The McDonalds 2020

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