



Christmas Musings

Merry Christmas

January 2012

By 8:00 a.m. all were up with a grogginess from the late church service being overcome by the excitement of Christmas surprises. Santa had filled stockings to the delight of all. Unpacking the mysteries of St. Nick is always a pleasure with gifts of silliness to those of deep generosity. With breakfast and more packages to open the morning went by. Three had to leave early due to work responsibilities and others were busy preparing Christmas dinner; but some got to play and others enjoyed a lazy day.

Christmas celebration is both complex and simple. There are the complexities of finding the right gift and the simplicity of gift cards. Relationships with people who live far away can be complicated but there is a simple familial caring that is rock-solid. There is a complexity in organizing meals for many followed by the simplicity of eating as a family. Emotions of little ones can be complex with excitement and discontent, yet joyful play is simple. Sleeping space for the many family pilgrims can be complex, yet singing carols is simple. There is complexity in the theology of God becoming man but simplicity in reading the story of a babe born in a stable.

2011 in Review

2011 began in Raffles Hospital Singapore with a broken hip. The bone was fastened back together with three screws on January 1st – happy New Year. Recovery meant three months with two crutches and three more with one crutch. I got good at moving about and towards the end of January was able to go back to Indonesia. There I continued to help with the computer training program and enjoyed the care of friends.

In April my visa still hadn't worked out so I returned to the USA. Spring and summer in Wyoming was a joy. I got to take a week vacation with my folks in Palm Springs California. Then it was looking at how I might be able to return to Indonesia. I did get a job offer to return to Indonesia and teach English but first there was something that needed to be done.

In August it was back in surgery to remove one of my hip screws that was slightly protruding. The bone had grown back strong so recovery from this minor surgery was quick. The physical therapist gave me exercises that I should have done more of.

Then in September it was back to Medan Indonesia to teach English and live in the culture that has become my second home. Moving and starting something new is full of stress yet has delights. Moving in with other English teachers who I did not know was stressful and reuniting with friends a joy. The thousand details involved in a new city and a new job (although I did

teach in the same place in 2004) brings stress but exploring new places is also an adventure. I enjoyed teaching, swimming, shopping, eating, seeing movies, and sitting in Starbucks watching the world pass by. Of course my favorite aspect of living in Indonesia is the friendly people, seeing old acquaintances and making new ones.

Unfortunately, once again, getting the proper work visa has proven elusive, so on December 12th I returned to Wyoming. Fortunately, I was just in time for Christmas celebrations.

Looking Forward

January will hopefully be fantastically frigid. When I live in the tropics I sorely miss the cold. Skiing will be on the agenda. A little hibernating and eating should prove restful. And just so the sloth doesn't take over I must try engaging the annual exercise resolution.

February might bring the good news of an Indonesian work visa so I can return to the path I feel I need to be on. I am in waiting mode, waiting for my visa to come through, waiting to return to Indonesia. This will give me time for personal projects, things that I never seem to get around to but would like to do.

March and beyond will take me on a path yet unknown. The challenge is to trust in God. Seeking the path that is right and trusting that the spirit will guide.

12 Days

Now that the noise of Christmas has died down we are left with a simpler celebration of the heart. As I write this it is the 9th day of Christmas. May you enjoy the ladies dancing. And may you be blessed with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

MIKE BON

Happy Christmas and New Year!

