

Dec. 18, 2020



Christmas Memories

I hope you are all doing well, even in the current stay-at-home time. It is disappointing not to be able to meet together, especially during Christmas. But we all on the worship Committee felt it was better not to expose people to further threat. So, we will have make our own celebration times in a safe way.

Since we can't make new memories, it would be good to remember the past and what it meant to us. We can make plans for next Christmas and make it a great one.

Here are some memories from the Gasaway family.

Christmas Trees

For all my growing up years, we always put up our tree around the 16th of December, because that was my Dad's birthday, and it was a way of celebrating that day. We always had a real tree and have a set of ornaments that we have collected over the years. In the early days, we were one of the first families to put our tree up and now we are among the last ones. It stayed up until New Year's Day or the day after. By that time, it was pretty dry and losing its needles. But it was great fun to decorate and take down.

Christmas Eve

We have always opened our presents in our family on Christmas Eve. So, we never got a chance to believe in Santa Claus as we opened the presents before he got there. As our family grew, we included all the new in-laws, and children. We finally had to go to drawing names and now we try different things from year to year. But we all still get together on Christmas Eve for potluck dinner and snacks and fellowship.

Christmas Gifts

There have been memorable gifts over the years. Like the year that my father surprised my mother with new living room furniture. Mom had taken us kids to church a couple of days before Christmas to the church to practice for the Christmas Eve service. When we got home, there was all new furniture in the living room. I can't remember if Dad told us kids about it beforehand.

There was the Christmas I got a record player with a couple of records. I used it quite a lot. I always have great feelings when I hear the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy from The Nutcracker.

Christmas in Papua New Guinea

I had many celebrations of Christmas in Papua New Guinea where I was working with Wycliffe Bible Translators. My working partners and I had one Christmas in our village, and it was okay but we enjoyed the Christmas doings at Ukarumpa, our center. Because we had people from all over the world with us, we had several different traditions to choose from. We usually had a wonderful Christmas Eve service, with a play of some kind, lots of singing and lighting a candle while we sang Silent Night. I have sung in a choir, singing Handel's The Messiah or other cantatas. There was usually a Christmas morning service as well.

My good friend and neighbor, Paula, also had a tradition of opening presents on Christmas Eve, so we usually got together to fellowship and open our gifts. If the mail cooperated, I had my presents from home to open. Some years I had Christmas in January. I was usually invited somewhere for Christmas Day dinner so that was fun.

I hope you have enjoyed hearing about some of my memories of Christmas. I want to wish you all a wonderful Christmas season. Whether we are together or not, we can remember we are celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Look! The virgin will conceive a child!
She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel,
which means God is with us.*

Matthew 1:23

'Don't be afraid!' he (the angel) said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior – the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David.'

Luke 2:10-11

Much love in Jesus,

Eileen Gasaway

Retired
Ministers &
Missionaries
Offering
2020

Hope for Today Hope for Tomorrow



During the month of December, we will be raising money for the Retired Ministers & Missionaries offering.

RMMO provides financial support to retired ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses.

Be sure to mark any Mission offering envelopes mailed to the church office as going to RMMO next to the

“ATTN: Katie” notation. Thank you.

Yadira Taylor, Missions