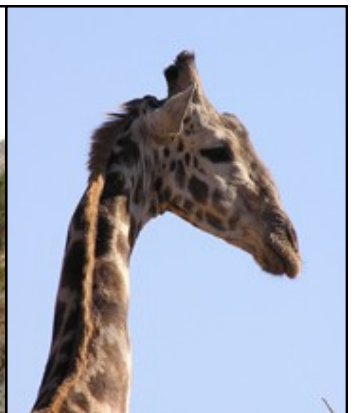


CHRISTMAS 2009

Merry Christmas!

From the Shutts



A census is taken...

Have you ever been part of a census? We have been through many, but had a very unusual one the other day.

A lady from the Bureau of Statistics came to our house and asked if she could take a census of our household. I agreed so she got out her form and started asking questions.

Lady: "How many males live here?"

Mike: "1"

Lady: "How many females live here?"

Mike: "1"

Lady: "Ok, how many cows do you have?"

Mike: "0" (the lady looked at me a bit odd)

Lady: "How many goats do you have?"

Mike: "0" (she looked up at me and said "Sure?")

Lady: "How many sheep?"

Mike: "0" (now she is starting to doubt me!)

Lady: "Alright, how many chickens?"

Mike: "0"

Lady: "You don't have any chickens?!" (she says in disbelief!)

Mike: "Really, I don't have any. I have 2 cats and 2 dogs."

Lady: "No, we only count animals!" (I thought to myself, cats and dogs are animals.)

Mike: "Sorry, that is all I have!"

So the lady packed up her forms, with all its zeros and walked away, shaking her head. I walked back in the house and told Sharol, "You will never guess what kind of survey I just did..."

Christmas 2009

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“The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11

Thank you for helping us share the joy of our Savior’s birth and the gift of Christ’s salvation with the Basotho people. You are an invaluable part of the ministry of MAF in Lesotho. Thank you for upholding us in prayer and blessing us with your financial support.

**Mike, Sharol
Joshua, Joel & Joanna**

Many have asked how to send us cards, letters, packages, and/or monetary gifts at Christmas. Cards and letters can be sent directly to us. Contact us before sending packages as they can be affected by Customs Regulations. Personal monetary gifts should be sent through the MAF Headquarters office. Please make sure they are clearly marked as personal gifts and they will be passed on to us. Unlike gifts toward our ministry support, these personal gifts are not tax-deductible.

There was another census taken over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. This one we know well, as it is part of the story of the birth of Christ:

“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:1-7

We celebrate the birth of Christ because He chose to come to this earth to pay the price for our sins. Because of Him, we do not fear death and know that when we die, we will be in heaven with God.

The final census will be taken when Jesus returns to call His people home. Will your name be on the list? If so, great! If not, it is not too late. Call upon the Lord Jesus during this Christmas season. Let Him bring you the true meaning of Christmas.

Mahlohonolo a Keresemese!
Merry Christmas



Update on our kids:

Joanna and Joel will be with us for Christmas this year. Joshua has started his new job in New York. He is planning to join us in Kenya, for Joanna’s high school graduation in July 2010.

Joel will be in his last semester at Amarillo College in the Spring. He will graduate in May 2010 with an Applied Arts degree in graphic design animation.

Joanna plans to go to university in Texas or Oklahoma and wants to do a degree in theater arts. She really enjoyed playing the part of Alice in “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers” at RVA this fall.