

Happy New Year! We hope your 2017 is off to a great start! January has proven to be challenging so far. Mostly due to weather. We have had about 75 inches of snow since Christmas and most of that coming this month. For the first time in 46 years, Gunnison canceled schools for a day. And we have been plowing and shoveling daily. In the first 13 days of the month, Spencer spent over 40 hours just on snow removal! Yeah!! That is the beginning of 2017 for us. However, 2016 ended with much happening....some bitter and some sweet. Thank you for praying for our trip to Iraq. The retreat went well and we saw God bring refreshment to many of the Samaritan's Purse staff there. Kate was such a blessing to the families, as she helped with child care so parents could take part more. Here are a few of the scenes from Northern Iraq and the retreat.



*This is "Sami". He now works for SP but 2 years ago he and his family lived in an Assyrian Christian Village near Mosul. He recounted for us the day that ISIS overran his town. Thankfully he and his family safely escaped.*



*Kate (in the green elf hat) was such a blessing to these kiddos. There were 11 kids total and after 4 days of crafts, playing, games and cleaning up....she was worn out!*

*We held the retreat in a newly renovated building near this refugee camp. The building was once a bar/brothel and now is Grace Community Center.*

*At Grace, meals are served, kids can safely play, there is a medical and dental clinic and the whole compound is fenced and guarded. This camp holds about 20,000 Yazidis. You may remember the Yazidi people from the news 2 years ago. ISIS swept through Sinjar, a town in NW Iraq and trapped many of these people on a mountain top.*



## Sharing the Gospel

While December had it's challenges, it also had it's rewards. We had the opportunity to share the gospel with so many during this month. It started in Iraq with our driver named Bagi. Then with Wade, whom we hosted on this year's Hunt of a Lifetime. Then at my brother-in-law's funeral and finally at the Pitkin Community Church Christmas Eve service!



## *In Memory of Tad Marinelli*

This is my favorite picture of my sister Heidi and Tad. This was taken at a concert the four of us went to a couple months before he was diagnosed with bone cancer. Thank you for praying for him over these last 3 years. He was ultimately healed and taken home to be with Jesus on December 16. We miss him so much, but see God's goodness through it all. Please continue to pray for Heidi and our 3 nieces. Also, please pray for all those who saw the gospel through Tad and Heidi and heard the good news at his service!

Please also pray for Bagi, Wade and those who came to the Christmas Eve service. The gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. *Romans 1:16*

***We thank God for each of you and  
your partnership with us and BHM.  
We could never do this without you!***

## Prayer and Praises

**Praise God** for the way He brings pastors and missionaries to us for refreshment and for providing a safe place.

**We Praise** God for each of you and are grateful for how you bless us so we can bless others.

**Praise God** for his healing hand on Spencer's dad, Dave. He continues to get stronger physically, going on walks every-day. Thank you for praying for him!

**Please pray for** Spencer's sister, Heidi and her daughters, Jordan, Madysen and Hayden.

**Please pray** for Annette and I to walk humbly and intimately with the Lord each day and listen to his voice.

**Pray** for us to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, have discernment and be safe people for the variety of folks that come our way as well as the ones we travel to see.

**Please pray for** all those who heard the gospel in December! Also pray for the SP staff in N. Iraq, for protection and strength as they work with the 'least of these.'

**Please pray for** Andrew and Kate. Pray they will be salt and light in their schools, and also enjoy an intimacy with the Lord.

**Please Pray** for our monthly donations as we have lost a few partners recently due to health and age, but **Praise God** for the new partners who have recently joined our team or increased their support

Serving Him by helping people  
take their next step,  
**Spencer, Annette Andrew and  
Kate**