



Christmas 2011

Dear friends and family,

Greetings in the strong and beautiful name of Jesus, our Savior! It may seem a bit strange that in this season—for many the busiest of the year—so many of us take the time to send special greetings. These are sent to those with whom we work closely and see often, and also to those we see rarely but who remain dear to our hearts.

We continue to live at the foot of the beautiful mountain known as Table Rock, in a home located on the grounds of the South Carolina District Retreat and Conference Center, a few miles outside of the town of Pickens. (Google Earth will give you a birds-eye view!) It's been almost 40 years since we left the small town of Wilmore, KY after completing studies at Asbury Seminary in answer to God's calling to serve Him in full-time ministry. Across those four decades, we have been blessed beyond measure as we have given our lives to pastoral leadership of four congregations and, since 2004, to serving the pastors and churches of the SC District as District Superintendent. The years, which have a way of turning into a lifetime, have brought us great joy and the friendship of countless amazing people whose paths have intersected with ours.

For our family, it has been another year strong year of growth! Last Christmas, in addition to learning the gender of Matt and Michelle's third child (due in May), we also learned that both Emily and Liz were pregnant (third child for each) and were due just a few days apart during the summer. To say that we were all quite stunned—and thrilled—would be a grand understatement! Well, the summer has come and gone, and Caroline (May 4), Naomi (July 23), and Tabitha (August 2) have joined the other four granddaughters. For those of you who may be counting: it's now 7 to 5, with the girls in a commanding lead after trailing 5 to 1 for several years! As we gathered for our Thanksgiving/Christmas celebrations in November, there were 22 stockings on the mantle! We are both amazed and overjoyed as we recognize the incredible blessing of all these children!

Naomi, daughter of Aaron and Liz, was born with Down Syndrome and some accompanying issues with her heart, none of which had been known prior to her birth. God has brought us all to a new level of trust and faith through this precious little girl. We believe firmly that our family would simply be incomplete without her! At fourteen weeks of age, on November 3, she underwent open-heart surgery to repair a significant hole in her heart. As a result of the prayers of a mighty army of friends, family, and people we don't even know, and the incomparable staff of the Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, NC, she is doing wonderfully. Thank you for praying and loving our family in such a powerful way.

Marian and Lance Vischer and their three children—Mallory (10), Max (8) and Miles (4)—live just outside Liberty, SC, and Lance continues to teach at Greenville Tech and Furman University, while Marian keeps the home front steady. They recently added a dog, Jetta, to their family. Matt and Michelle live in Aurora, Colorado (just outside Denver) where Matt works in marketing and customer service for a holding company that owns two or three restaurant chains. Michelle is a stay-at-home mom to Will (6), who began Kindergarten this year, Abigail (3) and Caroline (8 months). Aaron and Liz are living in the Concord, NC area and are concluding two years of service as "apartment missionaries" for their church. They will be moving out of the apartment complex they have been serving at the end of December. Aaron works in data management for a technology company in Charlotte, while Liz gives full-time care to Ike (4), Marlowe (3) and Naomi (5 months). Matthew and Emily Miller are beginning their third year of ministry at the Boys Farm of Newberry (SC), where they are house-parents to five teenage boys. Their three children—Ethan (5), Cora Jane (3), and Tabitha (5 months)—along with the five boys—keep them more than busy.

Our annual Hilton Head family vacation continues to be a favorite week of the year. Caroline was born just a few days before our already-scheduled week for 2010, so Matt's family was unable to come. We missed them, but for the remaining 15 of us, the beach, the pools, the cookouts, and the annual Rampey Man of the Year competition provided seven days of fantastic fun.

In July, all of the children came home for the funeral of Joan's nephew, John, who died suddenly on July 9. Joan's brother, Pete, and his family (wife Kim, daughter Ashley, and son-in-law Chad) are the focus of so many of our prayers during this holiday season.

2010 was also the year for the reunion of the descendants of Sam and Marion Rampey (Buddy's grandparents) at Table Rock. In August, our immediate crew joined with about 55 others of the extended Rampey family for four days of memory-recalling and memory-making.

We spent the first two weeks of December in Haiti. At the invitation of Dan and Joy Irvine, Haiti field directors, Buddy conducted sessions during a leadership event for Haitian pastors, District Superintendents, and other leaders, while Joan led a women's retreat for missionaries and missionary wives. We were also able to participate in a feeding program for about 100 children in the village of Babaco, visit the orphanage operated by Madame Soliette on LaGonave, and travel up into the mountains above Anse-a-Galets with a

medical team from Indiana. If you'd like to read Joan's journal and see photos of our trip, go to <http://brampey.wordpress.com/>.

It has been a good year for Buddy's parents, Marshall and Ruth. They continue to live independently in their Greenville, SC home, enjoy good health and strength, and celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary this month.

Since we celebrated our family Christmas at Thanksgiving, Christmas Day will, Lord willing, find us spending time with at Buddy's parents' home as they host his mother's family dinner. Later in the afternoon, we will join the Wood family at Central, SC. A 6:00pm worship service is planned for Christmas evening at First Wesleyan Church/ALIVE.

Our prayer is that this Christmas season will be blessed with special moments of worship and times with family and friends.

Rejoicing in the birth of our Savior,

Buddy and Joan Rampey



Miles, Mallory, and Max Vischer
at Hilton Head Island
May 2011



Abigail, Will, and Caroline Rampey
in Denver, CO
Christmas 2011



Marlowe, Naomi, and Ike Rampey
in Concord, NC
August 2011



Cora Jane, Tabitha, and Ethan Miller
at Boys Farm of Newberry
Fall of 2011