December 2017

Dear Friends and Family,

Merry Christmas to each of you! We pray that in the American busyness of this season, you will have the opportunity to reflect personally and with your families on the Gift that was given to us that first Christmas, a Gift that would change our lives.

Our family has had a wonderful 2017. The ministry in Cleveland is going well, seeing new faces become regulars. We have added a new BMM family to our staff which has been a great encouragement and help.

Michael has had an uneventful year physically..... and uneventful is great! His health has been generally stable with expected ups and downs, but thanks to the dopamine pump (and its un-kinked tube!) he is doing quite well. We are so thankful to the Lord for this blessing. He continues to lead our team at the church and center and is looking forward to running another Jobs for Life class this coming spring. At home he keeps us all laughing, and we all benefit from the joy he brings into our home.

My mom, wife, pastor's wife and nurse coordinator roles have continued this year. Our kids' activities have been a joy to participate in. We have enjoyed camping together as a family the last few years, and we had three fun trips together this year to Kentucky (spring break), Michigan (summer) and near Canton, OH this fall for a long weekend. We have a lot of fun on these trips, relaxing and enjoying our family. The clinic is going well, with new patients coming each month and the usual stream of returning patients. It is a pleasure to get to know our patients well, and hopefully be a blessing to them.

Emily is officially a teenager now and is loving 8th grade. She played her third season of volleyball this fall, and her team had an amazing season with an 18-2 record. Their team made it all the way to the state finals, where they unfortunately lost, but what an amazing experience it was for them to make it that far. She is a setter and is growing stronger in her abilities and teamwork. She loves it! She is continuing with her piano lessons and is doing very well. We enjoy hearing her play so much. We are thankful for her sweet spirit and help in the ministry in Cleveland. She was able to be a VBS leader this year, which she really enjoyed.

Ben, as of today, is in double-digits! He was very excited for this day to arrive. He has become more and more of an out-going child, much to our surprise. He has made friends here in our neighborhood in recent weeks and loves playing football, basketball and other games with the other guys. He is surrounded by friends at school, for which we are thankful, and he continues to be our math guy. This year we have also noticed his love for reading, literally devouring a good sized book in a day or two. He has helped with the sound, power-point and in some of the music this year at our church, and it has been fun to see him find his niche.

We are so thankful for you, our friends and family, for all you mean to us. We pray that you have a wonderful Christmas and a joyous New Year in 2018. With love,

*Michael, Sherri, Emily and Ben*