

# Merry Christmas



Dear friends and family,

Christmas 2017

We are already here at the end of another year – how does time keep going by so quickly? Christmas certainly never seemed to come this fast when I was a young child waiting for a day of feast and gifts! 😊

If you haven't kept us with us through Social Media or e-updates, here's a quick "Year in Review" to catch you up:

**January – May:** Buddy worked alongside a Business As Mission Discipleship School teaching Gospel Transformation (our favorite Discipleship Tool) and helping them as they began missional, Kingdom-minded businesses. He got to speak or train in India, Japan, Cambodia, Germany and southern Thailand twice this year and really enjoys inspiring people to live the life God created them to live. He also started running the Night Bazaar Evangelism ministry.



Night Bazaar Evangelism

Jen kept at her role at our kid's school as a counselor and AP Psychology teacher. If you know her – it's quite her niche – loving on missionary families/students in crisis and teaching all about how God has made each of us and has the power transform us by the power of His Spirit. The students love her and she is an important part of healing in many of these missionary kids.

**May – August:** Adrienne leaves for a summer-long missions trip and Buddy was in the US for a brief time visiting supporters and renewing his life insurance (crazy, right?... ) – you have to be on US soil to do that, so we cashed in some frequent flier miles and off he went. He returned to meet up with the rest of our family in Okinawa, Japan where we spent most of our summer connecting with two supporting churches there and Buddy did some speaking.

What a time of refreshment that was – seeing people there is like coming home. There were still 5 families there from when we arrived in January 2000 to start this missionary gig! We consider them the wise ones who have gone before us – while also feeling so very known and loved and cherished. It was a gift to house-sit for a family and live right by the sea again. After the last couple years of what seemed like a kick in the teeth at every turn - we felt God giving us wind in our sails and hope for the future. Okinawa is good like that! 😊

**August – December:** Speaking of wind in sails, Buddy launched an 8 month discipleship school with one family, one married couple, and 4 single students – with an emphasis on Business as Mission. The family is interning with Stop Slavery as house parents and thinking about becoming full time missionaries when the program ends in May. We continue to mentor missionaries that serve with Stop Slavery – Jen is back at it with an additional class this year, and our lives are in full blown “go-mode”. We are so thankful for the ways God has taught us in the last couple years – we are more humble and aware of His presence to care for us and to help us in our time of need. Which is exactly what Christmas is all about, I think.

Emmanuel – God is with us. May this truth – wherever you are – grace you with joy and hope.

We love you,

Jen, Buddy, Adrienne, Megan, & Jack



Sam from CEO Shortcut

To support the Rathmell’s ministry you can go to [www.stopslavery.org/donate](http://www.stopslavery.org/donate) or give by check to Stop Slavery at:

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