



Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas from the Lisemby Family.

Things may be hard for you, personally, right now. Your health, wealth, marriage or church life may be dismal, but you can still have a Merry Christmas.

In 1979, on Christmas Day, my grandfather, Ross Lisemby, died. I was 23 years old. My oh my how that hurt me. Tears flowed down my face and dampened my shirt, but I didn't lose a Merry Christmas.

I think of Papaw every Christmas and it has not drawn any wonder, amazement, joy or celebration away from me. It has made Heaven and spiritual things more real and life more precious.

As many of you know, the Lisemby Family have

been under a big load the last few years with some health issues. We are so thankful for your prayers and support through this time.

2016 turned out to be a great year for this ministry. We saw a lot of salvations, rededications, and movement toward the altars during our invitations this year. We traveled 1,000's of miles without one problem. We got new tires on our bus. We had some good youth camps.

As many of you know, the Lisemby Family Ministries, Inc. own and operate a camp ground in southeast Arkansas, called Psalms Camp. After renting a few camp grounds a year or two back in 1981, 1982, Dad and Mother decided to build our own encampment. We built it on the land that was previously Mother's parents' old cotton farm. This took time, effort, and a lot of

friends to help us financially.

For years, work went on until finally in 1989 our first group came to camp—a group of RA boys from Warren, Arkansas. Year by year we added and grew. We suffered loss a year or two before Dad died, then got a fresh breath and have grown in many ways ever since.

Pastors like Bro. Mike Holloway and Bro. Billy Smith and their churches have spear-headed and stood with this ministry when people who you never would believe, left. Some friends died, or churches failed, but still the work went on.

The Lisemby Family encountered sadness, sorrows, abandonment, etc.—but we went on.

Merry Christmas? Merry Christmas you say? YES—in every situation, whether we are rejoicing or crying—'tis the season

to be jolly...FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

November of 1979, Joy and I made friends with our Arab bus driver—Fredrico Rabbo - while in Israel. He was a Christian Arab. As Joy and I asked question after question, like how to say "I love you, Jesus, God, etc." I asked Freddy how to say "happy." He said, "This is easy to say, even for Americans..ha.." He then said, "To say happy is FA-LA."

Every year including December, 1979, when my Papaw died and went to see the Lord, whenever I sing that song I think of Freddy Rabbo.

"'Tis the season to be jolly, HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY!"

May you, our friends, have a very Merry Christmas; no matter what you are going through.

Until then,

Joel

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 The Lisembys are a non-profit 501c3 organization.
 All gifts are tax deductible





JOY'S JOURNALING

don't worry, I've got this!
Just trust Me."

Oh my Lord, what an overpowering peace that came over me. I experienced that "peace that passes all understanding" that I had read about all my life. My Savior...the Creator of the Universe...was in control of the situation and He let me know it.

Now, I'm not saying that I "had it all together" for the entire journey, but God continually showed me His peace, and His mercy.

Well, I went through three chemo treatments, and then went through my surgery, and then two more chemo treatments. I had asked for prayer during all of this, and I was humbled at the response by so many people who said that they were praying for me.

I felt the prayers of churches as a whole, and of people as individuals being lifted for me. And I was reminded of that old song, "Who Am I?"

Who am I that so many would gather together to pray for? Who am I that ladies would walk up to me, and tell me that they had been through it, and I was going to be okay... ladies that I did not know.

Well, before my last scheduled chemo treatment, I was again put back into the hospital twice for two separate infections which required more surgery. By the time I was healed up from those (late December) my oncologist decided to forego that last chemo treatment.

My body and the cancer had responded well to the treatment, and didn't require any more. Praise the Lord!

I began my radiation treatments in December and ended them in February. Treatments DONE!

According to my most re-

cent scans in April, I am cancer-free at this present time, and I praise my Lord.

What have I learned from all of this?

- I have learned that my God is all powerful, all knowing, and ever present.
- I have learned that I have to trust God no matter how hard it is, and to remember that "He's got this!"
- I have learned that people will come out of the woodwork to pray for you and encourage you, especially those who have walked that way before.
- I have experienced the power of intercessory prayer by others.
- I have learned that what I thought was so important beforehand, really isn't that important after all.
- I learned that my family has been, and always shall be my best friends.
- I have learned to enjoy life—the little things.
- I have learned that I am way too busy in "stuff" that don't amount to a hill of beans.
- I have learned that when you are married, and you hurt, then your spouse hurts with you and for you, and there's really nothing you can do about it to make it better, except lean hard on each other and on the Lord.
- I have learned that Jesus...is...enough.

When I was faced with a possible death sentence, naturally my life flashed before my eyes. And yes, I

Psalm 27:6

"And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy: I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD."

had some regrets of things in my past that I wished I hadn't done, said, or felt; things I wished I could have changed.

But when it's all said and done, I can honestly say that I am very happy with my life and how it turned out.

I have a husband who loves me unconditionally; who stands on the Word of God unapologetically; who saw my need for Jesus and led me to salvation; who has taught me more about the Lord than anybody; who thinks I'm beautiful, even when I see something different. Our love has grown in a different way, and I see the Lord's Love for us through it all.

I have six beautiful daughters whose beauty is more than just skin deep. Their love for the Lord shines through each of them in their own unique way. They are talented and use their talents for the Lord continuously, and I am proud to be their Mom.

I have three adorable grandchildren who bring me joy every time I'm around them.

Yes, I'm a lucky woman, but it's only by the grace of God that I'm alive today, and I just want to live out the rest of my life praising Him.

Blessings to you!

Joy



We'd love to come to your church!
Contact us at:
(870) 348-5429
LisembyFamily@gmail.com



Dr. Ricky Lisemby

RICKY'S WRITINGS

Hello Friends,

Since the last newsletter, we have been across many miles carrying the Gospel of Jesus to all. The Lord has taken us to many places keeping us safe while allowing us to minister through song and Word, in many parts of the country by way of revivals, concerts, tent crusades and festivals.

It will be hard to list all the blessings that God gave to us. He used us in churches and in homeless shelters. It seems that my favorite events during our tour through the northeast and southeast was in the homeless shelters. I must mention one highlight of the trip that touches everyone and brought us all to tears. That was when we ministered in Kalamazoo, Michigan at the largest homeless shelter in the United States. One night as we asked for testimo-

nies, we heard from a homeless man who had come from the state of Alabama. He had spent his last dollar on food and decided he would commit suicide that afternoon. Climbing one of the tallest buildings in Kalamazoo from which to jump, nothing worked for him, so he made his way to the street below where he met up with the Lisembys. Here, he heard about the Lord and as my brother, Joey, witnessed to him, he gave his heart and soul to Jesus. When he gave his testimony that night to the family, every one of us wept. We wept for the joy of hearing how the Lord had saved this man and we wept for having been allowed to be a part of his life.

Here, we witnessed hundreds of people come to the Lord weeping over their past sins and hugging us and begging us to stay a while longer. I believe I would be safe in saying that all the Lisembys left a part of our hearts in Kalamazoo! Unbelievable!

We left there and traveled to Rhode Island where we ministered in another homeless shelter in Providence. Again we saw many come to know the Lord through salvation. Souls were saved, lives were changed. What a blessing to be used by the Lord.

Then on to Mt. Airy, North Carolina. Here, we saw many of the stars from the old Andy Griffith show that was shown on television for years and be a part of the Andy Griffith Mayberry Days festival week-end where we sang, then were asked not only to sing, but preach and sing there on Sunday morning for the Chapel service. There were people from all parts of the country present including one man from the country of Ukraine who lifted his hand to receive Jesus when we extended the invitation.

After this the Mt. Airy officials were so generous and treated all the celebrities along with the Lisembys to a delicious meal. There we enjoyed a time of Christian Fel-

lowship and talked about our returning there again each year.

The tour was fantastic and we praise God for using us to bring many to salvation and faith in Christ.

2016 was a good year of ministry. As we come to the close of the year, all of the family are reviewing ourselves and praying to make sure we are in God's will as we continue on.

I do have a special request. I have been dealing with failing eyesight for years. I've had a few eye surgeries and await possible more to come. Please pray I can be in the center of God's will, and He would help my eyes to see.

Merry Christmas to one and all!

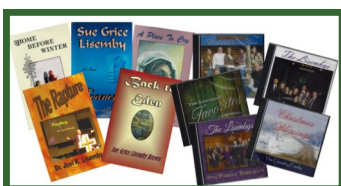
Ricky



Please pray for those who have lost so much in the recent fires, floods, tornados, earthquakes, and natural disasters across our country. We are reminded of the verse which says in Psalm 29:10-11 *"The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever. The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace."* Folks, God was not surprised, and He will help in time of need.

BOOKS & CDs AVAILABLE

(If you are looking for a particular CD and cannot find it here, Please let us know. All our recordings are available)



Order Lisemby Family CDs/Books NOW—(price includes shipping cost)

CDS (\$15 each):

- Family Time (2013) _____
- Christmas Blessings (2013) _____
- Favorites (2013) _____
- With All Our Heart (2009) _____
- Let Me Go (2007) _____

BOOKS (\$15 & \$17):

- * Back to Eden (2013) \$17 _____
- * Boanerges (2007) \$17 _____
- * The Rapture (2013) \$15 _____
- * Home Before Winter \$17 _____
- * A Place to Cry \$17 _____

We also have our Vintage CDs (1969-1981) available online at www.Lisembys.org

TOTAL enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks out to:
Lisemby Family * P. O. Box 7 * Kingsland, AR 71652

A NOTE FROM THE GIRLS



We actually climbed two mountains during our stay. God helped some of us conquer a fear of heights!



Wow! What a year it has been. God opened some doors, and He closed some. We are so thankful that He opened a door for us girls to go to New Mexico to minister to the Navajo Indians.

Aside from the stunning beauty of the snow covered plateaus, we were immediately struck by the sight of oppression that seemed to hover over the entire land. It felt as if there was a thick dome of darkness without any weaknesses or even the smallest ray of light. The people are so poor, so needy, and most are very shut off from "the white man."

However, we were able to meet a few natives that were born again believers, and very open to us. One of which was a lady we met when we visited the reservation. Her name was Ms. Victoria. When one of our team members knocked on her door and

invited her to the Christmas dinner and church service, she was so excited, and wanted to meet everyone in our group. In doing so, we learned that she lives alone, she doesn't have a car so she hitch hikes every day to see her family that live two hours away. This is obviously dangerous, especially since she is 74 years old and can hardly walk due to her bad knee. But she trusts the Lord to get her where she needs to go and back home safely. And so far, our Lord has done just that. She demanded, in a playful manner, that she be picked up early so she wouldn't be late.

That night our group cooked for, and served over 200 Natives. A lot of them couldn't speak English. They only spoke in their native language.

We were able to learn a few words in Navajo, but the language is far too complicated to learn in full. After our big Christmas meal, the

children were dismissed for children's church, and the adults stayed in the sanctuary for the service. Us girls were privileged to be a part of the service as well as the Christmas program for the children.

The kids melted our hearts. They were starving for affection, and some questioned the existence of God. Many, if not all, of them have, at some point, been exposed to witchcraft. It broke our heart. We were able to share the Gospel with them and show them that two races can be united through Christ.

We worked so hard that week, packing gift bags full of presents that we handed out to every person who attended.

God overfilled our cup of blessings through others who donated toys, toiletries, candy, clothes, tools, etc. We had 400 gift bags packed to the brim, and 300 bags of nuts and candy. Praise the Lord for

His abundant blessings!

We want to thank the ones who supported us financially as well as through prayer. We fell in love with the people, and we are hoping to go back to do more mission work to the Natives.

However, until then, there is a lot of serious spiritual warfare going on there and you can feel it. Many evil practices that are considered traditions are swarming. We need to pray hard for these people, and the missionaries that are there as well. We also need to pray that God will open our eyes to see the wide open mission field in our own country.

We do ask for your prayers. We are taking on new things and we need the support of praying knees.

The Girls

THANK YOU ~



I begin this Newsletter to our friends, supporters, and partners with the words, "Thank You!"

Our Lord has called us to travel and minister as evangelists. We know our calling is of the Lord and also recognize how the Lord uses people to send us out. Romans 10:14-15 says, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Again, Thank you.

We are so thankful for

six (6) new bus tires we were able to place on our bus. The last time we changed tires was 8 years ago, so we got a lot of use from our old tires. We hope not to wait 8 years again before we change out these new tires. We are asking the Lord for at least 5 years, then do it again.

I am thankful for no breakdowns or drama as we have travelled many miles since our last newsletter. We will share with you some of our needs later, but this newsletter is not a request letter or fund raiser. Today I write in thanksgiving for your help and the Lord's presence.

As I began a journey with Joy fighting cancer, I've never felt more helpless. During my two surgeries,

I was so helpless and had only hope and trust in the Lord to guide my doctors. I am so thankful things went well. Many other things hurt me last year, but God was there.

The Lord has opened new doors for us; new churches to minister in. Please pray for doors to be opened, and our being able to continue on and on. Thanks in advance for your continued prayers and help.

A few years ago, I took a mission trip to the Philippine Islands and I remember a visit to an orphanage there. I asked the owner/operators what were their needs. I was expecting them to say blankets, food items, or money. But no! They said, "Jesus." After a moment or two of trying to get a specific item of need, one of the ladies said, "Bro. Joel, please

tell your friends and family to talk to Jesus, and He will tell them of our needs." I like that!

I will mention a few things and let our needs be made known, BUT, our biggest need is JESUS.

The Lisemby Family had rather struggle through the storm WITH the Lord, than to have smooth sailing WITHOUT Christ.

Please talk to Jesus on our behalf.

Until then,

Joel



Merry Christmas

PSALMS CAMP THANKS

In the early 1980's, The Lisemby Family began a youth outreach where we rented a campground and invited young people to join the Lisembys for a week of music school. After a few years we made a leap of faith and began to build our own campground in southern Arkansas.

Throughout the years, each year we would build another building, modify the landscape, add to or take from, until we completed and opened Psalms Camp.

Every year you will find the Lisemby Family working at or on the campground. We have seen and we are still seeing souls saved and lives changed.

We are so thankful for people and churches who support Psalms Camp. Our special thanks and gratitude to the Verret family of Plaquemine, Louisiana for providing Donnie's Lodge, and C.P. & Rachel's Galley (Cafeteria); to Aunt Doris Lisemby for providing our Chapel and Prayer Cottage; to Aunt Maxine Lisemby Ivy Scott for providing the boy's lodge—Selah. These partners helped us and the Lord's work by laying down the foundations for the construction of Psalms Camp.

Through the years many churches have given time and money, and we thank you. For years, Cook Baptist Church in Ruston,

Louisiana labored with us while Dr. Mike Holloway was pastor. For over 10 years Murmil Heights Baptist Church from El Dorado, Arkansas have worked on the grounds or made repairs, cleaning, and partnered with us under the leadership of Bro. Billy Smith, Pastor. Many people through the years have given much work and effort and I will try on each Newsletter to make known those who have helped us.

Last year, Bro. Adam Hill, Pastor of Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church stocked our Psalms Camp Lake with several thousand fish. This year Jeff Moseley of Warren, Arkansas contacted a friend, Bret Stevens of Star City, Arkansas, and they replaced the 30 year old tin

on Donnie's Lodge with steel roofing.

While the roofing was being replaced, Calvary Baptist Church of Warren, sent a crew out to do some cleaning and burning at the campground.

We are so thankful for any help.

Just a side note:

If you are looking to invest some time, money and prayer on a mission project, Psalms Camp is in need of your help. In our next Newsletter, I will list a few projects we are praying about. We are a 501c3 Non-Profit organization and would put your donation directly into ministry. Please pray about this.

Thank you.



SUE'S SENTIMENTS

"BLOCK"

Have you ever been blocked from saying or writing something you would love to tell someone—even the whole world? You are filled with ideas waiting to jump out onto your paper. You know a lot of truths that need to be said. You grab your pen ... *"hurry, I've got to hurry before the words escape me!"*

You begin to write ... but nothing comes! You

stand up from your chair. *"What's happening?"* you wonder ... and you wonder ... Finally, *"That's it!"* you cry *"That is it! I have writer's block! ... or am I going stupid?"*

I grabbed a book that I decided had taken up enough much-needed space on my desk. *"This needs to be a help to me...now, more than ever!"* I mused. I opened its pages and began to read "Working With Words - A Guide For Editors and Writers." Then in red ink I had added: *"Lord, help me to revise my stupidity and edit myself into intelligence!"* A smile creased my face; I had something

going here!

Then tears took the place of that smile. I must pray and pray hard!

I began:

"Let me pray! Lord, let me pray. Let me no longer be silent. Let me be mindful always of the night in Bethlehem when you came to bring peace and joy to all those who would believe! I believe...Oh, I believe! Let me...let us all proclaim your glorious birth and your name to all the world!"

Let us *all* proclaim the truth about your birth...let us all write about your birth. Let us all cry "Joy to

the world, the Lord is come!"

And now I proclaim: "That writer's block is gone!"

Have a GLORIOUS Christmas!

Sue



MORE PICTURES FROM NEW MEXICO MISSION TRIP



Conquering fears



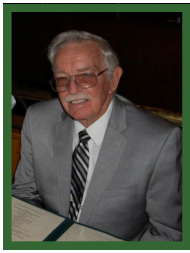
Ministering to the Navajo people through song. They were blessed by the harmonies. They had never heard harmony before.



A NOTE FROM NOEL

Just wanted to tell everyone that I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! And to remember that Jesus is the reason that we have Christmas!





A WORD FROM DON

I want to thank the Lord for the opportunity to serve Him another year.

I praise Him for what He has done for the Lisemby Ministry. He brought us through the valleys of illness where we experienced multiple sicknesses.

First, Rick became ill. He was placed in a hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas where he received tests for seemingly everything. Each test came back normal. It was almost beyond belief as to how the Lord worked in Rick's life: we saw miracle after miracle. They are still there for us all to remember and praise God for. Yes, it was a long period for all. However, soon after, we brought Rick home and he was back to his old self preaching and singing God's praises.

Next, Joy experienced the dreaded disease of cancer. Through much prayer we watched as He led her

safely to the other side of the muddy waters of illness that had swept in, ruthless and harsh. There were trials of heartache—one after another until she experienced glorious healing and at this time she is completely free of cancer.

Ah, but following close behind was Satan who raised his ugly head and subjected Joey to on-going hard bouts with diabetes, and heart malfunctions. With all this, he was subjected to two surgeries that has kept him down for a time and the rest of the family on our knees. We are so thankful for his recovery from which he is still rebounding.

You would think this would be enough, but no! Soon after this, Melody broke her foot. The breakage was such that she was on crutches from the first of June until September. Then came the next episode. Brooklyn was struck down with double pneumonia. This was a disease that kept her in the hospital for days. While in the hospital, two of her sib-

lings, Mercy and Noel, were at home fighting the same issue.

Needless to say, we had to cancel and/or re-schedule several services. This was the first time that the Lisemby Family had to postpone or reschedule since its beginning. During this time, Sue was experiencing a flu-like illness which deemed her unable to sing for a while. She, nevertheless went along with the rest of us even though at times she had to take to her bed in the bus.

I was very fortunate to stay well during this time so that I could help with landscaping around Psalms Camp. I was so thankful when Brother Bret Stephens and his crew from Star City, Arkansas came to Psalms Camp and replaced the roof on one of the buildings (Donnie's

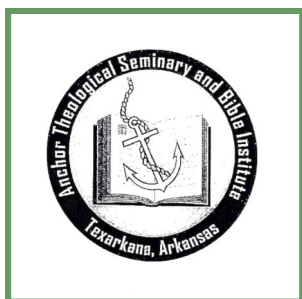
Lodge, built by the late Bro. Murray Verret and his wife Polly in memory of their son, Donnie) and now thirty years later, still providing money for the metal used to re-roof this building. Plus more in store for other needs.

Just keep us all in your prayers—lifting us up to our Almighty God, especially at this time of year when we celebrate with thanksgiving to God for His Son, Jesus, Who came to earth born as a baby in Bethlehem's stable. We cry:

Thank You, Lord God, for this Christmas miracle!"

Yours In Christ,

Don



We support:
Anchor Theological Seminary and Bible Institute
 2802 Jefferson Avenue
 Texarkana, AR 71854



Louisiana Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists



Call us for your 2017 Revival or Concert

(870) 348-5429 or (870) 308-5119

The Lisemby Family

"A Family Reaching Other Families For Christ"

Lisemby Family Evangelistic Ministries, Inc.
and Psalms Camp
Post Office Box 7
Kingsland, AR 71652

*Merry
Christmas*



CONTACT
THE LISEMBY FAMILY
FOR YOUR next REVIVAL OR CONCERT

870-348-5429

LisembyFamily@gmail.com



LISEMBY FAMILY & PSALMS CAMP NEEDS

Many times, people ask us what our needs are. Our answer has been and is today, the same answer...."Just pray about what the Lord would have you do to help us."

But, there are times when folks just need an answer which is a bit more detailed. So we decided to compile a list that you can go to for your reference:

- 1) **Prayer** - It seems so insignificant at times to ask for prayer, but let's face it, without prayer things just don't happen. So please pray for the Lisemby Family. When you think of us - pray for us. Pray for our health to stay strong or improve whichever the case may be. Pray for encouragement for each member of our family. Satan is alive and on the move, and he seems to attack at a moment's notice. Pray for God's Leadership in our ministry, that we will follow the Lord no matter what, and no matter where He leads us. Pray for God's provisions. He has been and always shall be - our Sponsor. It is through God's people that He sustains us and our ministry so we may keep going.
- 2) **Pray for souls to be saved** - We are living in the last days where the Harvest is ready, but the pickers are few. We are just "gleaning the fields" right now, seeking out that last soul to be saved before our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comes back.
- 3) **Financial Support** - We have never made it a habit to ask for monies, but the needs are always ever present in this world that we live in. We depend upon the gifts of our friends and supporters who are led by the Lord to supply our needs. We are a full-time evangelistic ministry, so yes, this is our job. We have surrendered our lives in total dependence upon the Lord supplying those needs. **We are praying that God will give us 100 people who will commit to giving just \$25 a month to this ministry for 2017.** Would you help us? Your gifts will enable us to go minister wherever the Lord leads us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please make checks out to **Lisemby Family Ministries**. All gifts to this ministry are tax deductible. ****Thank you to those who have already taken up this challenge. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.****
- 4) **Open Doors of Opportunity** - Please join with us and pray that God will open doors for this ministry to go through. We want to broaden our circle of ministry. We will go anywhere the Lord leads us to go, trusting Him to make the pathway clear for us.
- 5) **Good Video Camera** - The Lisembys are needing a good video camera so we can record our services/events.
- 6) **Need a few Good Puppets** - As the Lisembys make plans to add puppets to our ministry, we are in need some good quality puppets. We have a few, but need some more. If you can help, we appreciate it.
- 7) **Need mower repair**—Our 60" cut X-Mark mower is in great need of some repair. A friend gave us this mower a few years ago and it has been a tremendous blessings. The hydraulics aren't too good anymore on one side and the motor is using oil or slinging oil on one side. We need to have it looked at and ready by late Springtime for sure. Anyone feel the Lord move upon this in this matter, let us know.
- 8) **Cafeteria needs new flooring**—Psalms Camp Cafeteria needs new flooring put down; either wood, tile, or linoleum.
- 9) **Need new steel roofing** on the Cafeteria and on the boys' cabin, Selah.