

December 15, 2017

*Call us for your  
2018 Revival or  
Concert  
(870) 348-5429 or  
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[www.Lisembys.org](http://www.Lisembys.org)

The Lisemby Family Evangelistic  
Ministries, Inc. is a  
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### **Psalms Camp needs:**

- **New steel roof on Cafeteria & Selah**
- **New flooring in Cafeteria**
- **Monthly Financial Support**
- **Work crews to help with the grounds and upkeep/repairs of the buildings**
- **Financial help getting structural insurance on the buildings in case of fire or wind damage**

### **Lisemby Family Ministry needs:**

- **Prayers for doors of opportunity to open**
- **Prayers for continued health**
- **A good video camera**
- **Monthly Financial Support**

# Lisemby News

*"A Family Reaching Other Families For Christ"*



## **2017—What A Year!**

**From: Joel**

Well Amen! 2017 has been a real good year for the Lisemby Family Ministries. We started off in January in a Harvest Day event near Bernice, Louisiana. Had a great time, then on to the Louisiana Southern Baptist Evangelism Conference in Ruston, Louisiana. Took off a few weeks in the last of January and first of February, then off again to south Louisiana. We always enjoy our old stomping grounds. In March we began to work at our youth camp ground.

For a few years in the early 1980's, The Lisemby Family would rent a camp ground and invite youth to come and we would sing, preach, etc. We rented Dry Creek encampment, Lake Arthur Campground, Claire Springs Baptist Camp grounds, etc., and then we decided to step out in faith and build our own campground on land that used to be Ms. Sue's Dad and Mom's cotton farm and home place.

It took years, time, money and most of all, the Lord sending people into our lives. Many friends and churches spent time, money and invested deeply into this ministry and its endeavor to build a camp in the piney woods of southern Arkansas. The Lord blessed and I still believe in Psalms Camp.

If you have a child from 3rd

Grade to College age, we would invite and encourage you to send them here for Summer Camp. If you have a youth group, we invite you to send them here. If you are looking for a ministry of evangelizing young people and would consider investing funds, we invite and encourage you to make Psalms Camp your mission project for 2018.

We have some visions that we hope to see completed, and do need your help. When we are not on the road ministering, we work on our other ministry interest called Psalms Camp. Both of our ministries go hand in hand—one we go out to the people and the other, people come in.

We were so thankful to get a new steel roof on Donnie's Lodge log cabin last year from Mrs. Polly Verrett; and this year brand new mattresses were donated for every bed. Monies from Mrs. Mary Langford, and Mrs. Karlene Calhoun made this possible.

People have helped us in so many ways—we have new tires all around the bus, thanks to friends. Thanks to all of you for sending your \$25 a month and some more. Thank you for getting us bookings at your churches. Thank you to Craig and Melissa for the gift of fresh beef for our freezer. We are just very grateful to all of you.

We had some real good revivals in 2017, and saw the Lord save people. On one event, the invitation went on for a long while with folks getting saved, and hearts getting right with the Lord. I felt the revival should be extended, but the Lord didn't see fit.

We are all in good health and have our hope in the Lord. Mrs. Sue, "Mother," was hit with some health concerns and feels the need to be close to home at this time and we, of course, support her all the way. Please do keep her in your prayers. All of Joy's scans are good and Rick is doing well, too, with his eye problem.

Please do keep us all in your prayers and please help us and send us out all across the world.

As the shepherds saw the Christ Child, they went and told everyone of the Good News. I still feel that call to go everywhere to give the Good News!

Keep Looking Up!

*Joel*





Matthew 2:1-2: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."



### "The Rapture"

By: Joel Lisemby  
Now available on Amazon!

We are currently praying about hosting another trip to Israel either in late 2018 or early 2019. If you are interested in going with us to walk where Jesus walked, please contact us. We seek your prayers concerning this matter.

## Merry Christmas

## Greetings & Merry Christmas!

As I begin to write, my mind wanders: What kind of words are needed for a Christmas Letter? I will write to some who might really love to hear from me.

I realize that some have "too much on their plates," especially at this time of year, to try and decipher what I am trying to say to them.

Others may simply cast the letter into the trash or put it aside or into a desk drawer to read later on.

Nevertheless, may I now wish you a great time in the Lord. I have always loved wintertime better than all other seasons of the year. Why?

Well, the wintertime and its wintry cold blasts bring out the best in me and the best in me is when I write...

Today I listen to and write about the "Call of the Wild" geese who fly south away from that cold and snowy north country. Their "honking"

## Season's Greetings to Everyone,

It is so good to be back with you again via this newsletter. The Lisembys have had a great 2017. Hope you have, as well. Now we are busy decorating and getting our homes ready for Christmas, and purchasing and wrapping gifts for family and friends. So far, December has been a cold month, especially at night. This is my favorite time of

always brings a strange but special sentiment to me; my ink pen seems to fly (without error) across my writing paper until it has said what I wanted to say.

The flyways of these birds at times take them close enough to me that I can take some treasured photos of the gaggle for my album.

I find magical sounds in their "honks."

I'm feeling like I did when, as a child growing up, I dreamed of some special toy or piece of children's jewelry waiting beneath the tree.



## From Sue

Now, today I still wait hoping to find a surprise waiting for me under the tree this Christmas. Yes, I still feel like a child, act like a child, and some say: "think" like a child. (haha)

However, in and thru all this, I await Jesus' coming and although a health problem has kept me off the road recently, I stay with my "eyes on the skies." I pay special attention to the world news even though most of the newscasters don't perceive or connect with the Biblical "signs of the times." Those who study the *Heavenly News* are getting excited!!

Til Next Time,

*Sue*



## From Ricky

year. I am looking forward to all of our family being together with each other for Christmas and New Year's Day. We'll all eat a lot and enjoy the fellowship with each other as we celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who came to earth to be our Savior. God came in flesh, as the Man Jesus, to Bethlehem, Judea, to be the Messiah of

Israel, and the Redeemer of all mankind, of every nation, who will repent of their sins and place their faith and trust in Him.

We have been traveling everywhere this year, going to churches, auditoriums, outdoor theaters, and other events to sing and glorify God in music and song in concerts, and also

**From Ricky (Cont. from Page 2)**

preaching the word of God for revivals, crusades, camp meetings, and Harvest Day Sunday celebrations. God has blessed us using us to see churches revived, touched, excited, full of joy in the Holy Spirit, Christian hearts rededicated, refreshed, renewed and ready to serve God like never before, along with many souls saved, and lives changed for the Glory of God.

My favorite event in 2017, was in September when we traveled to Mount Airy, North Carolina to be a part of the annual "Mayberry Days" festival. This year was our third time to be a part of the weekend festivities. But it was the busiest one for us. God really did a work through us on the way to North Carolina, there at "Mayberry Days", and on the way back home. It was a great trip.

We left on Tuesday, September 19th, and traveled as far as we were able and we spent the night in our bus. On Wednesday, the 20th, we arrived at our first stop; Chesterfield, South Carolina. We arrived at Hopewell Baptist Church in the early afternoon. This was our second time to be at that church. We did a concert at 7 PM, and everyone was excited and happy to have us back again. God blessed us as we sang and ministered in testimonies. As we sang, the Spirit fell, and several people came to the altar, and poured their heart out to the Lord.

Afterward, we saw once again, some of our kinfolks, who are members of that church. Some

of them, in years past, left on a train and came to Arkansas to settle in Cleveland County. We talked to a few Hurst, Rivers, and many Lisenbys. One of the deacons who is a Lisenby shouted, "We need to have these people back again, every year!"

On Thursday, we left and arrived in Mount Airy, NC in the afternoon. The town looked so bright and shiny with all the decorations and all the shops on Main Street, ready for the weekend. We drove out to the Mayberry Campground and went to our spot.

On Friday early we went to the Blackmon Amphitheatre and unloaded our equipment. At 10:30 AM, was the opening ceremony to start the festival. The Proclamation was read, declaring the weekend festivities had officially begun. Then a guy dressed like Barney Fife came and he was the Emcee of the ceremony. He looked just like Don Knotts and was so funny as he did comedy. Then he started and introduced one at a time, 9 of the "stars" who acted on the Andy Griffith TV Show. They each said a few words and greeted everyone. It was fun and a treat to see them and remember them from the past. Each one was so nice, charming and friendly. At 11:45 the ceremony ended and we met the stars.

We started setting up our equipment on the stage and at 2:00 PM, we did an hour and 15 minute Concert. We had a good

crowd. We sang and testified and everyone got a blessing. We met people there from all over the country. One man was from the Ukraine. He really was blessed and cried, telling us how he was saved. It was a great afternoon.

We toured Mount Airy. Andy Griffith was born and raised there. His home is there, and the TV show was based on the town. There is an Andy Griffith Museum, and the Andy Griffith Playhouse theater. We walked into several shops named after several characters on the show.

On Saturday morning we saw the great parade. It was fabulous lasting for an hour. We then sang another Concert at the Blackmon at 2:30. We really felt the Spirit, as we sang. Everyone really enjoyed the fact that we perform our own unique style of music. Afterwards we toured the city again. Had so much fun.

Sunday morning we conducted the morning worship service there at the Blackmon. We sang from 10:30 'til 11:15 and Joey preached. The Spirit fell as Joey ministered and at the invitation, 7 people prayed to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. Hallelujah to the Lamb for His glory and salvation.

Sunday night at 6:00 PM we did a third concert. A local church dismissed their services, and came to hear us. God blessed, everyone was excited, and enjoyed the concert. A van load of folks from Charlotte, North Carolina came Sunday night to hear The Lisenbys.

On Monday, the 25th, we left

Mount Airy and headed into Tennessee. On Wednesday, September 27th we sang a concert at Faith Baptist Church in Pikeville. The people were so blessed and touched. They shouted "Amen" and raised their hands in worship. We sang and testified and had special prayer for the pastor's health.

Afterward, the people didn't want to leave. We fellowshipped for over an hour. One lady said "What a blessing this was. Enjoyed every song, it was awesome! This was a good shot in the arm, right there!!" What a night that was!

On Thursday, the 28th, we came home, rejoicing because of what we experienced in every Concert, how people were revived, the souls that were saved, and all the fun we had seeing the sites in Mount Airy, North Carolina. We are praying that we can go back again next year. I remember it all like it was yesterday.

Our prayers are that you have all your family home for Christmas, enjoy the holiday season to the fullest, and that God's love, joy and peace fill your heart as you remember why Jesus came, and that He has saved you, cleansed you and that soon you will be in Heaven forever.

From the Lisenbys to everyone, everywhere,

Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!

*Ricky*





*“But one thing I have been learning this year, is that I have seen myself in this little dog of ours.”*

This Christmas, Noel has begun a new family tradition. She has 12 sealed envelopes on the tree. Each day we open one and have to do what's written on the card inside. So far the cards have been: 1) Make candy canes from scratch 2) Each person has to make an ornament for the tree 3) Each person has to help decorate inside or outside the house 4) Sing Christmas songs around the piano 5) Need to make 10 random people smile by giving them a “High Five”

We have had so much fun doing these random “12 dares of Christmas”

I think she has started something in our family. We can't wait to see what the rest of the cards will say.



## I Saw “Me” This Year

2017—wow, what a year! As already mentioned in this newsletter, The Lisemby Family has been blessed to go minister to many people in many places across the country this year. It's always a joy to see hearts changed towards the Lord, and folks committing their lives to follow Jesus closer.

But 2017 also brought a new chapter in our lives. You parents know what it's like when your kids look at you with those eyes—oh those eyes—and ask for a puppy. Not just ANY puppy, but an INSIDE puppy!

Well, we tried to talk them out of it, sharing all the “what ifs” and what are we gonna do when we travel scenarios, but we decided that after the difficult past two years, we'd give it a try.

So meet Oakley Joe. He is a Schweenie dog (1/2 Shi Tzu, 1/2 Dachshund) . He is a fun little dog, and we got him when he was tiny, tiny. He was born on New Year's Eve, and we got him on Valentine's Day. Yep, it was love at first sight.

But one thing I have been learning this year, is that I have

seen myself in this little dog of ours. When we first got him, he was so helpless, and we had to do everything for him. We had to carry him up and down the steps. He couldn't jump on the furniture, or jump off of it when he was put there. He depended solely upon us to do it for him. He depended on us for his every need.

I thought of myself, and how dependent I am (or should be) on God to meet my every need. I saw myself thru those times when I could not attain my goals alone and in my own power, and therefore had to solely depend upon the Lord to carry me up or down from wherever state I was in at the time. I trust my Lord to provide for my needs, and to love me.

Then as Oakley got a little bigger, that little “sin nature” or “puppy nature” as was his case, began to show out. He would chew up something, or have accidents in the house, and we would have to scold him. I explained to the girls (mainly Noel because she's the youngest) that we weren't being mean to him, but we had to train him to do right.

As is the case with myself. God has to train me all throughout my life. When I do things that I ought not to do in the Lord, He definitely scolds me, and disciplines me—not to be mean—but to train me to follow Him and His path for my life. Oh those times when I wished I

## From: Joy

had listened to the Lord, instead of “doing my own thing.”

Oakley has “the look” when he knows that he has done something wrong, and I have noticed that he comes to us, and lays down in submission, begging for forgiveness.

I thought to myself, “That's what God wants *us* to do when we sin. He wants us to come to Him begging for forgiveness in total submission.”

When we have to leave the house and leave Oakley there alone, he grieves for us. But when we open the door he runs circles around us, tail wagging, and giving lots of kisses. It's like he can't believe that we came back and he's so excited to be in our presence.

That's what God desires from us when we are in the presence of the Almighty. In fact, that is what “worship” means. It means, “to kiss towards, as a dog would lick the master's hand.” We are to kiss toward God every chance we get. We need to get excited when we are in the presence of Jesus.

Oh, little Oakley, thank you for showing me—“ME” this year. I thank God for our little Oakley Joe. He has brought such love, joy and laughter into our house.

May the Lord bless each of you this coming year with love, joy, peace, and laughter.

Merry Christmas

*Joy*

**Blessings of 2017**

Looking back on this year, it fills my heart knowing what all the Lord has done in this ministry and in the lives of my family. A lot of new “adventures” have taken place. Some have been uphill battles, and others have been blessings waiting around the riverbend. But God is leading us through all these new journeys. It’s exciting to see how He is going to bring glory to Himself through laughter and through tears.

In the blessings, the new friends, the opened doors, and the closed doors, the new projects, new opportunities, the new growth, the laughter, as well as in ALL the hardships there has been a gift from God in each new discovery of this year. And in each one there has been loads of grace and strength. One thing about my

Lord is that He doesn’t just give during Christmas, He bestows gifts all year ‘round! He sure has overloaded me with gifts this year of all sorts of blessings, each one wrapped in their own beauty and design. I couldn’t be more grateful for all that He has done.

Thinking of 2017 I’m reminded of this Christmas song that is a re-written version of the old song “Auld Lang Syne.” It has become one of my new favorites. I hope the words get planted in your heart, so you can ALWAYS remember what all the Lord has done.

“Your grace will never be forgot  
Your mercy all my life  
Will be my soul’s forever song  
My story and my light.  
From mountaintop to valley low  
Through laughter and through tears

**We Can Praise God at All Times**

We can praise God at all times; He inhabits praise. When I cry “Come quickly, Lord Jesus,” He comes to me!

At this glorious season may I wish you God’s blessings. These special blessings come when our minds dwell on the birth of our Messiah.

As I study the “truths” of the gifts presented to Jesus by the

Magi, I see the story of His life and death. He was at least two years old or more when the wise men arrived in Bethlehem.

They brought treasures of “gold” that tell us of Christ’s deity. His life, and death are spoken of through the “myrrh” used for medicinal purposes and embalming oils.

And last but not least, there is

**From: Melody**

Surely the goodness of my God  
Will follow all the years.

Chorus:  
For all that You have done, for us  
For every battle won  
We’ll raise a song to bless Your heart  
For all that You have done.

In all our failures and regrets  
You’ve always led us home  
Redemption’s arm has raised us up  
Our triumph in the storm.  
In unity we’ll stand as one  
As family we’ll go  
Shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand  
Into the great unknown.”

**Merry Christmas!**

*Melody*



**From: Don**

“Frankincense” which when applied brings out the very best I whatever or whomever it is placed on.

Until next Christmas and beyond, let me wish you the best in life and beyond...

*Don*



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*“One thing about my Lord is that He doesn’t just give during Christmas, He bestows gifts all year ‘round!”*



**The Lisemby Family**



**Louisiana Conference  
of Southern Baptist  
Evangelists**

Lisemby Family Evangelistic Ministries, Inc.  
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## The First Christmas

A quick look at the first Christmas. Go with me for a moment. The Lamp of Israel is all but gone out. The land of Israel is in darkness and despair, overrun by a tyrannical government of the monster or beast of the Roman Empire; overrun by darkness and despair of the soul. For over 400 years, there has been no voice of the prophets crying in the streets on behalf of the Lord. Also, darkness and despair of a demonic influence blankets the land.

Just take one book in your Bible—the Book of Mark—which starts with the cry of John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord. In that one book, begin

reading and you will see over and over a systematic soul problem with mankind—the invasion of demonic possession. About every chapter Jesus is casting out devils. Odd isn't it? There was a devil at work in the land for sure.

Revelation 12 tells us that the old serpent was there and ready to devour the Holy Child. Luke 1:79 says, *"To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."* Yes, in that murky, quietness of soul and spirit of these days, The Light came. The Voice to cry in the streets came. The

## From: Joel

Light to shine so bright that still, after 2,000 years, songs, anthems, musicals and plays are still in the hearts of men.

In this silent night of the dead, white-washed synagogues and silent streets vacated by all preachers—the sky rolled back and a multitude of Heavenly Hosts performed the first Gospel Concert! The first preaching of Jesus in 400 silent years. Though there was the noise of men and their toils, and the noise of the soldiers' sabers rattling, and the noise of Pilgrims in pursuit of their return to their home town of birth, the silence of the Word of God that

had ruled the day, was broken.

Heaven's Glory of the Babe, Hell's fury of the Babe, the worship of the shepherds and the New Testament's first visitation program all began that night. The shepherds went into the city and told the news. I can almost hear the song, *"Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!"*

By the way, visitation worked then and still works today. Go tell someone!

*Joel*