

2010

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

2010: YEAR OF TRAVEL YEAR OF TRANSITION

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IS JESUS PRECIOUS TO YOU?

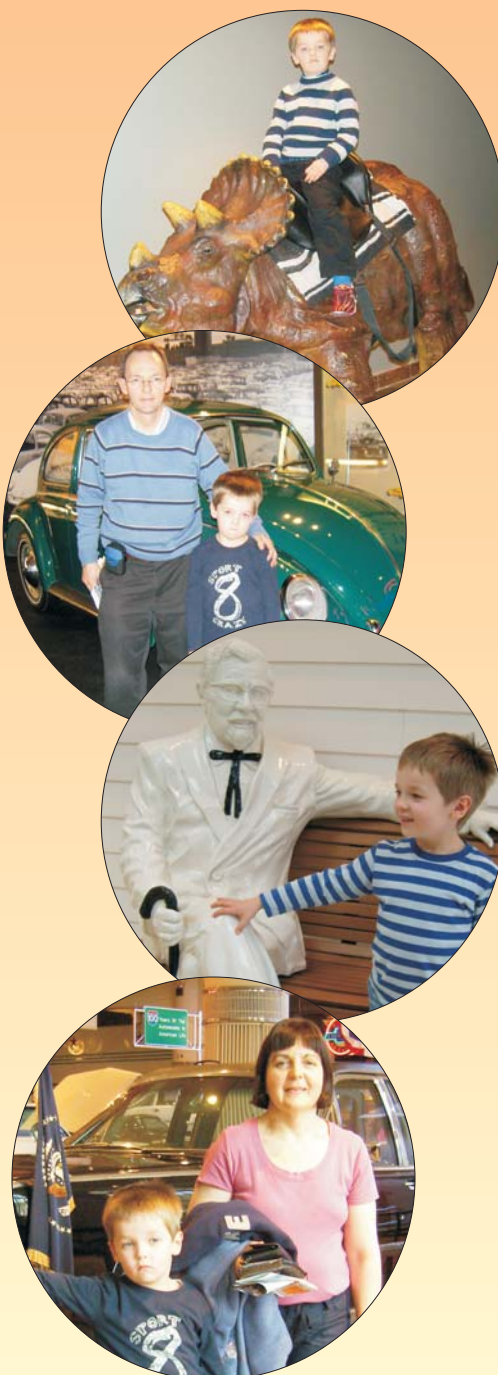
A couple of weeks ago, we attended the annual event on BJU campus—the tree-lighting ceremony. A crowd of several hundred people, many of them townsfolk with no direct contact with the campus, joined to sing carols, to listen to a brief message, and to see the Christmas lights turned on in the campus grounds. An impressive nativity display is on view at the main entrance, with a massive conical design of lights. The preacher, Dr Bob Jones III, not surprisingly spoke on the theme of light having come into the world.

Whoever follows Christ shall never be in the darkness, but shall enjoy life-giving light. This is quite clear from the Bible's message (see, for instance, John 8:12—'Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.').

The Apostle Peter, writing in his first letter, repeatedly used the word 'precious' in respect of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. In 1 Peter 1:7 he wrote: 'Unto you therefore which believe he is precious.'

God's gift to this world is his spotless, sinless Son—and the whole of his life, as well as his sacrificial death, resurrection, ascension to heaven, rule and anticipated return—are for the salvation of those who trust him and look forward to his second coming. It is good to think of these things always, but especially at this time of the year.

Is Jesus precious to you?



THE YEAR IN BRIEF

The year 2010 got going with a bang—I had to spend several days in the USA, travelling with good friend and Day One author, Clive Anderson. The itinerary included the west coast, South Carolina and New York.

Within weeks, I was back again, this time with Sue and Matthew. Arriving in Detroit, we drove some 2,000 miles through Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, North and South Carolina. Matthew completed his entry test for his school, and we also attended Together for the Gospel—a huge event held every two years. This was a great opportunity to promote Day One books, with the good help of author Simon Robinson and Hazel his wife. Later, we were stranded in Detroit when a large volcanic ash cloud disrupted air travel for several days, but we enjoyed our time with new friends in a largely Chinese church. Other visits I made later in the year were to Chicago and, on other occasions, to St Louis and Lafayette.

Saying goodbye to friends in Darlington was inevitable and we became conscious of how many people we have come to know and love. Matthew had particularly enjoyed his time at school at Whinfield, a convenient five-minute walk from our home in Caledonian Way, and he has maintained contact with his class via e-mail. Our farewell from Aycliffe Evangelical Church was in July—and we were subsequently presented with a wonderful photo album of friends from the church. The ministry at Aycliffe continues under John Rubens, a long-standing friend whom we have known since the early 1990s.

SUE: GREENVILLE IMPRESSIONS

Unlike many American cities, its roads do not form a grid with every road intersecting at 90 degrees. It's been hugely confusing to work out how the roads connect. What adds to the confusion is that roads have different names at different stages.

Winter is colder than expected, reminding me a lot of winter in Johannesburg—sharp, brisk mornings and evenings and a little milder during the day.

People here are curious about foreigners and very helpful when you need directions or information about anything. Shopping is overwhelming—there is a multiplicity of brands. Almost none is recognizable, so shopping can be confusing and can take time.

Jim adds...

Making the move itself to Greenville to develop the ministry of Day One Publications from within the USA has been a bigger-than-expected undertaking. Preparing our UK house for renting out, getting items packed, sold or given away was quite time-consuming, and we were grateful for the help and love of many friends who supported us in this.

Pictures previous page: Main image: With Dougherty family near Detroit—we enjoyed wonderful hospitality when the volcanic ash cloud delayed our return to the UK in April; **Top right:** Matthew at BJU's turning on of the lights, the top part of the main tree visible in the distance on the right of the picture; **Roundels from top:** Matthew rides dinosaur in Kentucky at the Creation Museum; Jim and Matthew enjoy Volks Wagen Beetle; Matthew meets Colonel Saunders of Kentucky Fried Chicken; Sue and Matthew see presidential limousine at Henry Ford Museum in Michigan



AND MATTHEW REPORTS:

'Mrs Harris is a nice, kind Christian lady who's made me welcome in Grade 2. My favorite subjects are math and reading.'

Jim adds:

The school's mission statement reads thus:



BJES exists to grow Christlike character that is scripturally disciplined, others-serving, God-loving, Christ-proclaiming, and focused above.

When I asked Matthew what he likes about living in Greenville, his answer included:

Cracker Barrel (a southern restaurant), **Barnes and Noble** (a major bookshop and music retailer), **school** and **church**, **Crossway** (a Christian bookstore) and **WMUU**—the latter a radio station associated with Bob Jones University. Its call-sign derives from the term 'World's Most Unusual University'. That is a term applied in the earlier days of BJU when its strong stance against modernism was particularly noted in some circles.

Pictures this page: Roundels from top: *Darlington house in Caledonian Way; American house in Blythewood Drive, Greenville; Matthew listens attentively to WMUU radio station; Matthew prepares for a good night's sleep.* **Bottom pictures, Left:** *At Together for the Gospel with Paul Tautges, Reggie Weems; Middle:* *Matthew's first day at BJES, 2nd Grade; Right:* *Greenville downtown pictured in the spring. Note: the downtown area has a very pleasant, arbour-like atmosphere.*

