

2012

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God.
(John 1:1)

2012: YEAR OF ONGOING CHALLENGES

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There is a wonderful little verse in the Old Testament: Micah 5:2. It reads thus: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among

the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

It speaks of the redemptive mission coming into this world of the One who is without beginning and without end. Psalm 90:2 tells us of Jesus that "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

How can we, finite humans, even begin to get a hold on the concept of eternity? How wonderful is the timelessness of God. Daniel the prophet called him the "Ancient of Days" (Dan 7). From before the beginning, God has always been God.

Have you stopped to think about how it is that Jesus is the everlasting God? In a terse description of the person and work of Jesus, the apostle Paul wrote: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest [that is, revealed] in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." (1 Timothy 3:16).

The end and beginning of each year, punctuated with Christmas and New Year, gives us a great opportunity to consider ourselves in the light of eternity. Are you ready to meet with the everlasting One who came into this world to save sinners?

THE ETERNAL JESUS...



2012: AT A GLANCE

The year 2012 has been a full one. Events and aspects that come to mind include:

The changing of the seasons, merging from one to the next; the leaves changing colour and beginning to fall

National celebration and pagentry... both in the USA and in the UK

Thanksgiving—a wonderful American event

Seeing the historic city of Charleston for the first time en route from travels in Florida; the American Civil War started in this area.

Meeting friends old and new—from Africa, too
Matthew's ongoing piano and viola lessons

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The hype and excitement of the London Olympics
Matthew discovers the delights of tailgating when he watches Clemson football games

Creative fun with friends from church—making Christmas decorations

In God we trust: Applying for our Green Card

Enjoying an Irish Christmas with Keith and Kristen
Getty when they visited South Carolina

About the pictures on this page:

Main: Visiting Land's End in Cornwall, England, in June

Top right: Matthew attempting to fly us from Greenville to Charlotte. The flight had to be cancelled!

Left top: Matthew enjoys the beach in Cornwall

Left middle: Well, what do you do with *your* old leaves?

Left bottom: Pageantry in Greenville town centre

Tint above: Fall colours; our home nestles in the trees



Pictures: Top left: At Bob Jones University Christmas lighting ceremony

Top right cluster: Matthew flying model plane, decorating tree and dressed for Christmas concert at school

Middle pictures left: (a) Meeting Conrad and Felistas Mbewe in Georgia after over 15 years; Conrad is the Spurgeon of Africa. (b) With Mark and Samantha Powell, who recently moved here from South Africa

Middle right: At Thanksgiving with the Powells

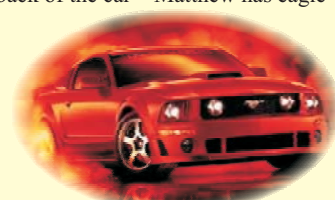
Lower roundels: Sue with Matthew out riding his bike; Sue enjoys making Christmas tree decorations; Matthew takes a break from sweeping up leaves—"So Dad, what will my pocket money be for all this work?"

AND MATTHEW WRITES...

Roar Roar! Don't worry it's just through the loud speakers at Clemson Memorial Stadium in Clemson, SC (South Carolina). It is the home stadium of the Clemson Tigers football (American) program. I have actually been in my view probably to one of the most exiting games of the year. The time is 3:30 pm and kickoff is about to happen between the Clemson Tigers and the North Carolina State Wolfpack (more commonly known as 'the pack'). It was an exiting game: Clemson reeled off the first 13 points but NC State came back and scored the next 24 then Clemson came back with the next 42 points NC State came on a come back but it was too little too late. The final score was Clemson 62- NC State 48 so the Tigers had won in Clemson Memorial Stadium.

And Dad adds:

Matthew and I love spotting Ford Mustangs and regularly the shout is heard in our car as we travel along, 'MUSTANG!' The shout is usually from the back of the car—Matthew has eagle eyesight!



Matthew about to go off to watch the game with Mr. Mark Hatfield, a friend from church, ardent Clemson supporter!