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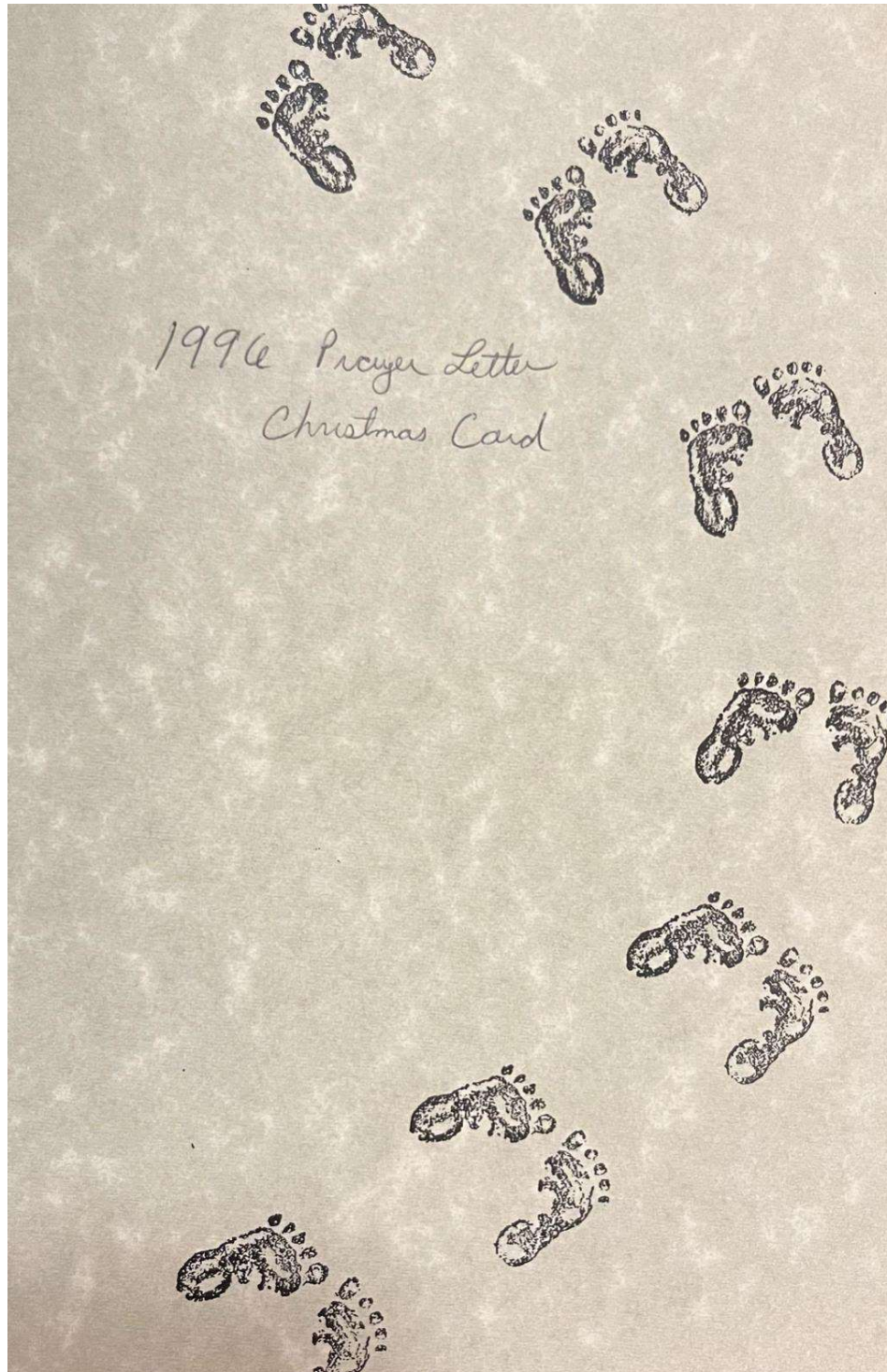
Beautiful Feet!

1 message

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024 FROM THE WENDELS



“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!” (Isaiah 52:7 NLT)

The above letter, sent out in 1996 to our prayer team and supporters, was titled "Beautiful Feet". Of course, back then there was no canva, mailchimp or google images, so we ink-stamped footprints on our letter.

We had just returned from a vision trip to North Africa, where dusty, sandaled, henna-tattooed feet walked the cobblestone roads, men would remove their shoes before entering their holy places, children were often barefoot or had ill-fitting shoes. Yes, "*feet*" was the theme. Those years my own feet were covered with a sturdy closed-in nursing shoes as I cared for many patients (and their feet). Tim, studying for his MDiv, had his foot on the gas pedal as he drove many miles for his classes. And, we had just seen on an ultrasound, the tiny feet of our growing 1st child, who would make his appearance a few months later. We would later realize that his feet were happiest in basketball shoes. We would add to our family's footprint, two more boys and a girl who would also choose their favorite shoes to wear!

It was 1996, we were seeking the Lord as to where He wanted to take our feet as a family in order to proclaim His love and hope! The Lord led our feet to the East Side of Chicago then to Madrid, Spain then to Montevideo, Uruguay and to many other places in Latin America.

Fast forward 28 years to 2024, that first baby is now married and watching his own little girls' feet on an ultrasound (pause for this baby announcement!!) and wondering where her feet will take her someday and what will be her choice of footwear!

Baby feet, toddler feet, children, teen, adult, old feet. God has given each of us feet to take us to so many places. How we cover our feet with the shoes we wear, what we do and who

we walk with are all opportunities that God gives us to live out our unique design and calling, to walk with those on our paths and to take the message of peace and hope to others.

As we recently reflected on the season of Advent, we remember as the Virgin Mary, no doubt, counted each of her new born baby's toes, fully human yet fully God. Those little feet that would get stubbed, dirty, cut and calloused and whose feet would eventually walk to the cross and be pierced in order to bring us Salvation, the only GOOD NEWS worth taking because it is a message of Hope and Restoration.

How about you?

I wonder where all your feet have taken you this past year?

I wonder what shoes you wear in order to take the Good News to someone?

I wonder if there are new places and new shoes you should consider in order to take the Good News to someone in need of that hope?

This past year our feet have travelled (mostly flown) many kilometers. Our shoes (and feet) have gone through many security scanners showing the real inside. I wonder if they always reveal feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:15 NLT)

This year let's remember the feet that walked this earth to bring us HOPE as we not only receive that message for ourselves, but then take that message to others.

We would like to thank God and ask you for prayer for the following feet!



1. Bare Feet ! Stepping into the waters of Baptism! Some in muddy river water, blow-up Jacuzzis, others into a baptistry, but all have followed our Lord in obedience as He himself walked into the Jordan river to be baptized.

2. **Tough Feet!** stepping into construction shoes. From Mexico to Cuba to Paraguay to Uruguay. We are under construction! We are building space for our growing communities of faith to meet!
3. **New Feet!** stepping out of their homes to follow the call of God. We are so excited as we are receiving **NEW WORKERS** in our region who will carry the Gospel of Peace to those who have not clearly or ever heard. Pray for 6 new couples as they raise support and move to Latin America!
4. **Student Feet** stepping into seminary! Pray as many men and women follow the call of God and prepare for ministry. It's not easy. It usually involves studying on the side as they care for their families, ministries and full-time jobs.
5. **Gnarled Feet!** Although Tim's mom continues to decline due to PSP, we remember where her beautiful feet once took her as she cared for her family, the church and everyone she came in contact with.
6. **Retiring Feet!** as many of our colleagues who have served for so many years, retire this year. Their feet have taken them to so many places and peoples as they have served the Lord. Pray for them that they would continue to see how the Lord uses their feet in this new season.
7. **Graduating Feet!** We have two, soon to be graduates! Elijah will graduate with a degree in Computer Science and Kira (Nathanael's wife) as a medical doctor. Pray for all of our children as their Professional Feet! take them into the world of healthcare, the university setting, engineering and ministry to a world that is looking for hope, peace and understanding.
8. **Growing Feet!** as our granddaughter continues to grow and make her appearance the end of February! We thank the Lord for this gift of life!
9. **YOUR Feet!** as you have prayed for us, our family and ministry throughout all these years. We know that there have been so many times that God has worked, protected and provided for us and others because **YOU** have been praying.
10. **Feet that Send other Feet!** Thank you for sending out our feet to go as we are an extension of your ministry in Latin America.

We want to close with the words of Zachariah in Luke 1: 76-79 (ESV)

And you, my child, "Prophet of the Highest,"

will go ahead of the Master to prepare his ways,

Present the offer of salvation to his people,

the forgiveness of their sins.

Through the heartfelt mercies of our God,

God's Sunrise will break in upon us,

Shining on those in the darkness,

those sitting in the shadow of death,

Then showing us the way, one foot at a time,

down the path of peace.



We are so grateful for all the ways in which you send, equip, pray, support and encourage us!



If you are already giving to those feet who are taking the Good News of Christ around the world, THANK YOU! If you are not, we would encourage you to do so and pray that those who hear will respond to God's grace.

If you would like to partner with us financially, there are two ways for you to do so. Both work together to support us financially.

Undesignated- Great Commission Fund

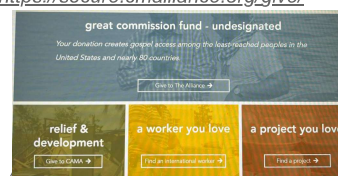
OR

Designated-A Worker You Love (Tim and Melanie Wendel)

Of course you can always give to both as well!

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