

# *Merry Christmas from Icthus Ministries*

## *And the Dingle Family*

Praise God for 2020. What a year! We trust that as you have faced many new challenges and trials, Jesus has poured out his lavish love upon you in very tangible ways. The Dingles are so thankful for all the ways you have encouraged, supported, and blessed them in another year of fruitful ministry!



This was a special year for Bill - 30 years of ministry at Icthus! The anniversary in September came and went without much festivity. No matter what, the grass still has to be mowed, and the cow milked! But our family was very proud for Bill, and we privately rejoiced in all the wonderful memories of faces and times gone by of that little retreat center on the side of a mountain! People often wonder how we manage the amount of work, but we are so happy to be living in this mountain paradise. And we are blessed to have each other!

The summer was rich with young people who were very hungry for God. We noticed that after months of quarantine, people of all ages were treasuring corporate worship and Bible study. Our retreats were fewer than usual; however, God sent many people to us through different avenues. One young veteran asked Bill to baptize him! One pastor from Virginia spent three weeks in the Creek House seeking renewal. Dozens of local people visited the Haven to experience a working farm and to buy fresh farm products. The local clogging group, of which Edith, Emma, and Lydia are a part, started meeting at the pavilion. Four local ladies started joining Edith in one of the guest houses for weekly Bible study. And the 21st Annual Praise Festival was a huge success!



The Dingle children are growing up too quickly! Emma is enjoying her sophomore year at WCU as a history major. Reah is making the most of her senior year at Swain High, and she has been working as a waitress at the Hemlock Inn. Her desire is to attend East Tennessee St. Univ. in the fall as an Early Childhood Education major. Lydia is doing well as a freshman in high school, and she continues to pursue photography and art. David has grown to a height of 5'10" as a 13 yr. old, and he helps his dad on the farm in such an incredible way. Elijah enjoys squirrel hunting with his brother, and he tolerates the 5th grade. They all are a joy to many! Bill and Edith are older, but by God's grace they walk, work, and love each day! Some personal highlights of the year were a 5 day camping and canoeing trip that Bill took with the boys. Edith enjoyed leading kayaking trips on Lake Fontana with the kids and many folks from church. David discovered the joy of mountain biking at Fire Mountain, and Elijah shot his first squirrel. Emma was inducted into the Honors College at WCU. Reah gave a full solo flute recital in February, and Lydia sold more artwork locally. The biggest highlight of all, though, was Jesus walking with us every step of the way! May you be blessed this Christmas and in the New Year of 2021!



John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you....let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."  
Nehemiah 8:10 "...for this day is holy unto our Lord...for the joy of the Lord is your strength."