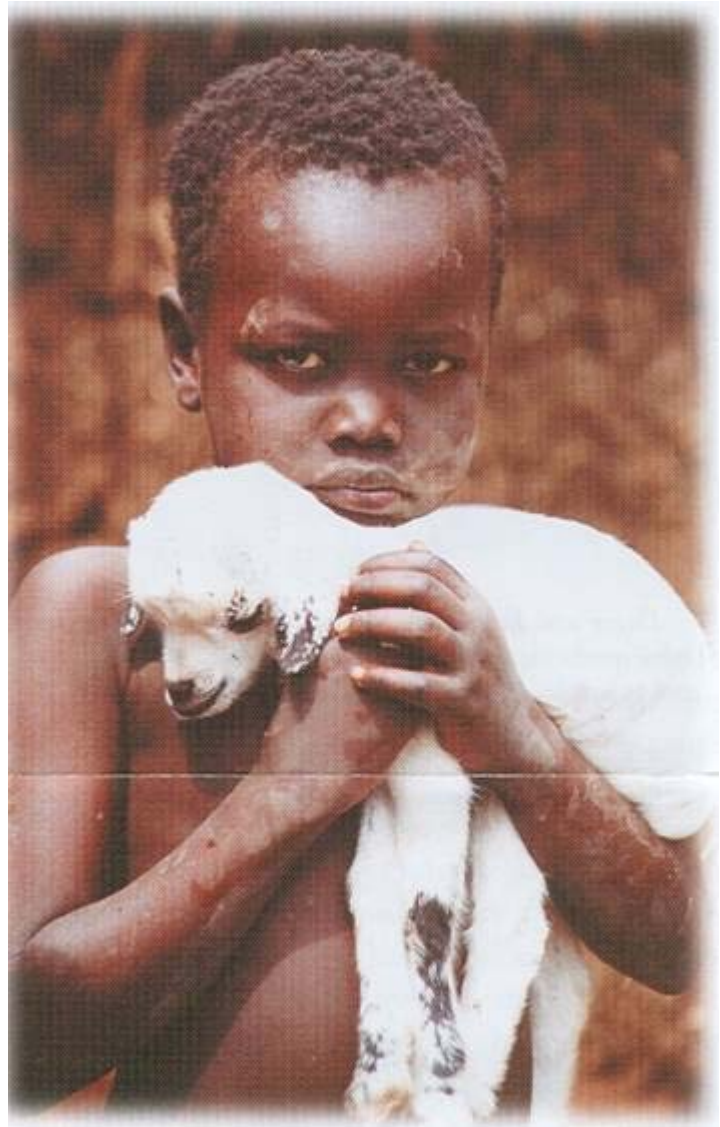


Christmas 2004

Take in the image of this little Sudanese boy located in the greatest humanitarian crises in the world today...the Sudan. We celebrate with you this Christmas, the Lord Jesus Christ, who entered into the crises of man's sinful estate to give reconciliation and peace with God and with man. This little boy is a shepherd boy. He is loving and protecting what he is holding to his heart. It is precious to him!

Isaiah 40: 11 says *"He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms... and carries them close to his heart; He gently leads those that are with young.*

in 2004 we have seen the Lord as a Shepherd as He has held this Harding family close to His heart. He has protected Bill over many miles of travel. Bill, Kyle, his cousin, Jordan, and a dear friend, Jeff Faulkner were in Ethiopia to feed the sheep the Word of God. It was a time that was transformational for each of us as we saw the loving arms of God around a church that is thriving and spiritually rich in a caldron of abject economic poverty. Off to Asia to help lead the first SIM Japan retreat outside Tokyo. How thrilling to see Japan as a sending nation for the gospel of Christ. The "in your face" Buddhism in Thailand shocked this Africa guy. Sunday after Sunday Bill continues to prick the conscious of the church in North America telling of the Shepherd's love for the nations and His desire to bring them to Himself, to redeem them, to forgive them and to give them purpose and a passion to live and die for Him with the awesome reward of an eternity with Him.



At this Christmas time, we wish to express our thanksgiving to God and to you for your care, your love, your support all through the years. Reflect on the picture and remember at this Christmas season that the Lord is our Shepherd and our King and that God sent us His Son, Jesus, as a baby to be the spotless Lamb of God that would be the perfect sacrifice for our sin. Wow, what a reason to celebrate!



*Drew and Janna are great parents!
Drew works with long term care insurance
and is involved on the missions committee
of his church.*

*Janna loves motherhood, taking
care of Kaiden and Kirsi.*

*Kara graduates with a teaching degree this year.
Pray as she is checking out teaching in China.*





It is thrilling to have Kyle close-by studying Athletic Training as a sophomore at Wingate University.



Ryan and Selah in awe of each other

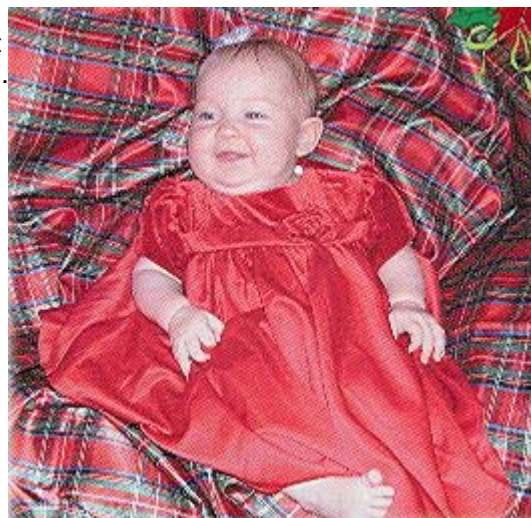
Ryan and Melissa are serving at Port City Community Church in Washington, NC. Ryan is the Mission Pastor, having led mission trips to Sudan and Kenya. Melissa is ministering to middle school girls and young moms, and is enjoying being a new mom.



Smiling Selah, the latest addition to the Harding clan.



Bill & Grace



Dear, dear friends and family,

How do you reduce into words what this year has been? As Bill wrote in one email "We have -been Suspended between GRIEF and GLORY." That horrible word "cancer" has kept us there. It drives you to your knees...makes you grateful for years you have with those loved ones and scared to live without them. Bill's sister, Gwen, had a scare in March and it was such a privilege to be able to go to Colorado and help around the house following her surgery. Hers' was wonderfully benign. But as the year progressed, I realized that God had allowed that visit for much more than time with Gwen and family. I was also able to see several of my siblings, including my brother, Charles, and his wife Theresa. We had such a great time together never knowing that in only a matter of months she would begin a long, painful battle that would take her life in August with ovarian cancer. Walking with them through that was one of the most difficult things I have ever witnessed. She was only 34. She left Charles and their 13 year old son, Nelson...but she is with Jesus...no longer in pain!!! From grief to glory! Pray for those still living in the grief of her loss.

I think it was the week after her death that my Dad began using Hospice at home and shortly went into a full time Hospice house as his prostate cancer had metastasized to the bones. The staff told Mom it would be two weeks. Fourteen weeks later...he is released back home with a clear mind, very little appetite and a very frail body. He is amazing as is Mom! They were two bright lights in that Hospice House as each one came to love them. We don't know what is happening...Dad is ready to go...willing to stay. Hospice is helping them at home in Bradenton, FL. I will go and help for awhile this weekend before Christmas. Pray for peace and God's timing.

Part of the GLORY was welcoming our third grand-daughter, Selah Faith. News of her birth came from Ryan and Melissa while I was in Colorado in the hospital room with Theresa. As you can see, she is a bundle of smiles, and an absolute delight! Our children continue to move us as we watch them walk in truth. It is true that there is no greater joy than that.

With all that has gone on with cancer, I have developed a real passion for health. I was so excited to find out about this product from a friend from Bible School whose health it changed dramatically. I like to call it "The Garden of Eden in a capsule." So pray for me as I have become a distributor. I am no business woman, but I don't care...this is too important. Check it out and give yourself the gift of health. My website is www.ezjuice4u.com. I love its simplicity and results. As life and death continues to stare us in the face, we thrill at the assurance that Jesus came to die so that we might live FOREVER!. He is our JOY in the midst of turmoil.

P. S. Two of the greatest things I have been involved in this year have been starting a neighborhood Bible study with my prayer partner friend, Sandy, and sister-in-law, Carol. As we have been studying the book of John with the ABC method, it has been incredible to see women in their 40's and 50's saying "Why haven't I heard this before?" This is so exciting! Some are "football moms" from Kyle's high school days.

The other has been again with Sandy...sending WOW (Word of the Week) by email to college students! It is just a little blurb reminding them about who God is. Send me email addresses of kids you know. We will add them