

# *Living Life!*

Number 9

January 2007

Virginia, U.S.A.

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**Happy New Year!** At this time of year I always like to remember last year's happenings. 2006 was a year of challenges for me:

Our English program in Zakho and Dohuk was put on hold for a year for planning purposes. I had to find new English books that we could legally photocopy. We bought some material from the internet for 2006 and now we're getting our own books written in 2007. We'll use them in our English program in Zakho this summer! (Forgive us - we won't be having a program in Dohuk this summer.)

In January 2006 my sister went back to Uganda (in Africa). She's a literacy teacher there. I won't see her for another two or three years. My Dad had surgery twice, which was difficult for both him and my Mom. My brother and his family moved back to the States after living in the Philippines for several years. I helped them by driving one of their cars from Texas to Washington State. It was a 9 day trip since we stopped to visit friends and family along the way.

Two of my friends died in 2006. Another friend had cancer but by God's grace and through chemotherapy treatments has survived. Another

friend lost her baby through miscarriage. My cousin died from diabetes.

2006 was also a year of wonderful blessings! I got to be with all of my family last year - once with my sister, twice with my parents and twice with my brother and his family. Several friends had new babies (Congratulations!) and I enjoyed making blankets for them. I got to spend most of the year with my Kurdish friends who live in Virginia. I visited old and new friends.

And in 2006 I started writing *Living Life!*

What are some of your wishes for the new year? As God wills, some of the things I'm looking forward to in 2007 are:

- returning to Kurdistan for a 2-week visit in February
- returning to Zakho for the summer with a team of English teachers
- celebrating my parents' 50th wedding anniversary with them in November

If your wishes honor God, may he give you the desires of your heart!