

I trust that this holiday season has been a great time for each one of you and your families! Someone recently posted a question on the ismkalumni website about Christmas traditions. It is so fun to read what some families created as traditions. One MK tells me that her mother used to close all the doors and windows so she could crank up the air conditioning! She lived in a hot climate, and wanted to feel cold on Christmas!

Here is what a couple others wrote:

"When we lived in Truk, the only time of the year we could get flour, meat, and veggies was Christmas time. One of our first years there, my parents sifted the flour and made tortillas and we had burritos on Christmas Eve. That was either 78 or 79 and it's still not Christmas Eve until we've had our burritos!!!!"

"One particular year we were up in the mountains and had no decorations what-so-ever so everything was homemade (yes, even paper snowflakes). We found a bush to be a tree, but my favorite was using eucalyptus branches as our pine decoration around the fireplace. The house smelt awesome. Every year since (including this year) I put out dried eucy leaves to 'take me back'."

I wonder what my kids will "write" about when they are alumni. What will they think back to and remember with fondness? MKs certainly have some very interesting traditions – mixtures of several cultures and households, all being blended into their own traditions! We pray that as you head into this New Year that you and your household have made some memories.

I recently prepared the college reentry letter for our high school juniors and seniors. If you have a high school junior or senior, they will be receiving a packet from our office in February. Please be certain that you go through the packet thoroughly. We have compiled quite a bit of information that will be vital to their college experience. This past September I received several phone calls from parents or MKs who were panicking about the details of starting college. Take the time to prepare your MK for what is lying ahead of them!