

## Happy Birthdays!

by Shelley Tvedt

Everyone has a birthday. Believers and unbelievers alike celebrate their first birthday, but only believers celebrate three birthdays in their lifetime. Each birthday a believer celebrates is more precious and more life-changing than the last. Each one is known before time and designed by our Heavenly Father.

My first birthday was that precious moment when my parents saw for the first time what God had seen from eternity. It was all by His design. He knew in eternity the choices my parents would make and when He would bring me into His-Story through them. He knew the parents I would need, that I might be equipped to be the woman He designed. Nothing is by accident and nothing ever takes Him by surprise. He knows it all. David said it best...*"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance (in the process of time) were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!"* (Ps. 139:14-17) I am so thankful to the LORD for my parents.

In the process of time, God knew that my parents would come to know Him as their LORD and Saviour in a life-changing way and would obey His call to attend New Tribes Bible Institute in Waukesha, Wisconsin. It was there that they learned more about their LORD and taught me more about Him. Although they had given me physical life, they could not give me eternal life. Only God could do that.

At the age of 5, I was born again and celebrated my 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. It was then that God delivered me from the power of darkness and translated me into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom I have redemption through his blood – even the forgiveness of sins. (personalized from Col. 1:13-14)

My first birthday was a miracle of earthly life that made my parents celebrate, but my second birthday caused the angels in Heaven to rejoice! Just think that the best birthday of all is yet to come! That final birthday is when my first temporal birthday ceases to exist. God will birth me into eternity! It is that day when I will meet my Creator face to face...the one who shaped me in my mother's womb, brought me into His-Story, redeemed me from the power of death to life eternal and will at that moment bring me home to live with Him eternally! There will be no need for any more birthdays...the process of being born has reached completion...I will then be FULLY alive.

Until my third and final birthday, my life is filled daily with gifts from my Heavenly Father's hands to be opened and enjoyed...my marriage, my children, my on-going relationship with my "birth parents" and the other people He brings into my life. For what purpose? That I might clearly represent Christ in my own life and to the world, and in doing so, bring glory and honor to the One who has, is, and is yet going to give me the fullness of life!

*"Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the  
world stand in awe of him." Psalm 33:8*

*"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto  
wisdom." Psalm 90:12*