

# Merry Christmas

## The Robert Smith Family

serving *joyfully* on the island of Barbados, West Indies — December 14, 2018

A year ago at this time, our church was in a bit of a quandary. Several who had been faithful for years left – some out of anger and pride, and others just to pursue self and sin. Some had been tithers and some were not. All would be missed, and all had influenced the church for good in better times of the past. We were not sure who would stay and who would follow those who left. But God is *so* good!! This year has been one of wonderful blessings. No one followed those who left! Our offerings not only remained stable, but it seems that they have increased! The morning service attendances have mostly rebounded while the evening service attendances have come back a bit more slowly. Joy has returned to our church again. There are more people going soul winning than there were a year ago, and they go because they want to go!

God has also this year opened the possibility of our church purchasing land through a private loan. Although there are hurdles to surmount yet on this issue, we are praising the Lord because we have never had even the slightest hint of such an opportunity before this year. Plus, this year Rhoda and I celebrated our 30th anniversary of marriage, our 28th year with BIM, and 25 years serving on the foreign field (minus a furlough here and there).

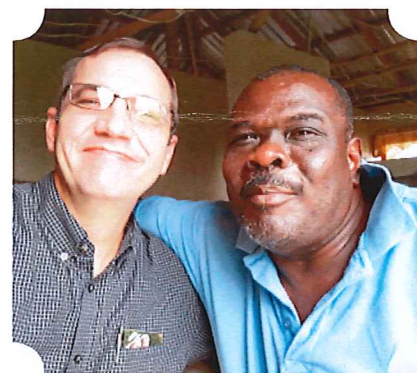
Buddy and Becca are wonderful helpers at home and in the ministry, and they do very well in school also. It has just been exciting to be a part of the Lord's work here *especially* this year. God has blessed in quiet ways and in open ways as well.

Our preacher boys from Nigeria have been faithful and so productive in their own ministries reaching out to win the lost and preach the Gospel. What a blessing it has been to hear from them regularly of the work that God is doing through them.

Last week, I received a call from Whitfield Franklyn, a fellow here in Barbados. He and I nearly had a car accident together years ago, and he called to tell me that he was coming to church this past Sunday! I have not heard from him in ten years or so. He did come, and I was able to follow up on him in a visit at his house yesterday. He trusted Christ and told me that he would be back to church this Sunday to tell the folks of his salvation. He told me that he would be happy to help pick up folks for church as well. Wow! What a blessing! Pray for him that God will help and bless him that he may grow.

I give the Lord thanks for you all as well. Your constant prayers and faithful support strengthens us to do the Lord's work here that we may be fruitful. Thank you! May you each have a blessed merry Christmas and Happy New

Serving our Lord together with you,  
Robert, Rhoda, Buddy, and Becca Smith



Me and Whitfield Franklin

