

“and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God With Us.” Matthew 1:23



Christmas Greetings from Tennessee

As the Christmas season is fast approaching those who know Christ can surely see God is indeed with us throughout this past year orchestrating every event of this year. I arrived back in the United States on October 23. Apart from a dream I had no inkling my older brother would enter God's presence on October 30 to spend his first Christmas with our Lord. It is so wonderful to know the presence of the all comforting God is giving grace to our family and many of you have suffered loss this year.

Other evidence of knowing God is with us was through miracles of gifts the Lord sent to Bethany Bible Believers' Church this year when He sent in 2.5 million pesos or roughly \$49,115 from supporting churches, individual supporters and members of Bethany Bible Believers' Church. We were able to pay in full the 600 sq. meter lot we purchased for the future home of our church. Since then the Lord sent in an additional \$6,000 to go towards the building. Christmas, the church will be having another sacrifice Sunday for the building project. Just since March this year, our present church has flooded three times due to the improper drainage when the government did road widening. It will indeed be a time of rejoicing when the church can finally move to the new property which is near the high school affording open doors for a possible religious instruction classes. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUSITY IN GIVING ACCOMPANIED WITH YOUR PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Emails keep flying between the members of Bethany Bible Believers' Church to me. Pastor Anton, who was

Ordained just months before I left for furlough, has been voted in as Senior Pastor of the church. One other of the men has been voted in to a leadership position along with the treasurer of the church. One of our BJMBC graduates who formerly helped a church up north is back and working with the choir to prepare Christmas music. The ladies are continuing the ladies Bible study by taking turns teaching. I perceive the study involved will help the ladies to dig deeper into the Word as they prepare their topics. Pray other of the ladies will join in and grow.

Over the past 3 years much of my ministry has been on training the ladies and the young ladies to fulfill needed areas of service in the church. During our Daily Vacation Bible School some of our younger single ladies taught lessons for their first time and did quite well in teaching the children. They also learned class room management. Many of our youth are now taking part in soul winning during church visitation as a result of Daily Vacation Bible School follow up program on Sunday afternoons. A number of the youth are involved in the music ministry of not only singing but playing for the services. It is amazing at how quickly they learned piano. One is learning to play the Cello. One young teenage boy not only has learned to play the piano but is also learning to lead singing during prayer meeting. Pray for all to remain faithful in their calling of service and keep on keeping on.

By December 23, I will have been home two months. At this point I barely have my feet on the ground. Pray with me as I endeavor to catch up on needed rest, take care of some health issues, plus catch up on paper work that was neglected in my transitioning back to the US. Pray for God's leading for the year of 2018.

May the Lord guide us all in 2018 to places of service where we can win back the US to Christ.

May you have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

In Christ,

Brenda Hager