

DECEMBER LETTER

2772 Port Republic Rd.
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

December 9, 2013

Dear Friends and Co-Laborers,

What a difference a month makes! Just about a month ago we were leaving Aruba where it seems the sun almost always shines and the thermometer seems to prefer the larger numbers at the upper reaches of the scale. In the house, temperatures ranged from about 88° to 96°. We did have an air conditioner in the bedroom so we could sleep at night. Now as I write this, I'm looking out at a smörgasbord of weather – snow, sleet, and freezing rain.

Danny Alford, also serving with World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions, pastors the church we were serving, Good News Baptist Church. He and his wife, Gail, are now in the States where Brother Alford is receiving treatment for cancer.

I thought that Vicenza Baptist in Italy was unusual because we had seven or eight different nationalities in our congregation, but almost all of the folks spoke English. However in Aruba, while we had a number of different nationalities represented: Aruban, Venezuelan, Colombian, German, Surinamese, American, other Caribbean islands, and a dash of Dutch; not everybody spoke English. There were four languages spoken – English, Spanish, Dutch, and Papiamentu. Sometimes I would be listening to someone speaking what I thought was Spanish, and then some strange-sounding words would come out and I was really lost. I told the speaker, "I'm sorry, but I am not following you very well." The speaker then said, "Oh, I wasn't speaking Spanish. That was Papiamentu." Fortunately, we had translators who would patiently straighten me out.

We enjoyed the ministry of God's Word there. The people seemed interested in studying the Scripture and would ask questions and make notes. One of the hindrances there was the fact that many of the people worked very irregular hours and we never knew who would be present at the service.

As soon as we returned, we had one day at home and then left for a missions conference in North Carolina. At the conclusion of that, we had a meeting with a supporting church and its pastor whom we had never met. Then one more day at home and it was "on the road again" to another missions conference in New York. These conferences were a real blessing. We trust that the churches were also helped.

Now we are gearing up to put together a trip to visit some of the Bible colleges we haven't seen for several years. There is much to do.

At this time of the year, we pause to remember and rejoice in the Incarnation. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." May it truly be that with the eyes of faith "... we beheld His glory." As we reflect on the wonder of it all, may we never become so jaded that we fail to hear the cries of a lost world perishing without hope because the Word of God has never been taken to them. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Thank you so much for your labor with us in helping to get the Gospel out around the world. To each of you all we extend our desires for a blessed Christmas season and a New Year in which He may be glorified through you.

Yours in the service of the King,
Stanley and Marvine Cline