

CARRIE MATHENA

Missionary to the Children of

Grenada, West Indies

December 2008



Dear Friends and Faithful Supporters,

**“Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance,
to speak the mystery of Christ...”**

Colossians 4:3a

What a wonderful blessing and encouragement it was to spend this month in Grenada ministering. God opened many doors of opportunity for the gospel to be spread this holiday season and I was thrilled to be a part of it.

The sisters accompanied me to Grenada to complete their survey trip. After arriving, we learned that the Florida Government School, an elementary school, had invited us to attend their Christmas program and had asked my dad to give a devotion on “The True Meaning of Christmas.” Not only was this an opportunity to present the gospel, but I was given a tour of the classrooms and invited to come back and observe classes when I return in the spring. This will certainly aid in my desire to start a preschool. We were so excited to have this open door into the school system.

The December church calendar was packed with activities. Every week, we had a Christmas quiz. These were designed to encourage the children to study the Christmas story in depth. I did junior quizzes with the children seven years and younger. They were thrilled to be included. Visitation was an extra challenge due to rain, mud, and washed out paths, but doors were opened through caroling and handing out cookie plates to the elderly and by passing out candy canes with the candy cane story attached. Other activities included a bonfire with Christmas carols and marshmallows, a cookie bake (to prepare plates for the elderly), a day of Christmas crafts, game nights, and my dad’s favorite - lots of basketball. I think I enjoyed these activities more than the children!

On Christmas morning, we had our Christmas service. Fifty-five attended, and thanks to the generosity of my supporting churches, we were able to give blankets and treat bags to everyone in attendance.

The year ended on an amazing note! At the Old Year Service, our church family was encouraged to “Make Time for Jesus in 2009” and given watches to help them take note of the times they needed to be in church. Forty-four attended, and four young men asked Christ to be their Savior!

It was sad to leave, but I know that God has opened this door for me and provided 80% of my needed support, and I can’t wait to return! Please pray for me as I finish these last few months of deputation and prepare to leave for Grenada.

Serving together with you to reach the children of Grenada,

Carrie Mathena
3 John 4

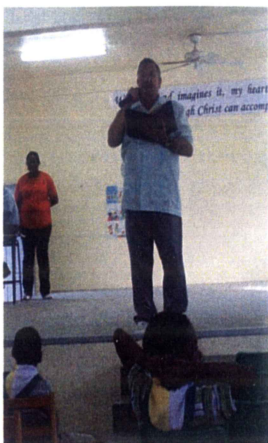
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The Picture Page
Christmas - 2008



Preaching at Florida
Govt. School.



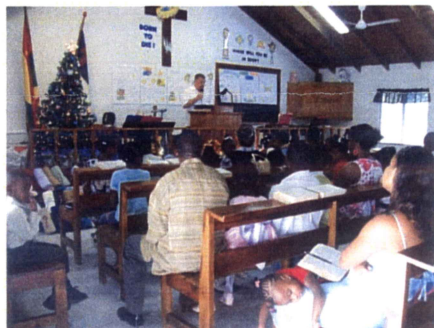
Bonfire, Christmas Carols and Marshmallows!



Christmas Crafts



Piles of Presents!



Christmas Morning Service



Cookie Bake



Gifts For Everyone



Old Year Service



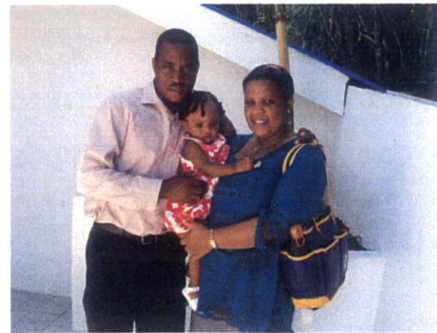
Thirty plates to deliver!



Junior Christmas Quizzes



Visitation Crew with "The Sisters"



Saved & Serving from Faith Baptist in
Grand Mal - first church plant.