



January/February 2018

Dear Friends and Faithful Supporters,

“Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.” Psalm 84:4

“Rain, Rain. Go Away” is the perfect adage to describe the beginning of 2018! Even the attendance to our Old Year Service on New Year’s Eve was lower due to the rain, but those who came were challenged to ask themselves if they would be “Blessed in 2018?”

Church attendance was low in January - Grenadians will go anywhere they have to in the rain except church. Those who did not attend missed many “blessings,” and the children were especially hindered from coming. However, our children’s classes have continued on:

Character Builders Class on Sunday morning finished the last Old Testament character, Daniel, and is ready to begin New Testament characters. We will begin with John the Baptist who declared: “He must increase, and I must decrease.”

Animal Lovers on Sunday night had no one in attendance in January, so I took a break from it in February and did some Lessons on Love. The children are enjoying this class and are especially excited about the fun Valentine’s Day games we are playing before class begins.

Junior Quiz Masters is studying the exciting life of Elisha. These are stories most of the children have never heard before which makes teaching them all the more fun.

Our **Special Visitations** have continued in this New Year. We passed out raindrops with the services times and reminded those in the community of the blessing of attending church “rain or shine.” The next Sunday morning, we had many in attendance who had not come for a long time.

At **Pre-School**, I can count on one hand the number of times we have been able to play outside, but thankfully we have lots of indoor activities for the students to enjoy. Being to school on time has been a challenge for most since they ride the bus, and raincoats and umbrellas have become standard attire. However, the four year olds are doing a great job reading, and the three year olds are keeping us on our toes with all their energy.

The **Choir** continues to learn new songs despite some missed practices and is a blessing each Sunday morning. We were saddened, however, when the grandmother/guardian of two of our choir members died unexpectedly from complications from diabetes. Ms. Wilma raised the two girls as her own daughters and led the singing in our church for years. While she was sick, her only concern was when she would be able to come back to church.

Faithfulness to God’s house certainly brings blessings! Please pray that we can continue to encourage those here in Loretto to come into God’s house.

Serving together with you to reach the children of Grenada,

Carrie Mathena

3 John 4
678-608-2173