Dear Friends and Faithful Supporters,

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

This Christmas season, our theme was God's love, and we were blessed to share His love here in Grenada! The last couple of weeks of pre-school before break were extremely busy, and the rain brought an abundance of flies. Several schools in our area shut down, but with our screened windows and good ventilation, we were able to shut the doors and keep the flies to a minimum. However, Momma and I became very adept at using the fly swatter! Sickness has continued to affect attendance, but we were finally able to get a class picture to share with you.

The students worked hard preparing a small program for their parents, and for the first time in three years, we were able to have our Christmas party and program before break. On the day of the party, only half of the students were willing to participate in the program with the parents watching. We have a long way to go with this group! However, the students were so excited to receive their gift bags full of treats and toys that we thought they would never leave because they were having so much fun! I am so thankful for all of you who gave so we could share our love in this way to our students. Please continue to pray as we have many behavioral and academic challenges to deal with in the New Year.



At church, over twenty-five children decorated the Christmas tree and both choirs began practicing for their cantata, "For God So Loved the World." Decorating for school, church, and home along with filing bags with gifts for the children, adults, and shut-ins in our community kept us busy. A few days before Christmas, we went out and delivered the gifts to the shut-ins. Sharing God's love by spending time with them always blesses our hearts!

The church was full on Christmas morning with quite a few visitors, and we had a wonderful time sharing God's love through the cantata, the children's class, Pastor's sermon, and giving gifts.

During this season, I was also reminded of the importance of sharing God's love. As I visit the children each Saturday, I often have the opportunity to witness to the parents. I had invited one mother in particular to the services many times and was excited when she came the week before Christmas. The choir presented their cantata that morning and Pastor gave two invitations. I do not know if this mome ever accepted Christ, but that week she suffered a massive stroke and died the day after Christmas. It was a somber reminder that life is short, and we never know when it might be a person's last chance to hear about God's love. Please pray for her two daughters and for all of her family to turn to the Lord during this difficult time.

As we enter a New Year, I look forward to continuing to share God's love here in Grenada and pray that many will turn to the Lord. Thank-you for your continued part in this ministry. Happy New Year!

Serving together with you to reach the children of Grenada,

Carrie Mathena

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