



Joy to the world the Lord is come!
Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: ... and rejoice, and sing praise. Psalm 98:4

Christmas 2012

Dear Friends:

My family wishes every one of you a joyful Christmas and a bountiful New Year!

As we reflect on the goodness of God, we need to remember all the wonderful things that He has done for us this past year. The Lord has been extremely good to my family and our ministry. We are thankful for our new addition of Jada Amber to our family. She is a wonderful blessing to us, but very different from Jezen. It is interesting to see how different her character is from her sister. It is hard for us to believe, being new parents, that two children can be so different, yet be of the same mother and father. The next few years will be interesting as we watch them develop and grow. Our prayer is that they both come to know Christ at an early age in their lives. Jezen's only world is her family and church. Now, being three years old, she constantly sings songs about the Lord.

The ministry this year has been such a blessing to us. It is difficult for us to remember all the good things that have happened this past year. Last year, we started a church in November on an open lot. Since that time, we have had a steady growth of people coming. People are getting saved, and several will soon be baptized. We are making progress during our visitations. In one regular service, we had more than 80 in attendance. We have now gone from the open lot to a nice church building, which my dad built 27 years ago. I am going to Mexico City to work out the final details with the government regarding the church property. As some of you may know, church buildings are registered with the government. When there is a new pastor or new church, everything must be properly registered.

The new students in the Bible School are coming along very well as we revamped our teaching methods. We used to have more students. We have chosen instead to have fewer students, and do a much more thorough job training them. We are like Paul and Timothy. They follow us everywhere. We want to mold them into good pastors and not just preachers. We are giving more personal time with them, and have seen great changes in their lives. Even though we have fewer students, I believe we will see far greater success in their personal lives.

A few days ago, we signed the final papers for the purchase of a piece of land for Dad's church. It is the only Baptist church sitting along the highway for more than 80 miles. These things have been only a few blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us this year.

Please do not forget our January field conference here in Guadalajara, Mexico. If you would like to come to this conference, please contact Pastor Fred Daniel at (336) 327-6047. The dates are January 21st-24th.

In His service, Jerry & Itzen Shaw