



Caleb • Paul • Emily • Abby • Sadie • Amy • Ben

Dear Friends and Family,

January 2021

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! We had a wonderful, cool Christmas Day. It was 80 degrees. My wife and kids all put on their jackets because they were cold. Emily (5), got a bike for Christmas, but she refuses to ride it because the brakes are on the handle bars. Instead she rides her older sister's (same size) bike, because it stops by pedaling backwards. So, Abby is enjoying riding Emily's new bike. We wanted to say, "Thank you" to those of you who gave above and beyond your regular giving to allow us to have an extra special Christmas. You are a blessing to us.

Looking back over the year 2020, God has been so good. We have had two young people disciplined. We saw several people move to our island and start attending our church. This was a blessing because several others had moved away for work. It was also about a year ago, that I started introducing Creole into the preaching. Also, the church was given a piece of property. The church plans to build a parsonage on that land. We have now been here for three years. God has been good. Despite what many can only see as a year of disappointment and hardship associated with 2020, there are truly many blessings associated with that year.

2021 is a year of new beginnings and fresh starts. I have learned enough Creole now to give the Haitians a Creole-only service on Sunday mornings. I continue to praise the Lord as I communicate with them in their native tongue. I also continue to share the Gospel frequently. We continue to have many visitors in both the Creole and English services. Please pray that the ministry grows and bears spiritual and lasting fruit.

Our English ministry has also been growing. Miss Stubbs, recently saved, has been attending our services regularly. Occasionally, she has friends visit her from the states, and she always brings them to church with her. One evening, a couple of us drove over to her house to thank her for bringing her friends. I knocked on her door, and one of her friends, named Aleia, answered the door. She allowed me to share the Gospel with her and she bowed her head to trust Jesus as her Saviour. It's amazing to think that God had her travel to Turks and Caicos so she could hear the Gospel, be saved, then go back home.

I have been discipling two teenage brothers for the past several weeks. Every Saturday, what is supposed to take an hour, becomes three hours, on average, because these young men are full of questions. While I teach, I use the time to gain insight on their culture and customs as well. As I continue to learn Creole, I am excited about the day I will be able to disciple the adults. Currently, I can talk well, but I am not as good as understanding what people say. I get the general idea, but for discipleship in another language, I want to understand well before I undertake that challenge. Please pray for these opportunities of discipleship, that those who do commit to discipleship would commit to following Jesus.

Covid numbers are low here, but steadily rising. Our island has no Covid cases. Still, most of our church people have little or no steady work. Most work is tourist related, and tourists are continuing to be advised to reconsider travel. Schools are purely online. Please continue to pray for our islands and their government.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support,

In Christ,

Paul, Amy, Abby, Emily, Sadie, Ben, and Caleb Valles
Your missionaries to the Turks and Caicos Islands



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