



~ MERRY CHRISTMAS FRIENDS ~

It has been said that "daily living is not individualistic, but takes place in community and finds expression in serving others." (Ortberg).

This is our desire ... to always consider the needs of those who make up our "community." This time last year our community included spending precious time with our Beninese colleagues under their tin-roofed houses and at church on backless wooden benches.

Together we reflected on the events of the year, both tragic and positive, and marvelled at how God took care of all of our needs! We also helped hand out Samaritan Purse Christmas boxes to Beninese kids. For many, this box is all they received for Christmas.

We also sang Christmas carols and shared a meal with our expatriate friends on the roof of a friend's house. The roaring Atlantic Ocean provided us with its own harmony in the background!!

As I write, our community this year has changed. This Christmas will find us attending a "singing Christmas tree" concert and taking part in our church's youth concert. The needy and discouraged are always on our hearts this time of the year as we know all too well the struggles that immigrants and street people experience this time of year. We plan to bless a Beninese family in Montreal with some gifts for their kids. Assisting in the distribution of Christmas baskets will be the highlight of our holiday season.

However, there are two communities that never change ... one is you folks and the other is the presence of God wherever we go! As we miss our Beninese colleagues and readapt to life in Canada, we are forever grateful for YOU ALL! You can never imagine the sense of community we feel with you folks. Your love, cards, support and prayers are making a difference in our lives! God bless you all this Christmas... you are an awesome group of people ... now go out and choose to make an impact on others this season even if it means taking some financial or physical risks.

Finally, Christmas without Christ, is like promising someone a gift and not coming through with your promise.

Thank GOD, He did come through with His promise of hope, peace, life and a reason to live through Jesus Christ, His Son.... and no matter where we go He is simply there for us!!

Now that is "an unchanging community!

May you enjoy the presents from family & friends and the presence of God this coming Christmas.

Do keep in touch!

Wishing you all an excellent Christmas,

Brian & Kim, Jonathan, Eric & Nicholas Mitton