

Merry Christmas

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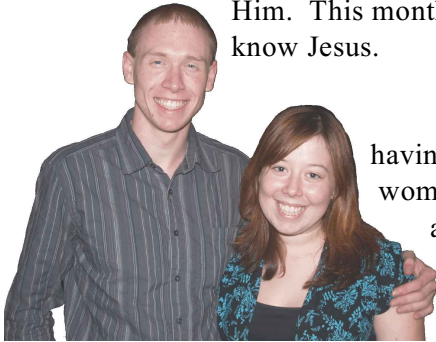
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December 3, 2009

*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you,
the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you
have sent. John 13:3 NIV*

Dear Friends,

Our Christmas tree just went up. No, not by itself, we put it up on the weekend and carefully decorated it with ornaments, many of them decades old. Friday evening we went to our first Christmas parties of the year. The malls are full of frenetic activity as people try to find that perfect gift for the special person in their life. Somewhere in all of this rush and busyness Jesus patiently waits for us to take time for Him, something which seems hardest to do in this month where we are supposed to be most in tune with our Saviour and all He has done for us. Take time to for the Saviour. He has given eternal life to those who know Him. This month all of us need to remember to share that truth with someone who does not know Jesus.



We have a bit of family news. Our family is growing. No, we're not having another baby, David is getting married to a wonderful Christian young woman, Katrina. Over the past year and a half we have grown to love her almost as much as David does. She is a very special present to David and to all our family. David and Katrina plan to be married in May next year.

In November Gary was in Cuba, travelling there with a friend from our church. In Cuba he met and prayed with pastors and leaders of our Los Pinos Nuevos denomination. He saw new churches and older ones. He spoke with a teen group, preached in two churches and gave the weekly devotional to the staff of the Los Pinos Nuevos Seminary. Those were not, however, the highlights of the trip. The best part of the trip was talking with individual Cuban believers, hearing their stories, seeing their incredible joy, even joy amid great difficulties. Some people had lost everything in last years hurricanes yet they were the most joyful people Gary met! In Canada and the USA we become far too fixated on material possessions. These dear brothers and sisters in the Lord showed Gary that material blessings are not what is important. It is knowing Jesus which matters most. ***Please pray for people in Cuba still without homes over a year after devastating hurricanes.***

There are so many needs in Cuba. The Los Pinos Nuevos Seminary desperately needs people who will help with the costs of training young men and women for Cuban churches. Funds are needed for retreats and conferences. ***Constant prayer is needed for Cuban pastors, Christian leaders and individual Christians so they will have wisdom as they live and minister in their country.*** Please don't forget them.



One of Gary's jobs is to oversee World Team's ministry in Cuba. Another is to oversee administration in all of our fields in North America, South America and the Carribean. This is mainly planning and making sure field leaders submit all the forms, materials and documents they are supposed to submit to the mission. Planning is currently underway for the Americas Area Field Leader's conference January 25 to 31 followed by the Americas Area leadership team meeting February 1 and 2. These meetings will be held at Big Bear Lake in California. ***Please pray for Gary and the others who are planning these events.***

What do you do to interest women in a church to get together for some fun and time to talk? Men from our church often go on back packing trips with Gary, but what do the women do? Last month Sandra and a group from our church took the church bus and headed to Bellingham, Washington for a day of shopping, talking and fun. They left early in the morning and arrived home well into the evening. They called it the "Women's Backpacking Trip." They all had a great time and even found a few pre-Christmas bargains in the stores. ***Pray for Sandra as she organizes events, helps women and studies the Bible with them.***

Christy will be visiting the hospital again. By the time you receive this she should be in St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver where she will probably stay for two weeks to have bacteria cleared from her lungs. This is a normal procedure for cystic fibrosis patients, but a large interruption to Christy's life. She is scheduled to write her final exam for university the day after leaving hospital. ***Please pray that all goes well and that Christy will be able to study for her final while in hospital and finish her term papers.***



If you receive this letter by mail but would prefer it be e-mailed to you, or receive it by e-mail but would prefer to receive a copy through the mail, please let us know and we will be happy to change how we send you our letter. Remember too, that we send a monthly e-mail only Cuba prayer request letter, which simply lists current requests for Cuba.

Like most Christians, we spend lots of time with people who need to know Jesus as their Saviour. We want them to meet Jesus, to know Him, to receive eternal life. ***Please ask the Lord to give us natural opportunities to share our faith during the Christmas season so our friends can know Jesus.***

Enjoy this Christmas season. as you celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Enjoy your family and friends. Don't be overwhelmed by the busyness. Take time to be with Jesus. ***Merry Christmas.***



In Jesus' love,

Gary Sandra David Christy

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