



*“ Behold a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a child and call his name EMMANUEL, which being interpreted is GOD with us.” Matthew 1:23*

One of the most awesome truths in the first advent is his name, “EMMANUEL, God with us.” Not only is he WITH us, but he is also IN us ... “greater is HE that is IN you, than he that is in the world.” I John 4:4. He is also FOR us “... If God be FOR us, who can be against us.” Romans 8:31. And the list goes on of the benefits we receive when we acknowledge HIM not only as the “babe in the manger”, but also as “Christ crucified, buried and risen again” as our only means of salvation.

As we look back over the past year we realize how we experienced his grace, love and mercy in new ways. In every situation God has been faithful. We are thankful for safety as we travelled many miles on the road and in the air representing our Savior. We thank Him for mercy in Russell’s second knee replacement surgery as well as many other medical issues prevalent among seniors.

Some of the greatest joys in our lives are hearing testimonies of those who have a desire to serve the Lord. At a recent meeting of BMM retirees in the Winston Salem area our hearts were humbled at the compassion burning in the hearts of those who are senior even to us as they testified of their service to the Lord even in their elderly years. We also often hear from Brazil of those who are writing to say “Thank you,” to us who were privileged to take the gospel to them so that they might share it with others.

Plans for the new year find us full of expectation of being used for his glory in our home church. We have also been asked to preach on Sunday mornings for a period of time in an area church as they seek God’s will for a new pastor. We will be making a trip to Brazil, but we don’t know for how long. We will also be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and are thankful for our many years together serving our Lord.

You also have been a part of our ministry through your prayers and financial support. We want to once again say “thank you” for your love for us and for God . May God give you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year for his glory.

Russell and Judy Gordon