

Bernie + Lois Foreshew – Panama (10th December 2024)

To the Saints that gather at **York Street Gospel Hall, Leicester**, greetings in the worthy name of our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called **Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace**. Isa 9:6

When George Frideric Handel composed "Messiah" in 1741, the collection of scripture quotations about the Christ, the Messiah/Saviour is a wonderful composition and Isaiah 9:6 is front and center. This verse in all its depth, height and breadth declares to us that Eternity entered time, a Son was given, thank God for His only begotten Son! It declares to us the humanity with which the Son of God was wrapped in, he was born of a woman, a virgin, a chosen vessel. Then we have these five titles that only the "one who holds all government" could fill and fulfill. These titles describe His person, His purpose, His power, His place, His peace. May we take the time to just consider this One, who in all of his uniqueness is altogether lovely! Handel's Messiah raises to heights of worship as that wonderful Hallelujah chorus causes one to bow in worship and praise our great God and His Son, the Saviour of our souls!

We assume that your December is just as busy as ours, it seems to sneak up so quickly and then there's a multitude of activities and outreaches that bring one to a satisfied tiredness, that makes a lovely Christmas meal and a fresh cup of coffee with pudding seem like it was well deserved.

We are working our way through the 5000 calendars we received, we're almost halfway, so it won't take too long to get the rest of them out. We've coupled them with an invitation and a gospel text.

This coming Saturday (14th) we are planning our community Christmas meal, that in the past number of years has attracted well over a 100 folks from the neighbourhood. Several of them have come back a times to hear the gospel preached each Sunday evening. Last year over 30 new contacts came along, it would be nice to see that number increase this year.

Lord willing, we are planning a week of children's bible classes from the 16th to the 20th. A couple of weeks ago, a few people were asking if we were having the classes again, as they wanted to make arrangements for their kids to come. This was an encouragement to us, usually we have to seek people out and at times beg them to come, but its nice when the initiative is on the other side and there's an interest in hearing Gods word.

We have a special activity planned for the young people's class on the 20th at night. We are encouraged by over 25 young folk that attend on Friday evenings, most on a regular basis. It's a privilege to have this opportunity to speak to them about the gospel and about many things that they are facing and how the Bible has the answers they are

looking for. Just a couple of weeks ago a teenage girl said, "I didn't know the bible talk about all this stuff" So its nice to see the Spirit of God opening their eyes to the truth. As the rains will be ending in mid December and the dry season settles in, we have a number of projects lined up for the building we acquired a year and a half ago. We hope to have our baptismal tank finished by the end of January, then onto painting the outside of the structure, both storeys. We have a little problem with some bats who would like to live in the rafters, so we will get that fixed before we turn our hands to renovating 3 rooms on the second floor into sleeping quarters for any that may come this way to lend a helping hand.

As we close we would humbly thank you for your sacrifice to the Lord, the very kind gift of £400 for His work has been a blessing to us and many others as we continue to preach the gospel, teach the scriptures and help the needy here in Panama. We have such an amazing God, one who is so faithful, He knows us through and through and cares deeply for each one of His children.

May the Lord continue to bless and encourage you and may you never cease to wonder... for when we cease to wonder we'll cease to worship!

Yours because of the manger and the cross,

May you have a blessed Christmas.

Byrne & Lois Foresheew