

5 Crowndale Drive, Taylors SC  
October-November-December 2023

# FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN. UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN.

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1) "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14) "...call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)." (Matthew 1:23)*

Dear Praying Friends:

I recently read Matt Jones' book MKs in Focus. It offers many insights about the challenges these young people face, especially as they make plans to return to their "passport" country, usually for college or a job. It occurred to me that adult long-term missionaries also deal with adjustments in returning "home" for retirement. I get tears when we sing in church about those from every nation, tribe, people, and language meeting before God's throne as faces of long term coworkers, friends and patients from Haiti and newer friends from Dominican Republic come to mind. In a recent sermon, while hearing that God created the stars, I was suddenly in a past moment standing on the clinic property looking at the expanse of the Milky Way and worshipping God.

All this made me think about how Jesus came as a baby and grew up among the people He came to save. To us, that would be a huge culture shock. In the old mythologies, the gods suddenly showed up as adults, appeared to be supercharged versions of the people who worshipped them, but were imitations and never around for long. Jesus came to His people, knew their culture because He lived in it all His life on earth, spoke God's word to them in ways they could understand, and demonstrated His compassion for them. His miracles demonstrated that He was one with the Father, showing them the God they had never seen, now come in human flesh and living with them.

It was a joy to be part of the Baptist World Mission Annual Meeting in October. I met with my committee, and we finalized my plans for retirement at the end of this year. One of those plans is to visit churches and supporters in the new year and personally thank them for their faithfulness. I have meetings scheduled from January through the beginning of May. I plan to continue sending email updates in 2024; after that, we'll see.

**Praise** God gave safe travel to Alabama, Michigan, and then back home.

I have made good progress on the revisions for the fourth edition of the discipleship book. I proofread the entire manuscript while doing those. All the work should be completed by the end of the year.

God has sent wise counsellors to help me with transition to the "next chapter" in my life.

**Prayer** Some members of the 400 Mawozo gang have been spotted in our region, and it sounds like there is active resistance from the locals to discourage further attempts at takeover. Please pray for the safety of the people, and especially of Christians.

This present world, with its various cultures of home, school, church, work, community, and nation, is temporary. Someday, perhaps soon, the Lord Jesus will return in power and glory and establish His righteous kingdom. On that day, no matter what cultures we have known, all those who have trusted Him as Savior will be joined together, comfortably and forever at home because we will be with Him. Hallelujah!

Have a blessed Christmas!

*Dr. Anne*

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)*  
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