

Dear Friends and Family,

Rosie and I write this from the comfortable and warm living room of my parent's house in Yakima, Washington. Exactly one year ago, and over 30,000 miles of travel ago, Rosie and I were preparing our house to sell it, welcoming relatives for the Christmas season, and saying good-bye to good friends and relatives. Since then we have been in Kansas City, Missouri for six months of training and then in Miami, Florida where we are now "settled in." God has blessed us with a wonderful church, a really great school for Grace and Anna, and ministry opportunities with a great group of people in the Caribbean Regional Office of the Church of the Nazarene. Many of you have prayed for us and followed our journeys throughout this year, and we wanted you to know that we have felt those prayers in tangible ways. God is moving miraculously in the hearts and lives of those who yield themselves completely to Him.

This is particularly evident in our church today where many of the leaders are finding that it is almost impossible to keep up with the movement of God in various places around the world. Ethiopia and the "Horn of Africa" have seen over 1,500 new churches planted in the past year! The Haitian church has the largest Nazarene membership of any country other than the U.S. with over 100,000 full members. Another country in the Caribbean has doubled in the number of members in just three years, and this is under a system in which they would lose many privileges in order to do so. The country of Dominica has a goal to double the number of their churches in just a few years. We have also seen the power of partnerships, as a medium sized church in the Miami area, Redland Church of the Nazarene, has enabled the pastors of Belize to start 20 churches in 4 years. They provided six motocross motorcycles to increase mobility in this mountainous terrain. In fact, it was so successful that they paid for another 20 motorcycles about 7 months ago, which has led to the planting of nine new churches in just that amount of time! Praise God for using the resources of those who desire to see the growth of His Kingdom and seek creative ways to give. Thank God for His Spirit's prompting and those who respond to it! God is moving, and it is exciting to be part of His movement today, the most rapid growth of Christianity ever witnessed on the planet!

The training part of this year was a very wonderful time. We met some really special friends and learned a lot about World Mission and the work that God is doing around the world. We were able to participate in some great conferences, and visit some fabulous churches. There were so many highlights, such as seeing people called into ministry, participating in a wonderful sending ceremony at the Northwest District Missions Conference, and being inspired and encouraged by the heart for mission seen in every single church to which we were invited. We were blessed in Arkansas with air conditioning for our car, and saw many people from Washington to Florida contribute generously towards the ministry in the Caribbean and beyond. The move to Miami was blessed too as we have made some great new friends, we attend a wonderful church, and we have been blessed with a great house within walking distance of work. Our prayer is that we can be a blessing to the Caribbean as much as God has chosen to open the floodgates of blessing towards us this past year.

The year has not been without some tribulation, as many of you that have kept up on our website already know. But we have a big God and a gracious God that has shown His hand even through a very hard time. God has promised to work all things for good to those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Though our family has suffered this year, we praise Him for both His justice and His mercy, as well as His enduring desire to help us lead holy lives and to make us more Christlike. God is good, and He is good all the time.

So many wonderful things have happened over the year that it would be impossible to relate them all in a simple Christmas letter, so please feel free to visit us at www.keribbean.com if you want to see more. We send e-letters every two months and they are also on the website. If you would like us to send you these letters please write to me at dave@keribbean.com and I will be sure to place you on the list. Also, to find out more about the Caribbean work in general you could also visit www.caribnaz.org.

We have included with this letter a draft version of the newsletter our Regional Director, Dr. Smee, was going to send out. It has a typo in it, but Rosie and I thought you could at least see the wonderful people we work with here on the Region. It does not include the great volunteer missionaries we have met and worked with, but the value of these wonderful workers has been an amazing blessing to both the Regional Office and the Caribbean people. Thank you for your prayers for all of these people and for our work as well.

We pray God's great blessings upon you and your family during 2008. We also pray that, as adversity comes you will be able to see His hand guiding and shaping your character into the likeness of His Son.

With love and wonderful memories,

Dave, Rosie, Grace and Anna Kerr

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