

MISSION NEWS

2020 END OF YEAR NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES



Partners in Bible Translation
David & Estelle Abernathy



Jean Legters



Carroll & Pam Baker

Dear friends at Bishopville Church,

Thank you so much for the gift sent in November. I appreciate your faithful support all this year, financially a very difficult year, I know. I have sorrowed with you over those who are now in the lords presence and rejoiced that you are able to worship together in person. That is not yet possible in most churches here. No schools are open. It has been a difficult year yet a year that the Lord has used to bring others to himself. I do not know when I will be able to travel or when I will get to Bishopville. But I am grateful for your help financially and in prayer support. May you experience a most blessed Christmas and new year.

Blessings, Jean Legters

Yesterday's high: 78
Last night's low: 60

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December 1, 2020

Dear prayer partners and friends,

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thess. 5:18--During this season of the year our thoughts turn to what and whom God has given us. Count your many blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done. I know some of you are grieving over lost loved ones, over lost jobs, and over lost opportunities. Still, God is good and has been faithful.

The past six weeks various hurricanes have been headed toward the peninsula but tropical storm Gamma was worse, causing no wind damage but much flooding. The seminary and our property were under nearly two feet of water. Many of those in the villages where I visit lost their crops and now and in the future will have a difficult time. As I write, the states of Tabasco and Chiapas in Southeastern Mexico have severe rain, flooding and mudslides in the mountains. The virus is on the rise here again. There were over 100 new cases yesterday making a total of 20,000 in the state of Yucatan since March. Stores in commercial centers are open, restaurants by reservation, and some churches are starting to reopen. My church has not reopened but has a broadcast on Facebook. Mark's church has re-opened with only 50 people in the service but is also on Facebook. God is using the many religious broadcasts to awaken people to their need for Him. The seminary remains closed to in person classes but everything is taught online. Even Diego is learning to read and write in his kindergarten class online. I seldom go out except when necessary. There is a curfew in place which would prevent me from getting home from the villages I have visited in. I keep in touch by phone and pray for their needs.

Some of you have asked me about camp Porvenir and about an update on the tax situation there. The township for the past several years has not responded to our requests to receive the tax bill as this would require that they disclose a tax fee based on zoning property measurements. It seemed strange that they kept putting off a meeting and did not respond to our inquiries. We have just learned that one of the reasons for this is that some years back, the township fraudulently sold over one kilometer of our camp property. The previous township leaders divided this area into 30 individual lots and sold it to wealthy and influential people in the state of Yucatan and some outside our state. We knew that officials had been out to get hold of the valuable camp property for years, but the way we found out they had finally achieved their goal is because two of the "new owners" filed a lawsuit against our camp board. They had started taking building materials to the property they purchased, and when we removed those materials from what we consider our own property, they accused us of cutting down protected mangroves on their property. With these two lawsuits, we were able to identify property owner names, sellers, and we followed the trail of information to find the 30+ lots have been sold in the past 2-3 years. We are now in the process of filing a counter lawsuit and beginning a legal battle to regain what was taken from us.

We know our adversary, the devil, will do all he can to prevent young people from giving their lives to the Lord and grow in their knowledge and service of Him. Fighting this will take much prayer and also financial support in order to pay for the legal services which will prove our ownership of the property. The township leaders and the powerful “new owners” will not give up easily, but the loss of this property would mean camp would be left with less than half of its original property. Please pray as we seek the Lord’s direction in who should be the person to represent camp in this legal battle, and also for the funding and all the evidence needed as we seek a court ruling in our favor. We believe God has the final word in this matter and we appreciate your prayer and financial support.

We as a family rejoice in the Lord’s protection and provision for our needs. We have all remained well and the grandchildren are studying or working. Their ages are 24 (Ellie) 20 (John), 18 (Alyssa), 16 (Caleb), 13 (Owen) and almost 6 (Diego). Debbie has 39 students in her English home school for 6th thru 12th grades. Mark oversees his church and some construction jobs and Daniel teaches high school Spanish and continues coaching soccer at his school in St. Louis, Mo.

In November I celebrated my 80th birthday. I still can’t grasp that I am actually that old and have spent 53 years serving the Lord here in Mexico. My health is good although my bones and arthritis give me some problems. The therapy pool I mentioned in the last letter is almost finished. I have been able to do water exercises in it since November 25. I hope this will give me a little better mobility and less tiredness when on my feet. I thank the Lord that he preserved my life in that terrible car accident nearly 3 years ago. As the words of the hymn say, “All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside? Can I doubt his tender mercy who through life has been my guide? I know whatever befalls me, Jesus does all things well.” I have been recording prelude and postlude for a church congregation and will be accompanying two soloists Dec. 20th and 24th with Christmas music in my church and we will be recording with them at my church beforehand, when no one else is around.

As we turn to the real reason for this season, I echo what 2 Corinthians 9:14-15 says, how God chose us in his great mercy and our response is thanks be to God for his indescribable gift, the Lord Jesus. May you know him better in 2021 and may He guide your new year.

P.S. Once again my son Daniel is sending out these letters so I am not able to add a personal note. May the Lord bless you.

Your servant for Jesus' sake, Jean Legters, for the family

Any gifts for the camp or our ministry may be sent to:

Son Raise Missionaries Services
4395 Idlewood Dr. SW
Wyoming, MI 49519

A blessed Christmas to you all! David & Estelle

BRIDGES

David & Estelle Abernathy

December 2020



O Come, O Come Emmanuel

As with many Christians, one of my favorite hymns for this time of year, which in the church calendar is known as Advent, is O Come, O Come Emmanuel. This hymn is very ancient, originating sometime in the early centuries of the Church, and is one of the oldest hymns that is in current use in the Church today. It comes from an antiphonal chorus known as the O Antiphons. (An antiphon is a short response recited or sung during a church service after a Psalm or Canticle.) Here is a comment from John Stonestreet of Breakpoint Daily:*

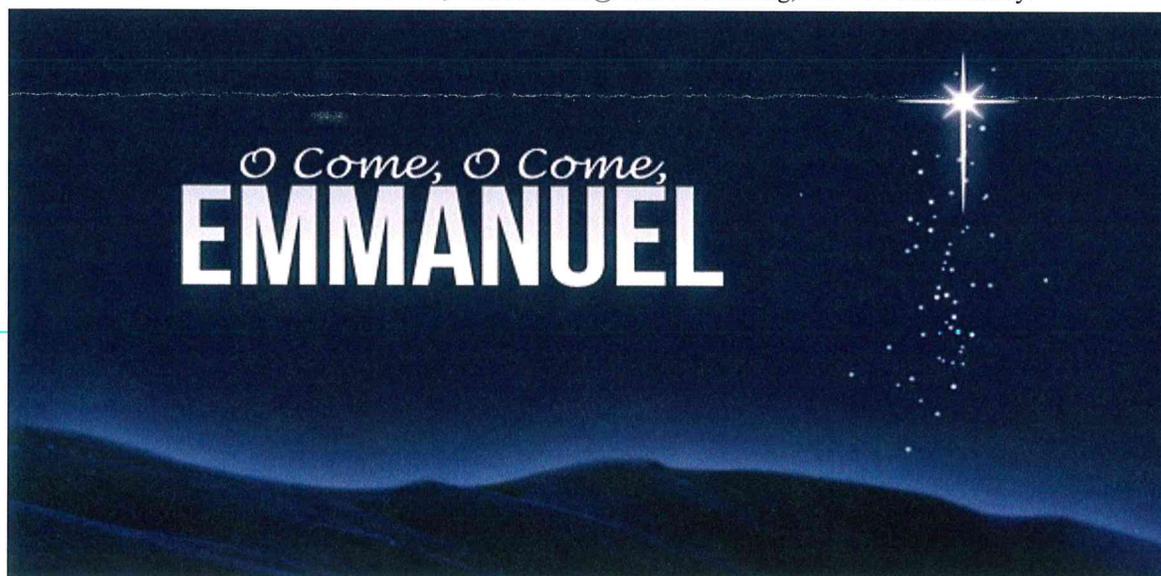
The O Antiphons, like the hymn they produced, offer a journey through salvation history. Each Antiphon includes both a Messianic title, a reminder of who Christ is, and the invitation, “Come,” a reminder of our helpless state and need for divine rescue.

Christ is the Wisdom of God (Isaiah 11). He is *Adonai*, the Lord our lawgiver and judge, who will save us (Isaiah 33). He is the root of Jesse’s stem, whom the Gentiles will seek (Isaiah 11). He is the Key of David, who unlocks the doors of our prison. He is the Radiant Dawn, the light that shone upon the people who dwelt in darkness (Isaiah 9). He is the King of the Nations (Isaiah 2). And of course, He is Emmanuel, God with us (Isaiah 7).

As people look at what has been going on in the world for the last decade or so, many are wondering if the time for Christ’s return will be soon. It is tempting to want to know when that will happen, but what we should focus on is *what it takes to make it happen*. Jesus said, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and *then* the end will come” (Matt. 24:14). That is a condition for his return that we can do something about, whether through Bible translation, witnessing to neighbors, or through some other involvement in evangelism, missions, or mercy ministry.

And that’s another reason we are glad to be doing what we do here in Waxhaw.

*See Colson Center for Christian Worldview, colsoncenter@colsoncenter.org, Nov. 30 commentary.



Clip art from <http://www.nnhs65.com/12-03-13-NNHS-O-Come-O-Come-Emmanuel.html>

Exegetical projects for 2020

If you are interested in the details of the exegetical work, this is what I have been working on this year.

Editing new projects

- **Exodus** — Edited eight chapters of the exegetical summary of Exodus written by a co-worker, covering 615 pages.
- **Leviticus 16** — Edited the exegetical summary of Leviticus 16, which covers 56 pages so far.
- **Psalms** — The exegetical summaries of six selected Psalms have been drafted, three of which I wrote and three of which were done by a co-worker. The first three are now edited and the other three are awaiting my edits.
- **Genesis** — This book is being worked on by a co-worker, but progress is slow so far. Chapters 1 and 2 consist of over 250 pages, but are not yet ready for editing.

Updates/revisions of previously published volumes

- **1 Peter** — I am nearing the end of chapter 2 for revising the exegetical summary of 1 Peter that I did 23 years ago. I am drawing notes from 12 newer commentaries that were not available then, and reviewing material from 13 commentaries I had used before. Progress is very slow because editing responsibilities take priority over this project. However, I am anxious to complete this work because of how very relevant 1 Peter is for our day. It focuses on standing firm in suffering and persecution, which we are seeing more and more of throughout the world with every passing year.
- **1 John** — I have edited the first three chapters of the revised exegetical summary of 1 John, which is 207 pages so far. Even though the Greek grammar and vocabulary of this epistle are relatively simple, interpreting the relationships between clauses and determining the logical sequence of thought is quite complex, and much has been written about it and debated. Our job is to report what commentaries are saying and how English versions translate it.
- **Colossians** — Chapter one, which is around 110 pages, has been revised and edited.

Completed work

- The revisions of **Titus** (145 pages) and **Philemon** (60 pages), and the new exegetical summary of **Ruth** (356 pages) were completed, edited, and turned in for publication this year.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

We give thanks...

- For our financial needs consistently being met this entire year
- For the completion of the projects in Ruth, Titus, and Philemon this year
- For ongoing progress in the exegetical projects in Psalms, 1 Peter, Exodus, Leviticus and 1 John

Please pray...

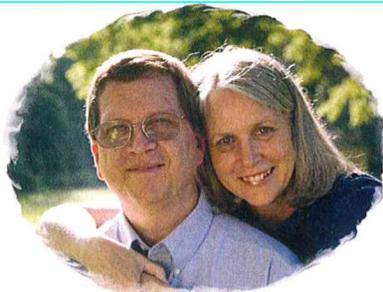
- For skill in editing the work of others in Psalms, 1 Peter, Exodus, Leviticus, and 1 John, and in authoring my own project in 1 Peter
- For permanent employment for Michael

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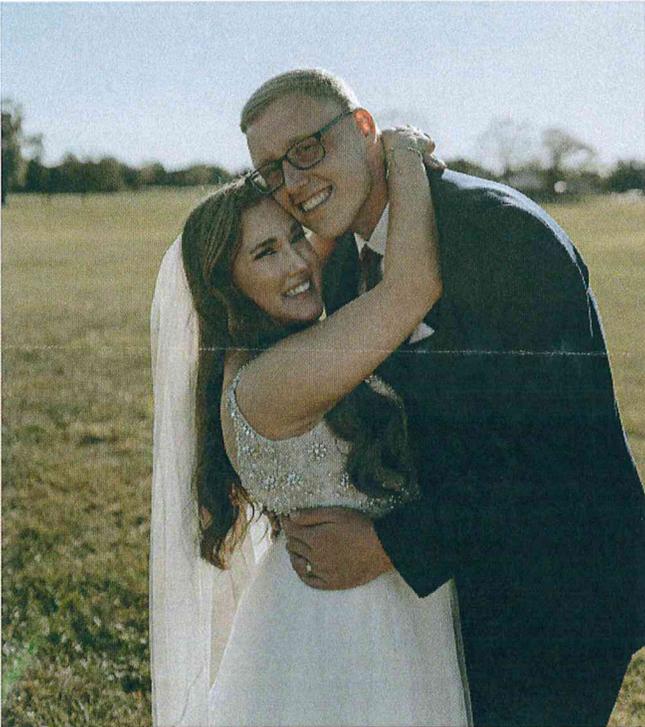
Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200

(For financial contributions please enclose a **separate note** with your check stating that your gift is 'preferred for the Wycliffe ministry of David and Estelle Abernathy')

What a beautiful day for a wedding...

Michaela and Collyn get married!

Carroll and Pam Baker
336 Brickling Rd
Irmo, SC 29063
803-206-2542 (cell)
cbaker@fca.org



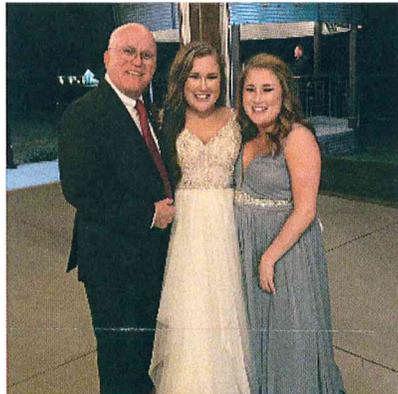
It was a day that seemed so far away not that many years ago. On her wedding day, Michaela was beautifully stunning! There's so much to share but I'll have to keep it short.

Our new son-in-law is Collyn Taylor from here in Irmo. They met at Dutch Fork High School and in their journalism class. Collyn preceded Michaela at USC and majored in journalism at the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Michaela joined him two years later at USC and majored in Visual Communications.

One of the things that we noticed about their relationship was that they really adored each other, and they always supported each other's dreams. Collyn works with Gamecock Central, a website that covers all sports at South Carolina. He's a part of most of the major press conferences and he's often called on to share his insight on local sports radio. At times, he travels to cover games, and Michaela understands the business of sports reporting. Meanwhile, Michaela's work with South Carolina keeps her busy too. We are so excited for Michaela and Collyn as they begin their life together as husband and wife.



We've received so much love and encouragement as many have been praying for Pam. She's doing much better this past month and she was so lovely at the wedding.



Kathryn was a beautiful Maid of Honor and helped Michaela with so many of the wedding details.



Michaela surprised everyone with USC's mascot Cocky. Collyn doesn't like mascots so the look on his face was priceless. Go Gamecocks!

... And oh yes, there is ministry still going on!

Our ministry with FCA has launched what is being called E3. While the terminology is new, the strategy is something that we've been involved with for many years. E3 stands for **Engage, Equip and Empower**. I've already started equipping one of my coaches, with the hope that he will empowered to engage others coaches in the very near future. This will be an exciting time of discipleship and multiplication!

Your involvement in our lives, our family and ministry is so special!

Carroll + Pam

