



Merry Christmas from the Castner Family

We are in awe and wonder to know that God came down and became flesh for us, yet remained God (Jn.1:1; 1:14)! The only way Jesus could be both God and man is through the miraculous conception of the Holy Spirit (Lk.1:35). Through the virgin birth (Isa.7:14), our God provided a sinless Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord (Matt.1:21) and He provided a compassionate High Priest Who was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin (Heb.4:14-16). He was called Emmanuel, which means God with us! Can you marvel with me in this great miracle?

My wife and the youth put together an excellent Christmas program for today's service. We had brethren from Palapye and Makobo join us and we had a fellowship after the morning service. It was a real joyous service as we considered the importance of the Incarnation to our faith. Next Sunday night, December 31, we will have a special service to bring in the New Year out in the village of Makobo from 9:00 pm until midnight. We will lay out our Vision for the Ministry for 2018. Pray that the brethren here will catch that vision for the work of God, especially in our absence.

We have officially informed the brethren here of our departure for the USA in February for an 11 month furlough. It was not easy for them to hear, but we encouraged them in the Lord and asked them to take it by faith and God will help them grow and use them all in a great way. We want to praise the Lord for Sam and Megan Hammett who will come to Botswana at the end of January to help in the work of the Lord while we are away in America. But they will only be allowed to stay for 3 months on a tourist visa. A special thank you to our Pastor and home church for their willingness to send them. I know they will appreciate your prayers! The brethren were very encouraged by this news.

Both Hannah and Timothy will remain at Lehigh Valley Baptist Church and will be living with a family of the church. We thank the Lord for raising these brethren up who have a real love and burden for the children of missionaries. I am also happy to report that they both have good jobs awaiting them thanks to 2 other members of LVBC. We ask you to keep them in your prayers as they take this big step in their lives.

We look forward to our time of furlough to be able to visit our supporting churches and get our children settled back to life in the USA. We hope that you will work with us on scheduling since we have many churches to visit scattered across the country. We do want to be good stewards of our time and resources in our scheduling. We will attempt to start in the East and head out West in an organized fashion. We will either contact you by email or by phone in the near future. Thank you for your understanding and help! My email is gcastner@lvbaptist.org if you have any questions. We will start visiting in March, 2018.

Thank you for the Christmas love offerings! We are designating the majority of them to one last family vacation here in Botswana before our family is split apart in the USA. Thank you for your sacrifice and love during this Christmas Season!



In Christ's Love,
The Garry Castner Family