

CHRISTMAS 2009

Dear Friends,

The blessings of Christmas – what a wonderful time of the year! We remember so well the joy of Christmas on the island of Curacao. On December 6, Saint Nicolaas would arrive by boat (*how else?*)! During that week, Saint Nicolaas and Black Pete would ride all over the neighborhoods throwing candy to the children. The night of the sixth, a shoe would be placed by the bed, anticipating a gift in it by morning. One special memory at our house on Christmas Eve was reciting the Christmas Story together and each one opening one gift. Some of you sent gifts to us and we opened those on Christmas morning along with our family gifts.

As we think of these Christmas memories, the greatest joy was church, special programs, preaching and celebrating the birth of Jesus with others. (*By the way, our Christmas service at church was at 5:00 in the morning!*) On Christmas Day in Curacao, everybody visits everybody. Yes, there was much celebration but the emphasis was always on the preaching of God's Word and remembering Jesus. As God's children, Christmas is always meaningful and rich in memories.

That was many years ago. Now, our children are grown with families of their own . . . and we even have three great-grandchildren! Thank God for the joys of the past and the blessings of the present. The one sad note is that our son, Jon, passed away four years ago and we miss him terribly, especially at Christmas.

I am sure that many of you have fond memories of Christmas in years gone by. Whatever your situation may be, remember that God sent His Son to be the Savior of the world and that He alone can provide salvation and peace to your life.

We wish each one of you a Blessed and Wonderful Christmas!

In Him,



Richard "Brom" and Betty Cowser