



On the Wings of Prayer

“Because thou hast been my help,
therefore in the Shadow of thy wings
will I rejoice:” Psalm 63:7

A VISIT TO BETHLEHEM

We thank you for your prayers, gifts and financial support for the ministries and missionaries of the IBFI. We also thank God for the greatest gift ever given on that first Christmas day. To celebrate, I offer this excerpt from Spurgeon's first Christmas Eve sermon at the New Park Street Chapel, 158 years ago.

John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director

Well now, I have been picturing to myself the manger, the Baby that lay in it, and Mary his mother watching lovingly over him; and I'll tell you what I thought. Those little hands will one day grasp the sceptre of universal empire; those little arms will one day grapple with the monster 'Death', and destroy it; those little feet shall tread on the serpent's neck, and crush that old deceiver's head; yea, and that little tongue, which hath not yet learned to articulate a word, shall, ere long, pour from his sweet lips such streams of eloquence as shall fertilize the minds of the whole human race, and infuse his teaching into the literature of the world; and again a little while, and that tongue shall pronounce the judgments of heaven on the destinies of all mankind. We have all thought it wonderful that the God of glory should stoop so low; but we shall one day think it more wonderful that the Man of sorrows should be exalted so high. Earth could find no place too base for him; heaven will scarcely find a place lofty enough for him. Then there is just this one thing to be said about Jesus Christ, he is 'the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.' We may change with circumstances; Jesus never did, and never will. When we look at him in the manger, we may say, 'He is the Wonderful, the Counsellor, the mighty God.' And when we see him exalted to his Father's right hand, we may exclaim, 'Behold the Man!'

From the sermon - A Visit to Bethlehem - December 24, 1854 - by C.H. SPURGEON

December 2012

- Ron and Kathy Valerio (Dominican Republic) report God's blessings on their first preaching service at their work in Los Alcarrizos. There were thirty-eight present and five souls accepting Christ as Savior. The Valerio's added a sidewalk to the outside of the church.

- **Daniel and Michelle Jones (Mexico/Rio Grande Valley)** Bro. Danny preached the annual mission conference in Mexico this past October. It was well attended with a high attendance of 400 on Sunday night. On visitation there were nineteen people won to Christ. One man surrendered to the ministry at the conference. On Sunday, November 25, 2012, the Jones' began their new work in Rio Grande Valley.
- **Bill and Sharon Smith (Brazil)** are busy with the services in two of their works. One is Anchor Baptist Church and the other is Bible Baptist Church in Caracai. Please pray for Pastor Francisco whose wife passed away. The Smith's request prayer for him that he will be able to resume the pastorate in January.
- **Prayer request:** Wisdom, guidance, and strength for each of our missionary families. Their health needs. The Haynes' construction on their church building in Ganado. The Hawkins' "turn over" project of training the nationals to take over more of the leadership in the Institutes and churches. Michelle Jones is having some problems with asthma. Our missionaries as they train nationals to teach and train others.

Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year

**"Some wish to live within the sound of
a chapel bell;
I wish to run a rescue mission within a
yard of hell."**

~ C.T. Studd