

The McRae Chronicle

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Happy Holidays!

As we look back on Thanksgiving, and forward to Christmas and then the New Year, we are once again struck by how much has happened in the last few months. While we are doing life, it can seem hectic or mundane, but taking time periodically to reflect helps us see what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done. We continue with AWANA and music at church, and Kara has taken on the Christmas program this year. She is writing it herself, and compiling (and sometimes arranging!) the music. The theme of the program is God's master plan of salvation as He revealed it to mankind, from creation to the patriarchs to the prophets. It will, of course focus in Christ's birth, as well as look ahead to His second coming. She has titled it "The Fullness of Time," from Galatians 4:4. It has taken quite a bit of work, and we are excited to see how it turns out.



Building a House

The picture in the header is from a hike out behind our house. It's not particularly Christmas-y, or even wintery. Not only is our area in severe drought, we have had unseasonably warm weather. It was over 70 degrees at the end of November and beginning of December. One benefit of this is that we have had extra time to get a roof on the Mathiases' house before lots of snow hit. We hope to have them in the house next summer. It will be so good for them to have a permanent and reliable home. This has been a big project, but it is a joy to be able to help here and there as much as we can. Now that the house is protected, we are hoping for lots of snow and rain!



TBM Work

At TBM, we have put a lot of work into some of our training materials these last few months, specifically on a book exploring the way Paul organized his missions efforts. We are also beginning to work on some ideas and resources for mission committees in churches, partnering to help them serve their missionaries most effectively. My work has continued to include a lot of reading. I have finished three books on various missiological topics this semester, and I am thoroughly enjoying continuing to learn in these areas. For every couple books I complete from my assigned stack, another one is added, but I am making progress, and eager to get to each of them.

For more information about our mission and project, visit:
https://tentmakersbiblemission.org/?tbm_missionaries=nathaniel-and-kara-mcrae-2

In the fall, we were able to be involved in the FSB Missions Conference again, and were able to have conversations with several students, as they consider their roles in missions. It was also exciting to talk with missionaries from several other organizations and hear about the unique field to which God has called each of them.

Two of our TBM missionaries are returning to the field after difficulty with travel. Travel and other restrictions continue to be hurdles for many missionaries. Please pray that God would open avenues for missionaries to be effective in their fields. We are hoping to travel internationally next summer, as it has already been put off for two years, so we would appreciate your prayers for us, as well!

Family News

Our family is continuing with our routines of work and school, and several of the children have been exploring foreign languages and/or new instruments. The older two have been enjoying youth group events, and everyone is involved at church. One of our daughters recognized a need recently in Taco Bell, which led to an opportunity to pray with a woman who was struggling that day. It's a joy to see our children being sensitive to God's heart in these moments.

One huge praise we have is that the hospital bills from Cassandra's accident last spring are finally paid off! It has been a bit of a run-around, dealing with billing departments and resolving confusion about company names, etc., but it is finally resolved. Regardless, it is a magnificent show of God's provision that we were able to pay them all. They ended up giving us a discount, and so many people shared the weight of that expense. THANK YOU! God is so good to give everything far better than we think.

Now we are gearing up for all the festivities surrounding Christmas. We love the season and celebrating the birth of Almighty God in human form. It is one of our favorite holidays. As much as we love Christmas, it is interesting to note that in our country, New Year's celebrations are all but an afterthought of Christmas. In many cultures, the New Year is the larger celebration, with gifts, parties, and fireworks! It certainly is a great opportunity for reflecting on God's goodness in the past year and looking forward to His plans for the next. It is also a reminder that the old has passed away and all things have become new!



stonehavenfireballs.co.uk

One of the many celebrations which I enjoy watching is the Hogmanay celebrations of Scotland. As the parade proceeds with music and dance, they have a celebratory custom to whirl flaming balls of fire around their heads. As the fireballs are swung, the only thing visible on the swinger is what is illuminated by the fire. In coastal towns, they may launch the ball of flame out into the darkness over the sea. Even these customs can

be reminders to us as believers. As we travel through a world of darkness, may the only thing visible of us be that which reflects the light of Christ, and may that light be launched out into the sea of the world most effectively in this coming year!

Until next time,

Nathaniel, Kara,
Juliana, Ariana, Cassandra,
and Grant M^cRae



Please Pray with Us!

- Praise God for supplying payments for all Cassandra's medical bills!
- Praise God for making this life full of joy, particularly by defeating the power and curse of sin!
- Pray for missionary efforts during times of difficult travel and restrictions.
- Pray with us that we will be useful during this holiday season and in the new year.
- Pray that we will be able to finish this house project in time for them to move in next summer.

Contact Info

We would love to hear how you are doing and what the Lord has been doing in your lives.

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