



Heerahs Update December, 2022

9 Hummingbird Avenue,
Graham Trace Extension, Sangre Grande. Trinidad, West Indies
Email: rmheerah@gmail.com; phone: 1 868-788-0244



“In this the love of God was manifested toward us,
that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world,
that we might live through Him.” I John 4:9 NKJV

Dear Friends and Families in Christ,

As we reflected this Christmas season on the wonder of Jesus' birth and all different pieces of the story, we focused on 'the why' Jesus came, as John says in 1 John 4:9, “. . . that we might live through Him.” We thank God that life has been provided for us through Jesus Christ who is the Life. Many are chasing after 'things' in order to experience life at its best as this world sees it. However, true life, real life, abundant life can only be found in Jesus. The Life Jesus offers is free from the condemnation of guilt and sin, free from the penalty of sin and free from the fear of death and separation. It's a life that gives us access to a deep seated joy and contentment in spite of what happens to us or around us. It's a life that gives us confidence that God is in control of all things even though the world around us seems to be spinning out of control. It's a life of serving Christ not to be saved but because we are saved and forever grateful to Him for our salvation. Jesus came and drew His first breath in a stable surrounded by animals. He breathed his last breath on a hill called Calvary surrounded by criminals. He humbled Himself to the Father's will and came to serve, not to be served. Let's look for the opportunities God will call us to humility and to serve others. Let's rejoice that Jesus' birth, His death and Resurrection have brought life to all who would believe in Him.

We are deeply grateful for all you who are receiving this letter because you are part of our story. Your constant prayers, your fervent love and your faithful partnership in the ministry of the Gospel have shaped who we are and what we do. Here are some quick highlights of the last 5 months.

Rejoice with us . . .



Justin and Hayley came to Trinidad for a vacation this summer. While we were in Tobago spending a couple days Justin proposed to Hayley and she said yes! We praise God for them both of them. They have such an amazing story of true love and genuine commitment. We pray for the Lord to continue to direct their paths as they anticipate life together for the glory of God.

Justin is in his second year at Frontier School of the Bible and enjoys it very much. Hayley graduates next May with her PharmD from Cedarville University. Justin continues to serve at Mitchell Berean Church as the Youth Leader and also leads worship at the church. He loves the ministry there and we pray for the Lord to lead them both to where He wants them after May 2023. We thank God for the godly people whom the Lord has placed in Justin's life both at Frontier School of the Bible and Mitchell Berean Church .

We also praise God for answered prayer as a dear couple has blessed Justin with a great working vehicle. Another dear brother from the church in NE. has offered to provide fuel for his car while he travels back and forth from La Grange WY to Mitchell NE to do ministry. Thanks so much for your prayers. He is truly blessed beyond measure. We definitely missed him this Christmas as he has decided to stay in Mitchell NE and serve at the church for their Christmas services. Our consolation is that we got to spend two weeks with him from Thanksgiving into the first week of December.

Joseph, our second son is also doing well and continues to serve at Hope Community Church in the Technical (audio, video and online) department and works at an online school. He has also started his Private Pilot training. He will be completing this phase of his training in January 2023 and hopes to apply to a flight school in the US to complete his Instrument Rating and Multi Engine Commercial Rating. His goal is to eventually become a missionary pilot. Please pray for the Lord's leading as to what school he attends, the funds to complete his training and what organization he will eventually fly for.



Charissa is now 17 years old and in 11th grade at the same secondary school which Joseph attended. Thanks for your prayers for her exams last May. She did well and was accepted to this new school to finish her secondary education. She is not yet sure what field she wants to pursue but has a passion to do something that helps her express her creative and administrative sides. She serves on the worship team and on the youth planning team. She is a blessing to us.

Last November after we got good news from Ronnie's doctor concerning some health issues, we (Meela and Ronnie) were able to visit Justin and Hayley in Ohio and spend Thanksgiving Day with Hayley's family. It was a very special time meeting Hayley's parents, her both sets of grandparents, her uncles and cousins for the first time. We truly cherish those moments as we had lots of fun getting to know them, laughing together and eating some delicious desserts. Sweet memories indeed.

We then flew to Denver with Justin and saw snow for the first time ever. What a welcome it was as we arrived after a snow fall and it was just enough for Meela to make a snow angel and for us to throw some snow balls at each other. It was so much fun.



It was a blessing to finally arrive at Frontier School of the Bible WY and meet all of the precious people whom the Lord has placed in Justin's life. We sat in a couple of classes with Justin and Ronnie also had the privilege of sharing the message at one of the chapel services. It was a joy to hear so many of the faculty, staff and students share their appreciation for Justin's heart for the Lord and the caring, humble young man that he is. We truly love the place, the people and the passion which the school has to train men and women in the word and to be prepared for whatever ministry the Lord will lead them to.



We also went to the church where Justin serves in Mitchell NE and Ronnie was able to share his testimony and the Gospel with the youth group which Justin leads. Again it was a blessing for us as parents, to see Justin's ministry there to those kids. We also got to see how far Justin has to drive to and from church and we thank God for a great working car and for protection on those lonely roads.

While we were in La Grange WY, Meela celebrated her 7th birthday and she got her wish by being able to see an actual snow fall and to build a snow man with Justin. As she said, "the Lord has been good to me and all I want to do is spend the rest of my days serving him."



A special highlight of our trip was our visit with Dick and Kathy Seymour, a very dear couple to us. We cherish those few hours we got to sit with them and laugh together as we caught up on what the Lord has been doing in our lives. It has been 19 years since we last saw them in person. We thank God for them and their ministry in our lives.

Another highlight of this trip was being able to visit with some members of the TBM mission board and the staff at the home office. We shared a Trini meal together with them as well as with a team of 9



students and staff who will be coming to Trinidad next March for Spring break. Andrew Elliot, the dean of men at Frontier (back row 2nd from left), who has been to Trinidad two times before will be leading the team. We thank God for our mission, Tentmakers Bible Mission who are partnering with Frontier School of the Bible to make this happen and we are truly excited about this opportunity. Please pray for this team as they raise their support and prepare their hearts for this exciting adventure of encouraging the church in Trinidad and possibly hearing what the Lord wants each of them to do with their lives in ministry.



Hope Community Church is gradually picking up momentum again as believers are starting to come back out in person and the Lord has been adding new people to us. This last quarter we had many who came to faith in Christ and ten of them followed the Lord in water baptism.



We celebrated our 12th Anniversary as a church on Nov 13th and we also were able to have our first Christmas Potluck and White Elephant gift exchange since 2019. It was an absolute joy to see the building full again and to share in fellowship and fun.

The Men of Hope and the Women of a Hope have restarted well doing the Measure of a Man and the Measure of a Woman respectively and our Youth Ministry has really been doing well. 9 out of the ten people who followed Christ in water baptism came from the youth ministry.

As we close we want to personally wish you a very Happy New Year 2023.

As Paul says in Philippians 1:3-6,

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;"

May the Lord Jesus continue to encourage you and keep your hearts anchored in His word as you press on to His coming which is very soon. We love you all.

Praises:

- Ronnie doing better health wise.
- The Lord provided a good working vehicle for Justin.
- Charissa did well in her regional exams last May.
- Joseph started his Private Pilot License and will complete it in January 2023 God willing.
- The Lord has raised up a new team to lead our youth ministry.
- The Men of Hope and the Women of Hope Bible studies up and running again.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the health and spiritual wellness of our entire family.
- Pray for Justin to complete his online Bachelors degree through Lancaster Bible College and for his continued studies at Frontier School of the Bible.
- Pray for Joseph as he explores Missionary Aviation that the Lord will provide for him and lead him to the right organization.
- Pray for Charissa as she prepares to write more regional exams in May 2023, that God will give her peace and good success in her new school.
- Pray for us as a couple that the Lord will continue to strengthen our relationship and that we will be a good example to our kids and others.
- Pray for the believers at Hope Community Church to recommit their lives to the LORD as we reset after a long time of not being in person.
- Pray for the new people coming to the church that God will use us to faithfully disciple them in the way of Christ and the apostles.
- Pray that the believers would give faithfully again to the LORD now that we are back together. The giving dropped considerably during the pandemic.
- Pray for our church family as we continue to grieve the passing of our Worship and Youth Director - Justin Singh. He was only 25 years old and like a son to us. He was our Justin's best friend. Pray for his parents and one of his younger brothers as well who is really struggling.
- Pray for the Lord's provision for us as family as we are beginning to feel the pinch with the rapid increase in the cost fuel and food.

OPTIONS TO GIVE:

- *If you desire to give regularly or a one time gift to us, please visit: www.tentmakersbiblemission.org (For news and more information for GIVING OPTIONS).*
- *To give towards us personally through TBM please designate gifts to:*
- *'Trinidad Project.'*
- *To give towards the church in Trinidad through TBM, please designate gifts to 'Living Hope Ministries'*
- *You can also mail checks directly to us in Trinidad using the address at the top.*