

Merry Christmas 2017

Matthew 1:23:

"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

Wow! Christmas is already here. Time seems to fly. We wanted to write a brief Christmas letter and send out some pictures of our family. I believe, next to resurrection Sunday, Christmas is the most important holy day of the year. I love Christmas! It is such an exciting time for many reasons. It is wonderful to spend time with family and friends. It is exciting to see Christmas light displays, and even snow. What a joy to give gifts, especially to children! I love seeing the joy in Mercedes and Abigail! However, what is most important is the celebration of the birth of Christ. I like what St. Augustine wrote: *"He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy. He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute."*



It is with joy and sadness we notice how quickly our children are growing up. Mercedes and Abigail are quickly getting older, smarter and bigger. Mercedes is now six years old and Abigail just turned four years old. Mercedes is now in Kindergarten and Abigail is now in Preschool. Meagan is homeschooling both children. Mercedes is learning reading, math and many other subjects. Recently, in the last few days, we added a kitten to the family. We are really grateful to a wonderful church member for giving us the kitten. Mercedes and Abigail are really excited.



This has been an exciting year for our family. We began the year in Alliance, Ohio and we are ending the year in Poland, Ohio. In the middle of the year we moved to Poland, as I began a new ministry serving as the Senior Pastor at Bethel Friends Church. We greatly enjoyed our six years in Alliance, Ohio and serving as the Pastor of First Baptist, but we knew it was time to move on. We now look forward to a long ministry at Bethel. The Bethel Friends church family have welcomed us with open arms and we are excited to be here.



Meagan and I are doing well for the most part; we continue the good fight against Multiple Sclerosis (M.S.) She sees many specialists in order to help cope. In all of this, family, church family and friends have been very supportive and God has taken care of us. It has been another wonderful year serving the Lord.



As Christmas fast approaches, and the 2017 year comes to an end, we can say that God has richly blessed us throughout this year. Christmas is a time when Christians of all denomination celebrate together. It is a wonderful time of unity. We celebrate our Savior's birth. We celebrate God with us (Matthew 1:23). We celebrate that Jesus saves us from our sins (Matthew 1:21). We celebrate God's love in that He sent His only begotten Son into the world that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but shall receive eternal life (John 3:16).

Our family wishes you a Merry Christmas.
Pastor Steve, Meagan, Mercedes and Abigail

