



## Jesse & Edlina Naitram

P.O.Box 1005, Gablewoods South Post Office, Vieux Fort, St. Lucia, W.I. cel: (758)7208182. email: [jessedna@yahoo.com](mailto:jessedna@yahoo.com)

Dear Brethren,

We trust that you are doing well by the grace of God and experiencing the hand of God working in your lives. First I apologize for the length of time that has elapsed since our last letter. The Lord continues to show His faithfulness to us and daily loads us with benefits. As it has been for most others, the last few months have required much adjustment in our lives and ministry. COVID-19 brought a closure to church services and public gatherings from mid March to the ending of May under strict curfews including a 24 hr lock down for one week. During these weeks we used social media to continue ministering to the believers. This was completely new to us. Due to some members having limited data plans, live streaming would not have reached everyone, and so we created a church Whatsapp group and posted the prerecorded messages on the group. In addition we started a daily devotion on the group chat which has continued. Since personal visitation was also restricted, we tried to maintain personal contact through phone calls with as many as we could. Praise the Lord that the radio broadcast was able to continue through which an evangelistic outreach could be maintained.

With the gradual lightening of the curfew and restrictions, churches were allowed to reopen under strict regulations, after submitting a COVID-19 Response Plan and having their applications approved by the government. We restarted Sunday services on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in May and, with a further adjusted curfew, our midweek services about a month later.

Due to the pandemic many people are out of work and income support is very minimal for most, but the Lord has given us an opportunity, through partnering with another Baptist church, to be able to distribute some basic food supplies like rice, sugar and flour, every other week to church members and many homes in our surrounding communities. This has been a great blessing in supplying a great need, promoting the testimony of the church, and giving an opportunity of service for the members with the parceling and distributing of the food stuff. The church family continues to grow in the Lord and the pandemic has drawn us closer together.

At the beginning of this pandemic the Lord gave me an opportunity to lead a lady to the Lord over the telephone. About one month before, she attended evangelistic meetings at another Baptist church at which I preached for one of the

nights. She shared how the Holy Spirit had been working in her heart since then and how she obtained my contact number. The initial scare of COVID caused her to consider her need for Salvation and so I had the privilege of leading her to the Lord. She lives more than an hour away from us, but I encouraged her to attend a sister church that is in closer proximity to her, and she said that she would. All praise to the Lord.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we have cancelled youth camp this summer. We know that the Lord knows best and we are looking forward to Camp YES 2021 if it is His will.

In general our family is doing well by the grace of God. The children did very well in the school term which ended prior to the shutdown. These last 2 weeks were quite challenging but as always the Lord showed His faithfulness and favor. Our second son Micah was having intense pain in his abdomen. After being admitted to the hospital and put on I.V. antibiotics for 6 days without any improvement, and 3 blood analyses, 3 ultrasounds and a CT scan, he was diagnosed with acute appendicitis and a large amount of inflammation in his abdomen. He underwent a major surgery to get the appendix removed and the stomach cavity cleaned out, and spent an additional 4 days in the hospital before being discharged a couple days ago. He is doing well and improving every day. Praise the Lord for the prayers and encouragement of family members and many of brothers and sisters in Christ. Recovery for Micah will be slow because of the extent of the surgery, but we Praise the Lord for bringing him through it, for giving an abundance of grace and strength to our family, for providing everything that was needed, and also the wonderful assurance that He is always in control.

Please pray for us as we seek to utilize avenues of ministry that were not considered before. One of these is the option of live streaming services, but there is some necessary equipment that would be needed. The church also needs hymn books. We have used the ones we have for the most part of the last 15 years. These are not readily available on island. We have considered the electronic option but that also requires equipment (laptop, projector & screen or TV monitor). We know the Lord will provide the need as He always does. Pray that we would be obedient to Him as He directs us in new areas of ministry.

Once again, thank you for your love and concern for us and the work of the Lord. We praise the Lord for you and your partnership in His work here in St. Lucia. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless and use you for His glory. Let us be faithful to the Lord and keep our eyes on Him as we get closer to the day of His return.

Your Fellow-labourers in Christ  
Jesse, Edlina, David, Micah & Jaelys Naitram