

# Ministry Updates

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## Video Message

Merry Christmas! Please enjoy the [linked 2'35" video](#) rather than taking time today to read and reflect. The YouTube facilitated video likely communicates our hearts' intents this day better and more efficiently than the words of *Written Message* below in this Christmas Day update.



Click [Image](#) or [here](#) for YouTube video message

We spend the day in Bondoukou worshipping, relaxing, and re-ordering our home after a week of some travel and sharing. We took special time in familial worship to sing hymns and carols after reading Luke 1-2.40 yesterday and Matthew 1 – 2 today. God bless each and all who celebrate the coming of Emmanuel with us today. May God keep blessing those under His influence who still have not recognized the power of our once and future King. So many souls have yet to join God's movement! May they gain His peace and goodwill and come to faith thanks to believers' acts of obedience during our days on earth.

Your Partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

## Written Message *(Please only read if there's time for reflection and inability to view the easier to follow video.)*

Like angels of old, today we share tidings of great joy: *a Savior has been born to us. Peace and goodwill to all!*

Like prophets of old, contemporaries of Jesus' time, and Christians through the centuries until now, we share the angel's command to Jesus' family and friends at birth: **have no fear, God is here!**

We recognize today that the only real threat to abundant and fulfilled living is the choice of whom each of us serves. COVID does not threaten our making good decisions to embrace life. No disease can. Earth-bound powers seeking more than God-defined control of information or who attempt to force changes of human behavior by intimidation are proven ineffective against the powers given to humanity by the Savior-King Jesus. We live life more fully when joint choices made in communion and community to obediently collaborate or submit determine group actions. Ostensibly, elections confer what power others called leaders can exert. There is but one true leader of each and all we can elect to serve: the Savior-King whose birth and life we choose to recognize this season.

We each choose the good upon which to concentrate. By faith, we use our influence within circles of family, friends, and fellow workers to do good. We can bind ourselves together in many ways to ask the Lord's blessing for overcoming any of life's challenges. Chaos only exists where God's defined world order fails to get recognized as reigning. *(God's Word determines the sun's place in space, defines the limits of joy-filled human relations, and remains solely capable of describing reality's wholeness and oneness adequately.)*

Grace and Truth recognized in praise and obedience structure organization out of confusion. Choose together to see Jesus' orders reign. Let's help all find *shalom*, the peace on earth, and goodwill foretold. Reality is as a favorite president of my grandparents once communicated: **'We have nothing to fear, but fear itself.'** Knowing Jesus by faith makes courage possible. Fear stimulated by deception shuts us down. Such fears alone empower Satan in the world God created and designed by His Word made flesh. Only a good and reformed conscience effectively resists fearmongering, Satanic deceptions. Jesus overcame. His people overcome. Though not easy and without risk, God dwells here amidst us, by the power of His Holy Spirit, who presently fashions believers' hearts and minds. Jesus-Christ is Truth. He always lights each of our ways through dark times like a flashlight, letting us unite again in brighter days.

May each find their joy of life in thankfulness today, celebrating what we have with childlike gratefulness. For Verlin and Debbie, the greatest gift remains Him who's continuous giving cannot get exhausted. The gift remains the hope that the angels announced: *a Savior has been born to us. We need not live in fear.* In that light of Christmas, as Charles Dickens enjoined us through the seemingly immortal character of Tiny Tim, we wish 'A Merry Christmas to all; God bless us every one!'

## **Prayer & Praise**

👉 See [Season's Reasons](#) for our Holiday Season concerns.

👉 Exceptionally, our local pastor's wife suffers a reoccurrence of her ulcers. See [Gems of Grace](#). Symptoms returned during our September through October absence. Unfortunately, aggressive resumption of nutritional interventions did not resume until weeks after we returned.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

Last update: [Season's Reasons – 211218.PDF](#)

Prior videos: [PA Come & Go](#) & [Cleanup Champs](#)

2021 Q3 Report: [Door Dynamics](#) –

[3Q 2021 Report 211113 PDF](#)

2021 Budget: [CHSC-0118 ANDERSON-Budget 2021](#)

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Something to ask? Write: [updates@verlindeb.org](mailto:updates@verlindeb.org)

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