



# Lloyd & Elaine Cooke

## Serving the Lord in Jamaica

December 2024

Greetings friends and family,

### The Light has Come

Jamaica is all agog about Christmas: but most are only interested in buying and receiving gifts. On Friday night, the 13th. Elaine and I participated in a community Carol Singing service led by three different local denominations. Amidst the hustle and bustle of men at the bars, groceries, shopping, and waiting at the Taxi stand. We braved it and sang at the top of our voices the good old Christmas carols. We had no music backing us up, just the voices of three men and seven women from three denominations.

We sang, read the Word, and prayed for our men, for families, and our nation. Then Lloyd was called upon to do the closing exercises: a brief message and an invitation for whoever desired to invite Christ into their hearts at this time when our minds turn to what happened on the first Christmas. He talked about the lights at Christmas: the 'Light of God' coming to dispel the darkness of the northern parts of Israel, including "Galilee of the nations". (Isa. 9:1-7). God promised to send Israel a 'child' who would be the 'Son' of God. This gift of God during their time of darkness would be called "Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace". When he came into the world, he spoke of himself as the 'Light of the World'. He also said that we who would believe in him would also be 'lights of the world'. God also sent a star that was followed by 'Wise Men from the East'. When they found him, they brought him gifts. Christmas time to many today is just a gift-giving time. We need to give Christ a gift today. "Wise men still seek him!" The gift that he desires of us is the gift of our lives, in response to his great love when he gave his life on the cross for us, that we might enter his heaven.

While no one came forward to Receive the Christ-child that night, we rejoiced in the opportunity to tell forth the message of God's love. We trust that the Spirit of God will work in hearts and his word will not 'return to him void'. Later that night at home the electricity went out. It stayed out for more than a full day. We were in the darkness, without being able to communicate by the various platforms we use today. We praise God that indeed 'The Light Has Come!' And our darkness is over.

May you rejoice in the 'Light' of God this Christmas: as we join with the angels and shout "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, to men of goodwill!"

God has been so good to us this year. As we continue to walk with our Saviour, may his blessings and overwhelming kindness continue to be your portion. Thanks for your prayers and support given to us this year as we continue to serve our Lord here in Jamaica!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year when they arrive.

Yours sincerely in Christ's love!

*Lloyd & Elaine*

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