

-Sarnia EMC
- Pastor Devo + Mission's Committee

Dear Friends & Family, - Christmas 2022

We're thankful for each of you and how God has connected our lives and want to wish you a peace-filled Christmas & New Year.

Family Highlights: We're so thankful for the way Carolyn's parents are adapting to Stouffville at 91 & 87 years of age. Quite remarkable really, and a testimony to God's grace. The opportunities for them to connect with grandchildren & great grands is a blessing for us all.

Charity and Ben, Noah(9), Ana-Sofia(5) and Luke(3) are a fun family who love to play games, read books, play outside, raise chickens and get together with friends and family. Charity uses her gift of encouragement as she supports her foster care families, and Ben is working hard to complete his electrical apprenticeship. Chara is an awesome Aunt, who loves to serve and encourage others and often brings her new little kitten, Toby ('God's goodness') to visit, much to the delight of Grandpa and Grandma.

MissionPREP 2022 Highlights: After establishing our online programs in 2020-21, we were glad to return to in-person programs and were encouraged to meet courageous students preparing for cross-cultural assignments. We were pleased to be able to welcome new facilitators for both our IMPACT and RE-VIEW programs and are thankful for the way God is building the MP Team. We continue to pray for more facilitators for PLANTS.

Carolyn has been coaching Tiffany as the new Children's Co-ordinator, through all the program adaptations and the return to in-person programs. Anne-Marie has also been a great asset with her experience as an MK and a mom of 4 MKs (missionary kids). Carolyn continues to support the Children's Team and assist Ken in his role as Director.

Ken keeps busy overseeing, facilitating, connecting with mission leaders who facilitate at MP and agency leaders in order to stay current with changing trends. Rising costs and lower numbers of students are having an impact on MissionPREP, but we've seen God provide in the past and pray for God's wisdom as we navigate these changing times.

The Prince of Peace: Recently the kids at church were invited to draw a picture of a place they find peaceful. Some drew pictures of a beach, their room or home, or being with a special friend. As we discussed the peace Jesus offers, it became evident that His peace doesn't depend on a place or circumstances. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, God's people could not find peace as they were in a place of deep darkness (sin) serving other gods. God sent the prophet Isaiah to share a message of hope, and the promise of the Prince of Peace to come. The prophecy reads in Isaiah 9:2,3,6:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned....For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

While places and circumstances can bring temporary peace, Jesus promises to be with us always, by his Holy Spirit, as our Prince of Peace.

May the **Prince of Peace** bless you in many beautiful ways through the joys and challenges of 2023.

K+C.

Ken & Carolyn Benson

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*You folks have been so faithful over these years (25).
Thanks for your prayers and financial support.*

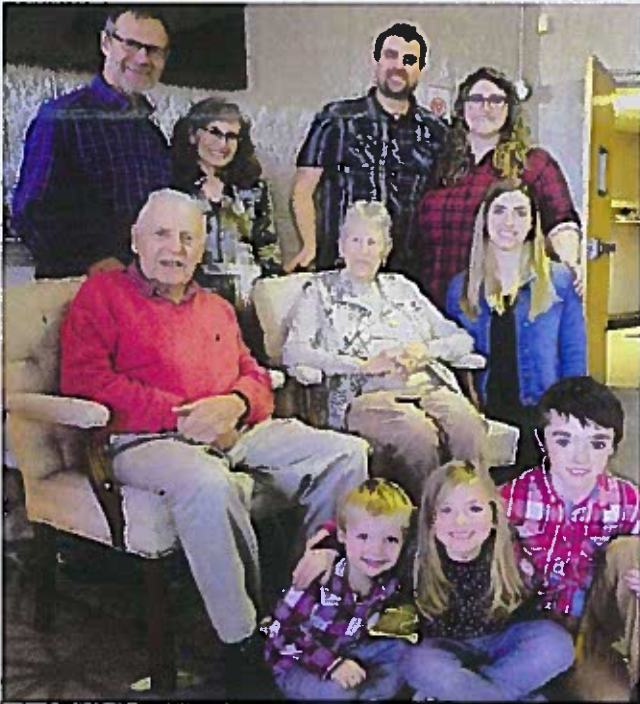
Grace
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World Partners
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MissionPREP



Champions, Bensons & Klapwyks



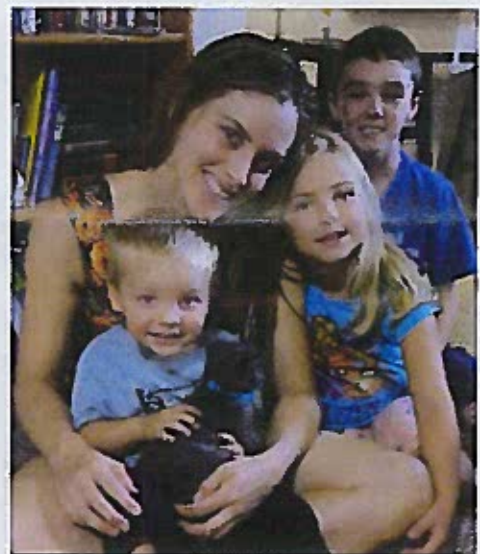
Luke learning from Great Grandpa & Grandma



Ana-Sofia-cooking up a storm



Noah-encouraging egg production



Snuggling with Aunty's new kitten