



The Robert Smith Family

Cheerfully serving on the island of

Barbados, West Indies

February 2021

Greetings from Barbados! We are so grateful for the opportunity to represent the Lord and to seek the lost here on this island. Thank you for allowing us to partner with you to do this. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support that

help to make it happen.

The number of overall covid cases here have multiplied by seven since Christmas. Churches were closed at the beginning of January, and in February most of society was locked down. The cases continue to climb and so the lockdown continues to be expanded to include more and more of society.

Against this backdrop, I have pondered how do we fulfill the Great Commission here during this time? We are supposed to stay at home except to purchase food, or see a doctor, or some other necessity. We would not be allowed to knock on doors and to be honest, I don't think any neighborhoods would accept us if we did at this time. So where could we go to find people, pass out tracts, and yet be accepted in society?

Answer #1- The government is sending university students into every neighborhood to take surveys seeking to find and help people with early symptoms of covid. I have encouraged our members to see this as an opportunity to witness. All one has to do is answer the questions, and when the student finishes, ask one of your own! "Do you know for sure that if you were to die today that you would go to heaven?" (We can't get to other neighborhoods but God is sending someone to hear you! I told our people.) I had my opportunity yesterday. Joshua came to interview our household. I listened and answered his polite questions. Then he listened to the gospel just as politely. He is unsaved, but he would not receive Christ. Neither the thought of the God Who loves him nor the thought of the eternity that most assuredly awaits him could stir him to take serious consideration of his spiritual condition. Pray for God to open these hearts that are so hardened to the gospel! Pray also that our members will aggressively take the opportunity to witness when it comes to them.

Answer #2- As I went shopping earlier this week, I noticed that the grocery stores have very long lines with great numbers of people waiting to buy food. The people are standing there for an hour or more with nothing to do. So the thought came, "What if we make a sterile, wrapped packet with a John/Romans and gospel tracts? Could we not take 50 or a 100 with us and pass them out as we stand in line for the store?" We even have bags printed with the church name that we ordered last year that we could give to our church members to hold the packets. So Rhoda and I made packets with a printed label with information on how to join our zoom services. Next week, I will go to the store and try to pass them out before shopping. Pray for us that God will bless our efforts.

Buddy and Becca are doing well in school. We miss them greatly, but we are so grateful to have children who desire to follow the Lord's will in their life. They also are learning what bitter cold is, and so we keep sending them pictures of sunshine and palm trees- just to encourage them of course! :))

Blessings on you all, *Robert, Rhoda, Buddy, and Becca Smith*

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Home Church-First Baptist Church, 507 State Street, Hammond, IN 46320 219-932-0711

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