



Christmas Greetings from Bob and Hope

From Christmas to Kenya

Bob & Hope Carter - 7946 Carberry Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46214

December, 2025

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

We are so excited that this year we will gather with our *entire family* to celebrate the birth of Christ! Nathan and his family will drive up from Dallas to be with us. Both Levi and Josiah and their families will come from Noblesville, IN and this year we have Hannah living with us since we brought her home from China at the end of September. And of course, Bob's father and stepmother will be with us as well. Including three new grandbabies, we will have 11 grandchildren adding delightful chaos to the celebration!

As grandparents, our family "season of advent" has been rewarded with the joy of healthy deliveries and the hope of all that the future might bring through these new lives as they grow and explore and learn and discover. As Christians, we feel especially connected to this year's Season of Advent as we look forward to celebrating the "coming to" the world ('ad'+ 'vent') of its Savior and eventual Lord. In his first coming, Christ entered the world as our Savior: a suffering servant to be our teacher and then our atoning sacrifice to redeem us to the Father. We are now "between the comings" in an extended "season of advent" when we are looking forward to his second coming when He will once again enter human history as its reigning Lord.

Not many people know this, but Isaac Watts wrote the well-known Christmas carol 'Joy to the World' not as a celebration of the first coming, but as a joyful anticipation of Christ's second coming, looking forward to the day when indeed "...the Lord has come" (v.1), when "the Savior reigns" (v.2), and when "he rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness" (v.3)! In his first coming, Christ did not rule in the world; he died, rose again, and ascended to heaven. When we look around us and listen to the news, there is little of truth, grace, or righteousness. But in both the Old and New Testaments the prophets and the apostles speak of a coming time when Christ will establish His rule, and reign over the nations with peace, justice, and righteousness. Now, that's something to look forward to!

As we celebrate Christ's *first coming* and look forward to his *second coming*, may we each be so yielded to His Spirit, present and living within us, that for those who still do not know Him we can be used by God to be part of his *present coming*.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Christmas Blessings to each of you,

Bob and Hope



Kenya Bound – One Last Time

Assuming everyone in the family remains healthy, we plan to return to Kenya to teach one last term at Moffat Bible College. We have updated our immunizations and have our airline tickets in hand, departing Jan. 5. This will be our last opportunity to do in-person mentoring for Edward, our new colleague in the department. Nevertheless, we will continue to remain in touch with virtual meetings as often as needed after our return home in May.

This will be our busiest term yet. We will be teaching four courses plus the teaching practicum and conducting one online course. Of the courses we will be teaching, two are the ones we launched last year: 'Community Health for Pastors and Christian Leaders', and 'Disability Ministry and the Church'. We look forward to tweaking these courses and making them even better before handing them over for others to teach after this.

Before returning home, we will attend SIM Kenya's annual Spiritual Life Conference one last time, dispose of all our remaining personal effects that are currently in storage, and visit dear friends who represent relationships built up since we first arrived in Kenya in 1985. Please pray for traveling mercies and for God's grace as we wind up 40 years of missionary work in Africa.

Family Updates

- We are thankful that Bob's parents remain in stable health and are able to continue living independently. Kay is doing well with the care of a wonderful home health aide, and although Wayne is battling significant back pain and recently started twice-yearly injections, he is still doing all he feels like doing and helps with looking after Kay. Please pray that their season of good health continues.
- Hope had laparoscopic, robotic gallbladder surgery on Nov. 26. She did well, and even came home later the same day and did a load of laundry! She's a tough lady. Her recovery has progressed right on schedule.
- Pray for Nathan and Valerie. The reason they are free to be with us for Christmas is that both are now unemployed. And now, they have another child to care for along with all the added expense that entails. Meanwhile, they both are taking online courses that will hopefully open additional opportunities.
- Levi and Abi's family are doing well aside from frequent colds. They continue home schooling their four children.
- We have enjoyed having Hannah with us since bringing her home from China at the end of September. She is currently on a personal sabbatical while she rests and recovers from all the cumulative stress of the past eight years, and as she seeks the Lord's leading on how He would direct her next. Meanwhile, we are happy that Hannah can house sit for us while we are in Kenya!
- Josiah and Grace's twins are now 3 months old! They are adorable, but keep their parents busy 24/7! Big sister Zippy loves to shower her affections on them.



Leadership Searches

Thank you for praying for SIM Kenya's search for a new field director. This week we interviewed a strong candidate. Please continue praying that the Lord would clearly lead us to His choice.

Meanwhile, the search for a new head of the Department of Community Health and Development does not seem to be making any progress. Bob has asked for assistance from the SIM USA personnel office to publicize the opening within SIM and has even spoken in person with the Director of Strategic Initiatives at Dallas International University (a partner of Wycliffe), but so far nothing seems to have come of these efforts. The intersection of theology and community development seems not well populated, and finding fruitful places to publicize such a position has proven challenging. Please continue praying for this need.

Moffat Community Health and Development Project

Reminder: the annual report from the '24-'25 fiscal year is available for the asking.

This project continues to be in urgent need of funding. Having run out of designated project funds, we are now funding it directly from our SIM ministry account. This is not sustainable. If you would like some idea of what the project needs, we presented our "Christmas Wish List" in our November ministry update.

While one-time gifts are greatly needed and appreciated, we are also boldly asking our Heavenly Father to raise up several project partners who will each commit to support the project through planned regular contributions until the completion of the current project cycle at the end of December 2028. Please join us in this prayer. And ... *Would you or your church prayerfully consider becoming a project partner?*

Thank you

We are eternally grateful for your partnership in our work and for all you have done to keep us engaged in this ministry. Only God knows the true extent of the impact of your prayers and gifts. May He richly reward you with the blessings of His bountiful grace both now and throughout the coming year.

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Prayer Points

Praise God:

- For the gift of His Son, whose birth we celebrate at this time and through whom we find joy in the present, peace in the storm, and eternal hope for the future.
- For this season of good health for Bob's parents.
- For Hope's successful and uncomplicated gallbladder surgery, and for her good recovery.
- For His gift of three healthy new grandsons in recent months.

Please Pray:

- For God's blessings on this last term of teaching in Kenya. For safe travels, positive interactions with the students, goodbyes that enrich the soul, and the achieving of good closure.
- For no disruptions to our travel plans, and for this season of family health to endure throughout our time back in Kenya.
- For Nathan and Valerie and their need to find new employment. Pray also that Hannah's sabbatical would prepare her for her next chapter in life and lead her deeper into God's will, that Levi and Abi's family will stay healthy, and that the Lord would give Josiah and Grace the stamina they need as they adjust to newborn twins in the family.
- For successful conclusions to both leadership searches: for the next field director for SIM Kenya, and for a new Head of Department at Moffat.
- For the funding needs for the Community Health and Development project, and especially that the Lord

Contributions towards our support or towards the project may be sent by check to:

SIM USA, 14830 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273.

Make the check out to SIM-USA and indicate its purpose on the "memo" line:

Bob & Hope Carter (# 09892) or

Moffat Community Health and Development project (# 92163)

Alternatively, contributions may be made by online donation at www.simusa.org/get-involved/give.

- Our SIM missionary number is **09892**.
- Our SIM project account is **92163** - "Moffat Community Health and Development".

Thank you!