

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Not WHAT, but WHOM *a Year End & Year Ahead Reflection*

This Christmas season, we enjoyed two of Paul's cousins' families visiting us for two weeks. We got to show them around Kenya and give them a taste of life here. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and adventure - we also had some hiccups along the way that could have ended quite badly. But, they didn't.

It occurred to us in those dicey moments that we often focus on WHAT happens to us and around us as an indicator of whether or not God is at work. But, we realized this could be the wrong approach: it is not necessarily *what* happens, or even *where* or *when* or *why*. The best way to experience how God is at work is to shift our focus to this question: WHO is with us and within us?

While the answer to this may vary according to our human company, the answer that remains the same year in and year out is IMMANUEL: God himself is with us! He came to dwell with us and is always with us - every where, every when, every what, and every why is accompanied by God Himself. He dwelt with us to demonstrate to us what our lives can look like when He dwells within us. He entered our reality so that we can enter His. Perhaps if we shift our focus to consider WHO is with us, we would be more likely to perceive God at work within us so that we can carry Him into each & every circumstance.

As we look back on the year that's passed and look forward to the year that's coming, we are assured of this: He has been and will be with us. He invites us to be continually with Him no matter what this year brings. We pray that you may each experience the reality of God's indwelling presence in your lives in the year to come. May those we teach through our work with Reconciled World also come to understand that God's presence & power is available to them always and everywhere because of Christ.

Immanuel! God has come to be with us... always and forever!

Amen.

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