

# The Smith Family Record

Christmas, 2008

Serving the Caribbean Islands with Mission To the World

Palmetto, Florida

*Born to save the sons of earth, born to give us second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*



Ron & Peg Smith  
Mission To The World  
1600 N. Brown Rd.  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

or  
1700 Fourth St. W.  
Palmetto, FL 34221

visit us on the web at:  
[www.mtwla.org/people/rsmith.htm](http://www.mtwla.org/people/rsmith.htm)

**The biggest news of all time** flashed across the heavens over Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago. The glory of the Lord brightened the hillsides as angels proclaimed Messiah's birth. Shepherds who received the heavenly message came in wonder to worship and to tell what they had seen and heard: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord!"

Thanks to today's technology, we "moderns" enjoy the luxury of instantaneous information sharing. With our personal computers, internet search engines, YouTube and Wikipedia, we send and receive messages like never before.

But no matter how much information is shared, or how many are sharing it, no one will ever communicate an *original* thought as significant or as important as the message miraculously proclaimed that night so long ago. *No other message* will change the history of mankind or alter the destiny of man as that message does!

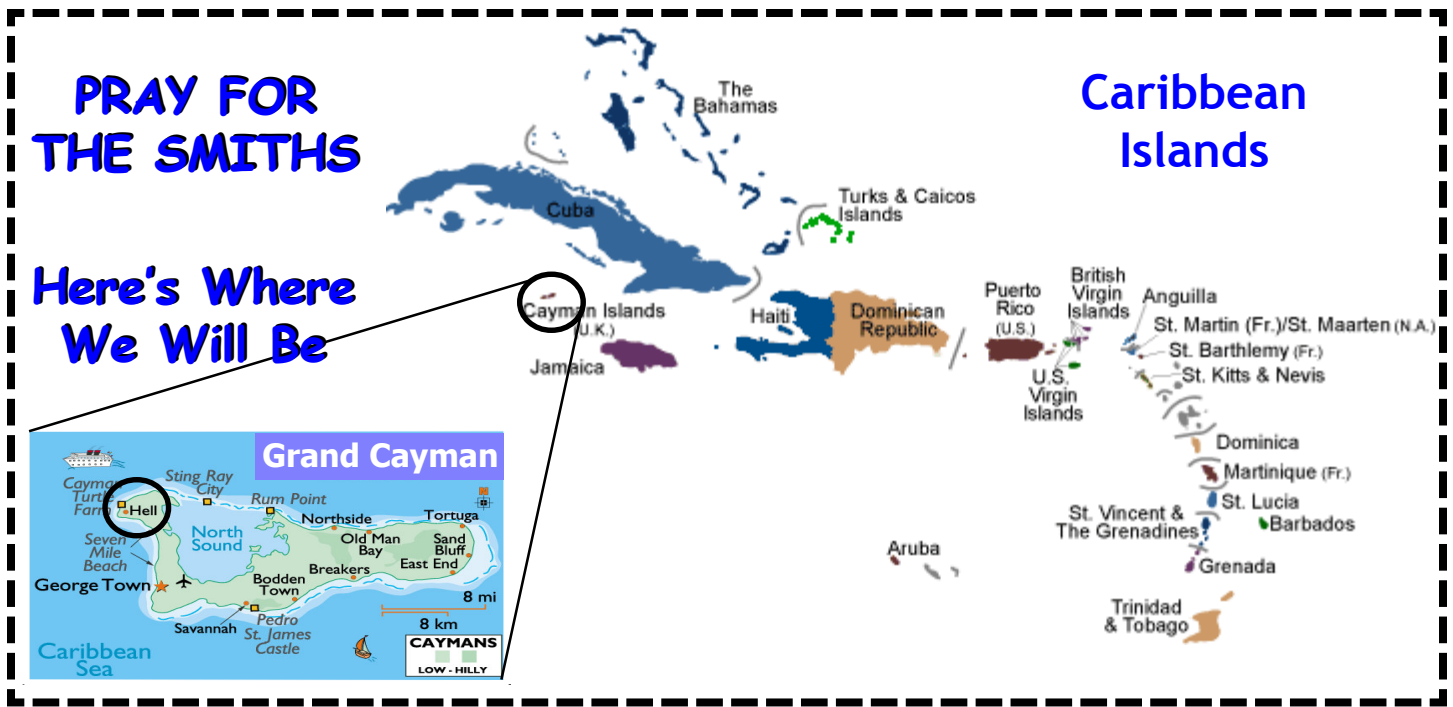
**GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD  
THE SMITHS WILL SOON BE  
ON OUR WAY!**

We have our own glad tidings of great joy to share with you this Christmas. The final piece of "the Caribbean ministry puzzle" has fallen into place on the news that The Presbyterian Church of Boatswain Bay will be calling Ron as Pastor.

Boatswain Bay PCA is the only Presbyterian church in the Cayman Islands. The church began more than fifty years ago as a small Bible Study group meeting out of doors under a seagrape tree. With God's blessing and provision, they were able to organize as a church in 1959. They came into the Presbyterian Church in America when the denomination was formed in 1973.

Ron's call to pastor on Grand Cayman opens yet *another* island of ministry for Mission To The World, expanding our vision for strengthening the church of the Lord Jesus Christ and spreading the Reformed faith through church growth, revitalization and multiplication. With Ron as pastor, Boatswain Bay PCA will be in the unique position of being both a "sending" and a "receiving" congregation. More than just benefiting from our work with MTW, they have expressed an interest in joining us on trips around the Caribbean as ministry opportunities arise.

(see page two: Cayman Islands Joins Caribbean Ministry)



**There is plenty of work to be done on Grand Cayman, what with Hell being “just down the road a piece!”**

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## Cayman Islands Joins Caribbean Ministry

The congregation of Boatswain Bay PCA also wants to help establish a study center for college- and graduate-level courses in Bible, Theology and Missions offered through ministry partner Miami International Theological Seminary (MINTS) and taught by members of our Caribbean ministry team.

Having Ron as Pastor of Boatswain Bay Presbyterian Church brings additional advantages for both Ron and the church. As Ron brings his Missions passion for church growth, revitalization and multiplication he will help the leadership develop and apply their own vision for a flourishing, maturing and reproducing church.

## Call To A Church Also Appeals To Peg

Local Church Ministries Provide Opportunities For Friendship And Service

“One thing I’ve learned from our time in Ecuador is that, although I may have my own ideas of serving, God may have something totally different in mind. Rather than take over or lead a particular ministry, I want to see where I can help and encourage those who are already involved.”

“During our recent visit, the women told me that they rarely get together by themselves, but really enjoyed our time of fellowship at a Saturday breakfast. I hope a women’s fellowship becomes a regular event.”

“Grand Cayman is a very international community, and I can see myself making friends among the international wives as well.”

“Of course, the Mom in me will find it hard to have Benjamin and Allison in the States while we are in the Caymans. Praise the Lord that we will be able to keep in touch with web cams and the internet!”

### Prayer Requests

- ✦ Praise the Lord with us for His provision of a base and location for ministry in the Caribbean!
- ✦ Please pray for the Lord’s wisdom and guidance through their transition as Ron and Peg move to the field at different times.
- ✦ Pray the Lord’s blessing upon the leaders and congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Boatswain Bay.
- ✦ Please pray for the equipping and encouraging of pastors and church planters to church multiplication and revitalization.
- ✦ Please pray for God’s provision for the needs of Benjamin and Allison, who will be making their own transitions when Ron and Peg go to the Caribbean.