



Leon & Melanie Best
713-370-3516

www.BestTimes.cccministry.org

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Leon and I navigated through an activity filled November. I started the month traveling to Little Rock, AR to aid my pregnant older sister. As we prepared the nursery, we had sweet times chatting about her pregnancy, childbirth and life. The ten days without my husband and children, also allowed me to visit with friends while I was in town. Although my niece decided not to arrive during my visit, we got to spend some precious time during the Thanksgiving holiday. What a precious gift from the Lord, Kennedy Alyse.

When I returned to Houston, Leon was ordained at our church. Family and friends gathered to witness and pray for us. This time was affirming and encouraging. Soon after, the Baptist minister Rev. Best then presided over his first wedding - what a joy to see him serving the Lord! I pray for more opportunities to invest and help newlyweds lay the foundation for healthy marriages.

As I prepared for a missions conference, I read an encouraging note from one of the new student leaders in Cape Town. Below is an excerpt from his letter...

"It with great pleasure that I can attest to the wonderful work God has done through the hands of His workers at CCC Cape Town. My name is Shiniell Smith and I am a student studying Religion and Theology at the University of the Western Cape... I had the craziest experiences with some people claiming there is a "Mother God" who would like to nurture me and be my "spiritual mom". I made my mind up concerning missionaries and their crazy stories. It was when I met Nicholas, Rhett, Christian and Leon. These guys impacted my life in a great way... I realised that these guys are genuine. They showed interest not only in my life, but my family and the other guys who were in the Bible study with us. I saw the hand of God in them. I saw the actual attribute of a "caring God" in those men.

Please continue to pray for Shiniell as the Lord matures his faith and uses him on his campus and in his church. Also, pray for us to keep our eyes on Jesus as we trust him for our return to South Africa next year. Thank you for your partnership and commitment to the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Melanie Best