

Need Prayer? Call us at 530-620-2717

Dear Partners,

December 2017

*It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to the Most High.  
It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning and your faithfulness  
in the evening. Psalm 92:1-2*



We have so much to be **thankful** for as we wrap up 2017. Although it has been a challenging year full of sadness and calamity, we turn our eyes on **Jesus** and thank **Him** for the breath that we still have within us. It seems like every time we turn on the news, listen to the radio or read a newspaper, we hear about another natural disaster, a shooting or a devastating attack somewhere in our nation or around the world. Never before has there been such devastation in the span of one year in our nation like in 2017. It's heartbreaking to hear about these things and even more heartbreaking to be in the middle of such devastation. Some of our family members have actually been in the path of a hurricane this year so we know firsthand how devastating it can be to go through something like that, that's why our hearts and prayers are with those who have lost homes or loved ones or who have been affected by calamity. And for those of us who have not been directly affected by any disaster, we give **GOD ALL THE GLORY**. We have all the more reason to praise Jesus because we have been protected and God has been so faithful to us.

This is not to say that we thank God **FOR** the natural disasters, the calamity or sickness and disease but we thank God for being **IN** each situation with us and taking us through it in **VICTORY**. Like the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace, we thank the **Lord** for being with us **IN** the midst of our circumstance and bringing us through in great victory through Jesus!

One of our greatest praise reports and reasons to come before the Lord with thanksgiving is for our **Christmas project**. Work on this project begins long before December. In fact we begin working on the Christmas project in January. We search for the right teddy bears at the right price and negotiate with different vendors until we receive them at our desired budget. The preparations for this project take a lot of time, finances and prayers. It requires endless phone calls, supplies purchased in different countries and multiple people who make it all possible. Above all, our prayer is that these goody bags will be used at a **tool** to be able to share the Gospel of **Jesus** with these precious children and their families. That is **why** we put so much time, effort and energy into this project- to bring glory to the name of Jesus!

If you will remember from past newsletters, our shipment of supplies went out later than it has ever shipped before. Our supplies went out at the beginning of November and by the grace of God they arrived at the very end of November; just in time for our team to begin packaging the goody bags. On top of that, everything arrived unharmed and in tact. This is to say that because of all YOUR faithful **PRAYERS** and financial support, our God answered the prayers of the righteous and we saw a **MIRACLE**. Partners, you are **PART** of this great project! With your generous finances for the purchasing of the supplies AND the cost of transportation, over 4000 children will receive a goody bag for Christmas this year; most of which have never received a gift before. What a mighty work you have been part of this year! **Thank you Jesus!**

Please keep our team from America and the others that have joined them overseas in your prayers until they return home safely. At the time of this letter, they have finished packaging the goody bags and are on the mission field distributing them. They have a long journey ahead of them. Please keep them in your daily prayers for divine protection, good weather and a successful end to a great project!

And lastly as we wrap up our last newsletter of the year, the Lord put a few key verses on our heart for all of us to meditate on as we enter into the busyness of the holiday season. Most of us are all too familiar with many scriptures regarding the birth of **Jesus** and the surrounding events leading up to **His birth**. We read about them every year and sing about His miraculous birth at church during Christmas. But what about going beyond that? Are we called to simply read and sing about the wonderful birth of Jesus at Christmas and then go on with our daily routine as usual? The answer is no. It is good to give honor and glory to God the Father for sending His Son as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins but we must go **beyond** that.

The disciples went **beyond** that. In fact John the beloved shares with us his encounter with Jesus and extends to us an invitation to come into **fellowship** with Him in 1 John 1:1-3.

*We are writing about the Word of Life in Him Who existed from the beginning, Whom we have **heard**, Whom we have **seen** with our own eyes, Whom we have gazed upon [for ourselves] and have **touched** with our own hands. And the Life [an aspect of His being] was **revealed** (made manifest, demonstrated), and we **saw** [as eyewitnesses] and are **testifying** to and declare to you the Life, the eternal Life in Him Who already existed with the Father and Who actually was made **visible** (was revealed) to us [His followers]. What we have **seen** and ourselves **heard**, we are also telling you, so that you too may realize and enjoy fellowship as partners and partakers with us. And **this fellowship that we have [which is a distinguishing mark of Christians] is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ (the Messiah).** (AMP)*

We have not only been given a first hand testimony of the disciples who saw, touched, spoke, and walked with Jesus but we have been invited to **enjoy fellowship as partners with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ the Messiah**. The amplified Bible says that this fellowship is the **distinguishing mark of Christians**! Are we fellowship with God the Father and His Son Jesus so that people around us see the distinguishing mark of a Christian in us? Christmas should serve as a reminder of the sacrifice that God gave on our behalf but it shouldn't stop there. Fellowshiping with the Father and His Son Jesus needs to be **daily** communion as it was for the disciples. What if the disciples hadn't gone **beyond** the birth, death and resurrection of the Savior? Then the Gospel of Jesus would not have been spread to the entire earth. **Their constant fellowship with the Father, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit empowered them to become beacons of light and key players in the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus.** And we have been given the opportunity to share, as partners, in that continuous spreading of the Good News. But it begins with us going **beyond** the manger story of baby Jesus and onto that **divine fellowship**.

**Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. (1 John 4:14 NLT)**

**As the year comes to a close, we challenge you to meditate** on these wonderful passages of Scripture and keep them in the center of your Holiday festivities. Ask the Lord to help you set aside time in order for you come into fellowship with Him so you too can go **beyond**.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from,**

*John & Alexandra and the rest of the JMM team*

