

International FOCUS Ministries

**December
2006**

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Christmas & Missions

Dearly Beloved,

Christmas and Missions are inseparable twins.

One without the other and there is no meaning or purpose to either. In preparation for His birth, the angel announced: "Thou shalt call His name JESUS, for He shall save His people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21) To do this, however, He must later face a cruel cross and die as God's sacrificial lamb.

Thus, the purpose of Christ's miraculous birth and vicarious death are irrevocably fused together—neither is complete without the other.

Think about it! The mission (purpose) of Christmas is Missions! Christ came with a divine purpose set for Him before the foundations of the world were ever laid. (1Pet. 1:20)

His was a soul-delivering purpose – "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"; "For this purpose the Son of God was manifest, that he might destroy the works of the devil; "There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." (1Tim. 1:15; 1Jn. 3:8; Rom. 11:26)

His was a soul-satisfying purpose – "He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness: "They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the rivers of thy pleasure." "Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things". (Ps. 107:9; 36:8; 103:5)

His was a soul-cleansing purpose – "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.... Christ loved the Church and gave himself for it that he might sanctify and cleanse it...that he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle." (Eph. 1:4; 5:25, 26)

His was a soul-sending purpose – "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:" "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature:" (Jn. 20:21; Matt. 28: 19; Mk. 16: 15)

These are the glorious benefits of Christmas and the ultimate aim of world missions. We are so grateful to God for you because these benefits are real and meaningful to you. Your care and commitment to help us train National Ministers and support Missionaries on many fronts of the world to reach the lost is an inspiration and encouragement beyond words.

As we celebrate the Christmas season Donna and I extend our love and best wishes to you and your family for a very Merry Christmas. We pray that the God of all grace and mercy will bless you exceeding abundantly above all that you can ask or think and make your way prosperous.

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INDIA 2007

The Lord willing I will be leaving January 15, 2007 for my 27th year of ministry in India. It will be a busy, but glorious, time of ministry conducting evangelistic outreaches, teaching in Bible schools, pastor's and workers conferences, graduation of our MTC students, planting new churches and conducting medical camps. I was hoping our daughter Cheryl could go with me again but her schedule will not allow it this year. She is, however, targeting 2008 to go with me. The following is her article as she shares her heart with you.



Hi everyone,

I am so excited to write to you again. As I am writing I realize how much I have missed it and how fast the better part of a year can go. It seems like just yesterday I was preparing for India. I also realized that you truly became family to

me in those months that I wrote to you. I enjoyed hearing comments from mom and dad that many of you shared with them about my writings. I also was strengthened and blessed by your generous outpouring of love, prayers and financial support. Dad is preparing for his 2007 India trip this January. I truly regret that I can't go with him this time but I am planning to go in 2008. That will be here before we know it. I find it comforting in these uncertain times to know that you will be here with us. My family is blessed to know what wonderful and faithful people we have helping our parents.

As a result of the positive response we received from doing the medical camps last year my dad has been requested to do more. Some of these requests are again in a Muslim dominant society. We reached many families last year that would have been impossible if not for these clinics. Also many children received medical attention, counseling and medicine that otherwise would have been impossible. This is what you enabled us to do by your giving and prayers. I am asking you to prayerfully consider sponsoring or cosponsoring a medical camp this year as dad goes. He will have help there to conduct these clinics and bless God's children. Also I am asking that you continue to lift up my parents in prayer as dad prepares for his trip. If can speak honestly and coin a phrase, "all hell breaks loose" when they are getting ready for India. Your prayers for their safety and peace avail much. We can truly feel the power that comes from you in prayer.

Thank you so much for being a part of our lives. I pray you and your families will be saved and blessed above all that you could ask or think this Christmas and coming year.

Love and Prayers,

Cheryl



OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLESSINGS

There is no blessing like being a blessing to the needy. You can be a blessing:

Help Sponsor a Medical Clinic



Help Support an Evangelistic Crusade



Support a Pastor's & Christian Workers Conferences



Support Students Graduation & Church planting ministries



Help sponsor Bible School Training



Your partners in harvest,
Harley and Donna Fiddler



Partners in Harvest