



12th December, 2019

Greetings this Christmas Season from our family to yours. This time of year is always a time of reflection. We remember Christmases past with fond memories. We think of precious moments spent with friends and family. We pass on family traditions from our childhood that call to mind precious memories. We work to create new memories that we will be reflected on for years to come. During all the hustle and bustle, memories, and traditions, we must remember to first and foremost reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Yes, this is a wonderful time of year as we reflect on the birth of our Saviour, but we must remember the reason He came to earth. He was born to die for the sins of the world. We can never separate Christmas from the cross. It was the cause for which our Saviour was born. As we reflect on what Christ has done for us, we remember it is for this cause He has called us to go into all the world. John 12:23 states, ***"And Jesus answered them saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified."*** Oh, may we be busy sharing the Gospel with those who have never heard so that the Son of man, our Saviour, may be glorified this Christmas season.

Our family also calls to mind the many Christmases that we have spent in the islands of the Pacific. This year, God has seen fit for our family to be in America for Christmas. Although we enjoy seeing snow, putting up a live Christmas tree, and spending time with family, our hearts long to be with the people God placed in our hearts so many years ago. It is with a grateful heart that we reflect on what God has and continues to do through the ministry in Kiribati. This Christmas, they are busy preparing Christmas programs, ladies' meetings, youth meetings, and so much more as they celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Our hearts are overwhelmed at what God is doing through our national Pastor and the church family. Their love for our Saviour and their grateful hearts this time of year are convicting as they cherish and reflect on what Christ has done for them.

As we enjoy the festivities of Christmas our minds also reflect on the faithfulness of God throughout this past year. Although God is stretching us and has allowed trials, we are amazed by his unfailing faithfulness in our lives. God's provision to meet our needs has never been short. Our faith has grown as we have watched Him provide. With grateful hearts, we remember so many faithful churches and individuals who have faithfully supported our family and the ministry God has called us to. His strength and hand in our lives is evident as so many of you have prayed for our family. This year Brooke's mom was diagnosed with cancer. God miraculously healed her and this Christmas our children will get to make more memories with her. God has helped our daughter Adelynn face challenges and has strengthened all our faith as we have walked this journey of health issues. God has called our son, Daniel, to preach His word and we are excited to see God's hand at work in His life. God has given Bennett good health. What a joy to watch them all grow both physically and spiritually as they have seen God's faithfulness first hand in our family's life.

This Christmas we have so much to reflect upon – so much to be grateful for. As this season comes and goes, may we not forget to reflect upon the Lord's goodness. As we enter this new year, may we be busy sharing the true meaning of Christ's birth with those we meet. From our family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Reflecting on Christ this Season,
Joel, Brooke, Daniel,
Adelynn, and Bennett

