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“*Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on
whom his favour rests.*”

Luke 2:14 (NIV)



"He Will Crush Your Head..."

Genesis 3: 15

Major Evama Shaijuraj, Editor

Christmas greetings to all those who are happy to accept Messiah into their hearts and lives!

Christmas is the sign of the love of Father God towards the world. It is the story of God who became the part of the history. For God to become man means that the limitless God comes into the limits of space and time. He who is the Saviour of the world incarnated on the earth. We, who have not seen even a speck of His Glory may not understand this mystery, no matter how much we meditate on it, it has that much depth and breadth.

Jesus was not a baby became a God; Jesus is a God who became a baby. God almighty descended in the womb of Mary – yes, word became the flesh. In fact, from being the creator to being a creation, God descended as an infant – state of God being in flesh! Baby in the cradle is King of Universe - let's enjoy his personality and his salvation!

Christ emptied himself and took the form of a servant and went to the sinful and unprivileged people. Christmas happens when there is a willingness to become small, to let go and to be empty. When a young girl named Mary put a curtain on all her dreams and agreed to 'let it happen to me according to your will', Christmas happened. When a young man named Joseph obeyed God's words in a dream, over his decisions, Christmas happened. Crib also teaches us that a little space, a little facility, and a little fame is enough to meet son of God! All those who stood by him were ordinary people. The manger and the shepherds reveal to us that simplicity is the first step to the vision of God. The wisemen also teaches us that even if we grow, we should grow only in wisdom.

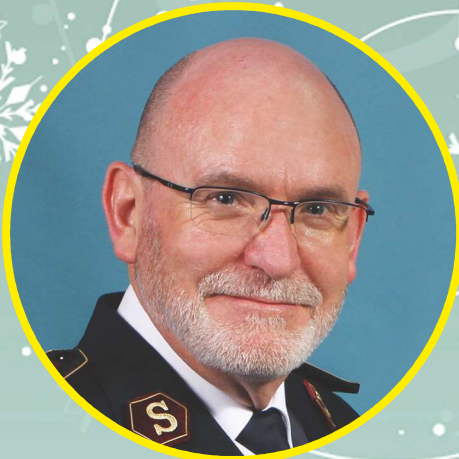
The fulfilment of promises is the meaning of Christmas. Before the first parents left the Garden of Eden in great despair, pain and humiliation, God gave them a promise that the "seed of the woman would crush the head of the enemy". This was a promise of redemption and restoration. In Christianity, Genesis 3:15 is known as the 'protoevangelium', which means first 'good news' or 'gospel' of salvation. This is the prophecy of the coming of Jesus, not only the prophecy of his birth, but it is the prophecy of his work- the redemptive work on the cross!

God is predicting the defeat of Satan by the coming of Christ, the Messiah. Yet even at the moment of first fall, God promises a solution to their sins. This points to the birth of Jesus, His Redemption and His Victory over Satan! "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his Favour rests!"

HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL! 🎅



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General Lyndon Buckingham

The scene was a familiar one. A street filled with festive lights and decorations, music playing and crowds of people moving along, taking note of all the Christmas details. Right at the end was a house that was in relative darkness, with just a small box containing a nativity scene set up on the front lawn. Most people did not even bother to check it out. Most simply considered the Christmas display was over before they reached that house. But right there was a visual representation of the quiet heart of Christmas. Not a flashy display. Not a lot of lights and sounds. Just a quiet focus on the one who is born to be our Saviour.

I sometimes wonder whether it is easy for us to miss the quiet heart of Christmas. Even when we are looking at some of the Christmas story we may miss the central message of it all. Each of the gospel writers presents Christmas in a different way. Some might say that only Matthew and Luke include the Christmas story. But I want to suggest to you that each of the gospels brings its own special emphasis.

Mark – possibly the oldest of the gospels

– does not have any birth or infancy stories. Instead, Mark's 'Christmas' is embedded in the opening words, 'The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God' (Mark 1:1 New King James Version). Jesus is shown to be Son of God from the very beginning. That's the good news.

John also does not contain birth or infancy stories, but shows the centre of Christmas originating in the heart of God. The word made flesh dwells among us – full of grace and truth.

Matthew opens with a long list of names in Jesus' family tree. It's easy to skip over this and miss its significance. Included in it are five women who all showed remarkable faith, despite that society may have judged them harshly. Tamar – who tricked her father-in-law into pregnancy; Rahab – a prostitute who helped the Israelite spies; Ruth – a despised foreigner; Bathsheba – an adulteress; and Mary – an unmarried mother. Each were part of Jesus' family history. If Jesus will later be shown to identify with sinners, it's because it's 'in his genes'. Jesus is connected with people like us who – despite sinfulness and frail humanity – show faith. Matthew then makes the connection with Jesus being Immanuel – God with us, in our humanness. All of this happens before the traditional Christmas characters – the Wise Men – even appear. They come to find the one born to be King.

Luke has the angels announcing that Jesus is the Saviour, Christ the Lord. This is not given to the people who you would expect, but rather to shepherds – often


considered to be religious outcasts because of the nature of their work. For such as these, living on the margins of society, Jesus comes as Saviour.

Each of the gospels presents a different view of Christmas. It's easy for us to become so engaged with the trappings of the Christmas story. That may include things that we have become accustomed to, that are not even mentioned in any of the gospels. Instead we can sometimes miss the quiet heart of Christmas as related in Scripture.

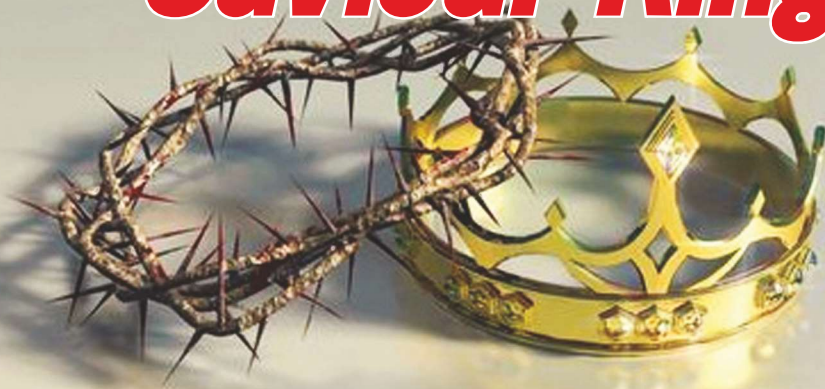
This year, perhaps we can focus again on what the gospels actually tell us about the coming of Jesus. One who comes for those who are sinners and outcasts. One who comes to be King. One who comes to be Immanuel – God with us. One who comes to be our Saviour. One who has existed from all eternity.

With all the other things that happen at this time of the year, may we focus our hearts and minds on the quiet heart of Christmas: the reality of who Jesus is. The Son of God. The eternal Word made flesh. Our King. Immanuel. Our Saviour. Christ the Lord.

With the songwriter, we say 'O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.'

May God bless you at this Christmastime and throughout the coming year. 

Searching For the Saviour King



Commissioner Suresh Pawar
International Secretary for South Asia
IHQ-London

Christmas has come again, and it will come again and again as it comes every year without fail. But it is not the same each year. For some, this year may be better than last year, and for others, it may not be. Sometimes, when for some reason things do not seem right, we remember the good times past, and wish this year would be as good as last year. But the truth is that it was 2,000 years ago, so it is even today. When we read the account of Jesus' birth, we see the angels appearing to the shepherds, the star is seen in the sky by the wise men, and the king enquires about the newborn king. There was a great search for the Saviour King as it is still in our world today.

The Bible tells us that 'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16). Isaiah prophesied about this king: 'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

As the world was searching for the Saviour King in those ancient days, the world is still in need and searching for this Saviour King today. Those who searched for him found him, and this is very true even today. The Word of God says that those who seek will find, for those who knock, the door will be opened, and those

who ask will receive (Matthew 7:7-8).

Genuine Search will lead you to the Truth: Matthew records the wise men travelling from the East to Jerusalem, guided by a star, in search of the King of the Jews who were to be born in Jerusalem (Matthew 2:1-12). Those men were the astrologers of the day who studied the stars to determine when this extraordinary event was to take place. Thinking that a King would be born into the royal family, they met with King Herod. Although this news disturbed him, King Herod allowed the wise men to continue their journey to find the newborn King of the Jews, which they did when the star halted over a house in Bethlehem. Jesus was with his mother Mary. They were overwhelmed, for at last their search was successful. They worshipped the King, offered their gifts, and returned to their country, as instructed in a dream (Matthew 2:9-12).

The wise men used their worldly knowledge to search for the Saviour King of the whole world. At first, they proceeded with what knowledge they had and were at last helped by God's divine power.

Even today, there is a lot of research into the truth of Jesus' birth and Christian faith - for different reasons, people still search for this Saviour King who was anointed and sent by our heavenly Father for the salvation of the whole world. Those who genuinely keep searching are never

disappointed. Even after 2,000 years, we can still encounter this Saviour King who came to this world to rescue our souls and bring us back into a living relationship with our Creator God. Maybe you are one of those searching, still gathering all available resources and information; searching for the truth. Search for him and you will find him as King of your heart, who forgives your sins, rescues you from the bondage of sin, and sets you free to be the joyful child of the living God.

Don't be like King Herod and the Religious Leaders of Jesus' time.

Unfortunately, there are still people like King Herod, who after coming to know about the new King's birth, took drastic action to try and destroy Jesus (Matthew 2: 13 - 18). There are still people, who are full of their ego, rebellious, dishonest, and stubborn in their hearts and actions, who not only refuse the truth but try their best to destroy it and undermine the power of God.

One such man was Saul, who wanted to destroy the Christian faith in Judea and Jerusalem. He even obtained the authority of the church government at that time to persecute believers of Jesus Christ and stop the spread of the Gospel. But a wonderful miracle happened on his way to do that. He was met by this Saviour King, who said to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Saul replied, "Who are

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India National Office

Announcement



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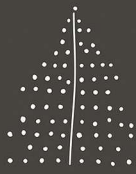


Colonel S. P. Simon
National Executive Officer

Christmas

*Greetings from
India National Office
to all officers, soldiers,
children and employees
of the Salvation Army*

Colonel S. P. Simon, Colonel Annamma Simon
& National Office Staff



Continued from page 4

you, Lord?" Jesus told him that although he may be persecuting the believers, in fact, he was persecuting Jesus the Lord and Saviour. At that point, his life changed. He had encountered the resurrected and living Saviour, whom the Jews had persecuted and killed (Acts 9:1-19 & chapter 7). Saul was renamed Paul and became the most effective apostle of his time.

In contrast, the religious leaders of that time, although their scriptures clearly spoke of God's plans for a Saviour, remained deliberately ignorant and were not interested in searching for and accepting what God was doing. At Pentecost, when the disciples and other believers were filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter reminded the people of Israel of how they were ignorant of God's plan and refused to accept the Saviour who gave his life for them. He challenged them to repent and turn to God for their salvation (Acts 2, 3, & 4).

Many so-called Christians crowd the church today with their unbelieving hearts. Many are first, second, third, and fourth-generation Christians, yet are far away from the truth they hear each time they attend the church worship service. They read the bible, pray in Jesus' name, and enthusiastically sing songs of praise, but remained as unsoaked souls in the true love and grace of God, given to us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

You may be that kind of 'Christian' who truly needs the Saviour - ask him to come into your life, just now as you read this message. By doing so, you will truly meet the Saviour King, who redeems you from sin and its curse and makes you a new person. Do not live under the pride of religion or the church, of your glossy status quo, but ask the Saviour to come into your life and enjoy the true and everlasting life God offers in the name of His Son Jesus Christ. I can humbly confess, that I was once such a 'Christian', ignorant of God's true love manifested in Jesus, but one day in my youth, the Holy Spirit convinced me that I needed to turn to God; that very day, I accepted Jesus as my Saviour and Lord. The truth of God became real to me. He changed me inside out and helped me to live as his light; no turning back from the truth that Jesus is the Saviour King of my life. He can become yours too.

Let your true Christmas be when you invite this Saviour King into your life. Here is what he says to you, "So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me" (Revelation 3:19-20). If we open the door of our heart, he will come in, and if we let him be the King of our heart, he will cast out all evil from our life and make us into a new person: a true child of God, experiencing and enjoying the holy relationship with God.


Find the Truth and Share it!

Luke records a very unusual, but wonderful, story of ordinary men, shepherds, who were watching over their sheep at night, who were remembered by God who sent his angels to tell them the good news of joy that a Saviour was born, the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:1-21).

It was a shocking and a pleasant surprise for them as the angels sang in praise, revealing the great news of the newborn King: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child (Luke 2:14, 16-17).

If you have met with this Saviour King, then nothing in this world will stop you from sharing about your encounter with him and how that has impacted your life, just as the shepherds did.

I hope and pray that as you read through the lines of this message, the Holy Spirit leads you to this Saviour King to be King of your heart, bringing everlasting hope and joy of new life in Him right into your life.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his Heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in. 

Highly Favoured

Favouritism always plays a big role in people's lives to equip and empower them for a special task. In the process of achieving the task, the person might experience many bitter experiences. May the virgin whom we are now considering also pass through many bitter experiences to do the will of God. Mary was a humble village girl who became the "Mother of the Lord" and praised her "Blessed among Women."

1st Samuel 16:7 says Man looks at the outward appearance, but Lord looks at the heart. God Recognized her spiritual fitness and chose her to bring Holy and divine children. Angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she was to bring forth a son called Jesus. Angel of the Lord said, "Greetings to you who are highly favoured, the Lord is with you." Mary willingly & quietly yielded her spirit and body and said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord be it unto me according to thy word. Doctrine 4 says We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ, the divine and Human nature are united so that He is

truly and properly God and truly and properly man. She submitted to the Father's will as the channel of the Incarnation.

Her Reasons for Spiritual Fitness :

Her Soul glorifies the Lord -V 46 Soul is precious in everyone's life. She glorifies the Lord in every situation with a humble heart. Her humbleness and obedience are a trait prominent in Mary's Life. Psalmist says Praise the Lord, my soul, all in most being, Praise His Holy name and forget not all His benefits."

Her Soul Rejoices in God & Saviour :

V-47 The Spirit which is in us belongs to God and this spirit should rejoice day and night in God alone but not in the worldly pleasures. Romans 8: 9 & 14 say You are not in the realm of flesh but are in the realm of Spirit. The Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. The Spirit gives life to us. Whoever is led by the spirit of God is the children of God. The Spirit Himself

"Greetings to you who are highly favoured, the Lord is with you."




Commissioner Manikumari Dasari
Territorial President for Women's Ministries
India South Eastern Territory

testifies with our spirit that we are God's Children.

Her Humbleness made God mindful :

V-4 One of the choruses as per Luke 14:11 says "Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord and he shall lift you, Higher and He shall lift you, Higher and Higher, He shall lift you. Humbleness always brings blessings into ourselves.

Psalmist says 34:15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry. The Lord heard the humble cry of Mary and was mindful of her righteous deeds. From Heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind from his dwelling place, he watches all who live on earth. Luke 1:28 says "Blessed art thou among women" Though she was poor she occupied the Highest place among all the women.

Mary's model life held up to Christian women is not glorifying in her material deeds, but She exhibits virginal modesty becoming the maid. Her loyalty moulded her to become the mother of the Saviour of mankind. Let us cultivate the qualities of Mary whom God Highly favored. 

GREAT JOY

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.’”
Luke 2:10

Dear friends in Christ Jesus, Greetings to you in the Joyful name of Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

How many Christmas you have come across in your life? What really Christmas meant for you? Just share with some one whom you meet today. Christmas is not just a festival to celebrate on 25th December. It's a great and good news to the whole world in all the time. Christmas is a Joy.

When Angle of the Lord met the Shepherds in the night on that very first Christmas Day, Angel said like this “*Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people*”(Luke 2:10).

Angel said to the shepherds the birth of Jesus Christ brings 'great Joy' to the whole world. Not the joy that comes because of festivals, not the joy that we receive in the world. The great Joy nothing but Jesus Christ. Great Joy nothing but the Salvation for the mankind. Jesus is our Great Joy.

The Shepherds were waiting for the Saviour to redeem them from their bondage. Though they are rolling their day to day life but there was no joy in their hearts. No peace, no hope and no joy at this juncture, angel of the lord announced them that they are going to receive great joy. Are you living in the same condition? What made you to become sad in your life? Why you are feeling that you are in hopeless condition? You may be living or surviving for a long time without joy in your heart, without joy in your life. You might be searching for the one who can give you real Joy. This message is for you. The real joy comes from the Lord. The real Joy is nothing but Jesus Christ. He him self is Joy. If you receiving him, if you live with him, if you continue your journey with



Commissioner Daniel Raju Dasari
Territorial Commander, India Western Territory

Jesus you will receive great Joy in your life. The Joy that you will receive is not only in this world or for this world but it is eternal.

That's why the angels sang a song “*Joy to the World the Lord is Come*”. Shepherds visited Jesus who was in the manger. They were filled with joy not because of the angel words but they them selves experienced by personally meeting him. All the darkness, sadness, fear, hopelessness left from their hearts and they were filled with great Joy that no one can gives them except Jesus Christ. They returned to their places by Glorifying God and Praising God Joyfully and also shared the joy with every one what they had heard and seen. (Luke 2:20).

We the God's children need to share the great Joy to the whole world and that is the Christmas. Spread the great Joy where ever you live, where ever you go and whom ever you meet. Share the great Joy to every one in the home, office, school/college, workplace and every where. Make this Christmas a meaningful in your life by spreading the Joy and sharing the great Joy that is nothing but Jesus Christ.

Joyful Wishes to you and your family as you are celebrating the Christmas with great Joy.

Joyfully His 

Christmas

An unchangeable message for all times



Colonel Yaqoob Masih

Territorial Commander, India Central Territory

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is such a joy to come to you through this medium and to share and celebrate this joy with you all. Another Christmas has come and we are delighted to enjoy God's continued grace as he showers his abundant blessings on all of us.

As the world rushes forward with technological advancements and societal changes, there is a timeless message that continues to shine brightly through the ages – the message of Christmas. In a world often inundated by division, materialism, and uncertainty, the story of Christ's birth brings a message of hope, love, and redemption that remains as relevant today as it was over two millennia ago. This act of God is always fresh and enhances our faith in Jesus as the true son of God.

A Light in the Darkness

In the book of Isaiah, we find the prophetic words that foretell the coming of a special child, a Messiah, who will bring hope to a world enveloped in darkness. "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2, NIV) This light is none other than Jesus Christ, whose birth is celebrated on Christmas. This light lit many lives as we have been experiencing. This light is not an ordinary light, but an divine light that dispelled the darkness in many people.

In modern times, we are no strangers to darkness – be it the challenges of a global pandemic, political unrest, or personal struggles. The message of Christmas reminds us that in the midst of these uncertainties, there is a light that can guide us, a hope that can sustain us. Just as the star led the wise men to the baby Jesus, this light leads us out of darkness into a place of divine comfort and purpose. My dear children of God, this Christmas and this light is a reminder to you that you no need to fear about the darkness, just seek Jesus, the light automatically shines in your lives showing a

clear and right pathway of hope.

A Gift Beyond Measure

The heart of the Christmas message lies in the profound act of love displayed through the incarnation of Christ. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, NIV) This sacrificial love is the true essence of Christmas – the story of a Creator who humbled Himself to become a vulnerable baby, born in a manger, to bridge the gap between humanity and divinity. The gift we have in Jesus is not only precious or valuable, but it is a life changing gift. A gift that would never be replicated and replaceable. This gift made many people transformed, and changed. Because of this gift, you and I are enjoying the life of salvation and holiness embracing the power of Jesus.

In today's fast-paced world, where self-centeredness and superficial connections often prevail, the message of Christmas beckons us to embrace a love that goes beyond ourselves. It's a call to cultivate empathy, compassion, and selflessness – virtues that can heal wounds and unite hearts. The gift of love displayed through Christ's birth challenges us to reevaluate our priorities and remember the importance of genuine human connections. My dear children, this gift is free, and this gift is open, Whoever looks for it heartfully, they receive it.

A Second Chance


The Christmas narrative doesn't stop at the manger; it points forward to the ultimate purpose of Christ's life – redemption. The angel declared to Joseph, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21, NIV) The birth of Jesus marked the beginning of a journey that would lead to the cross, where He would offer Himself as the atoning sacrifice for humanity's sins. We are saved by His Grace, and we are called to save others. We are all engaged in the process of offering this greatest redemption to those lost and await.

In today's world, the concept of redemption can resonate deeply. We all carry regrets, mistakes, and burdens that we long to be freed from. The message of Christmas assures us that there is forgiveness and a chance for renewal. Just as Christ's birth heralded a new era of hope, His sacrifice offers us a new beginning – a chance to be reconciled with God and with one another. There are many people waiting for the second chance, thinking that their lives are end, but as the true children of God, during this Christmas why can't we make a way for those in need to hug Jesus and take redemption in him?

A Message for Every Season

We see many unwanted and redundant things happening around us. The wars, the communal disputes and the discriminations. In a world that often feels disconnected and divided, the message of Christmas stands as a unifying force that transcends time and culture. The birth of Christ represents the convergence of hope, love, redemption, and humility – values that remain as relevant in modern times as they were in ancient Bethlehem. You may feel that you are alone, discriminated or wounded, but remember, this Christmas is a great expectation that would be a milestone. You just need to trust and live in Jesus.

This Christmas, as we celebrate with loved ones and exchange gifts, let us also remember the greatest gift of all – the birth of Jesus Christ. His story is more than just a historical event; it is a living message that continues to inspire, challenge, and transform lives. Just as the shepherds and wise men were drawn to the manger, may we too be drawn to the message of Christmas – a message that has the power to heal, unite, and renew our world, one heart at a time.

Colonel Sumitra and I have pleasure in greeting all the Salvationists and friends a happy Christmas. Let this Christmas be a joyous occasion filling everyone with divine happiness forever. 

Jesus Christ - The greatest gift



Colonel Lalhmingliana Hmar
Territorial Commander
India Eastern Territory

Two thousand years ago, God's greatest gift to humanity, the ultimate gift of eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ has arrived to us on earth, came in the simplest and humblest of wrappings. Back in 8 century B. C., Prophet Isaiah foretold this historic event and recorded in the present tense, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given," (Isaiah 9:6). The value of this gift is beyond measured and John the apostle put it in this way, "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:12).

The Gift:

John 3:16 is probably the most well-known Bible verse: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* He is the gift, freely given to any man or woman who chooses to accept it. Behold what manner of love the Father hath given unto us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are (1 John 3:1-3). Suppose I give you my Bible as a gift. That simply means i also give you all the bookmarks along with my Bible. This is the same when we receive Jesus. We also receive all the good things abundantly that are found in Jesus Christ – Eternal life, Joy, Peace, Satisfaction etc. Jesus says, *"I come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10).

The Love:


God loves us immensely. When He looked down and saw that His children and the world He created had suffered from the enemy - the thief, Satan who comes, steals, kills and destroys the world. God is move with everlasting compassion. He could not help but send his son to die so that we will have life. It is this love that compelled God to send his son to the world. The same love of Christ compelled Apostle Paul to do his mission and ministries (2 Corinthians 5:14). Again this

love compelled Salvation Army Officers missionaries like Commissioner Solveig Smith and others to come to India to do ministries. We are also compelled by this since God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us (Romans 5:5). Apostle Paul mentioned three things that will remains – Faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love (1 Corinthians 13:13).

The Giver:

The gift is great because the giver is the almighty God. Henry Dyer said, *"God is great in great things and very great in little things"*. The hymn 'How great thou art' was written one summer evening in the year 1886 at a country place called Kroneback, Sweden. The author, Carl Boberg relates that he had been invited with others to a meeting of women to sew for the benefit of missions. It was a beautiful day. All nature was arrayed in its summer finery. Then a storm cloud appeared above the horizon and before long the sky was overcast with lightning flashing across the dark heaven and a downpour drove the visitors under cover. Soon the rain stopped and on the sky was seen a bow of promise. From a church across the bay where a funeral was in progress, the bells pealed forth their doleful cadencies. Enraptured with wonders of it all, Boberg that evening wrote this beautiful poem – How great thou art! Indeed God is great and out of his greatness he give the greatest gift of all!

Now friend, This amazing gift is given to you by our great God out of love. The question is have you received him? Will you receive him now? He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:11,12).

God bless you all and have a very merry Christmas!! 



I and my family greet you Happy Christmas to all our Soldiers, Active & Retired Officers and Well wishers of The Salvation Army. We praise God for the wonderful unspeakable gift of JESUS for you and me by our Living God.

Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

There is value in the name of today's world. Many times, in Offices, Unknown places, shops we try to give the name of known person to them and try to prove that we have relations with them. So, our work will be easy. So, we may not have to stand in queue or give extra money or we have to give less money, or we may be interviewed earlier. Sometimes if someone work has not taken place, we will try to say that you would have to give my name and your work would have been done.

The parents and the relative are in tension to keep the name of new baby born. If it is a first child then they will decide if the boy will born, we will give him name RAHUL or if the girl child, then we will give her name PINKY. We were also struggled to give the names to our elder and younger son. We have given their names respectively Adrein Anderson & Ahian.

But we have one couple, Joseph and Marry, who were expecting their FIRST child whose name was given by God. As it is recorded in Matthew 1:21 his name is JESUS. Not only that but it is also mentioned that what he is going to do in his life.

Many time we have heard the name HASMUKH but there is no SMILE on his face. The name may be SHER SINH but afraid of rat. The name may be CHANDRAMUKHI but there is no connection with MOON. But here, JESUS, the name is given is Wonderful name, Mighty name, Miraculous name, Triumphant name, and Incomparable name.

What can we gain by the name of JESUS on this Christmas?

1. There is a FORGIVENESS in the name of JESUS:

Act 10:43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

This is the promising word of God. In which name can we get the forgiveness of our sins? Is the name of Donald Trump? Is the name of Michael Jackson? or Sachin Tendulkar? or Amitabh Bachchan? There are BIG names of this earth but there is no any name which can give us forgiveness of our sins. By believing in the name of JESUS we have the forgiveness of our sins.

2. There is a SALVATION in the name of JESUS:

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

There is no other name under heaven which give us SALVATION or Save us. Many people try to get the SALVATION from the name of the personality. There are several names of goddess in this world, but it can't give you SALVATION. The name of John Wesley can't give us SALVATION. The name of Billy Graham can't give us SALVATION. Even the name of Founder & the First General William Booth, can't give us SALVATION. There is no SALVATION in the name of any personality. The SALVATION is in the name of JESUS.

Acts 16:31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

If you believe in the name of JESUS not only you will be saved but your entire family members will be saved.

3. There is a LIFE in the name of JESUS:

We know the incident of a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate



Lt. Colonel Andrews D. Christian
Chief Secretary, India Northern Territory

called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple recorded in the Acts 3:1-11.

So, the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

The name of JESUS gives you life. He was walking, jumping, and praising God and went into the temple.

John 20:31 says that but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 10:10 says the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

We know John 3:16 who so believe in his name will not perish but have an eternal life. 40 years old person who was lame from birth got not only physical life, but he got eternal life. There is an eternal life in the name of JESUS.

On this Christmas let's praise God for the gift of JESUS. The name which gives us forgiveness of our sins, give us Salvation and eternal life. Have you accepted the name of JESUS? If not, to make this Christmas meaningful, it is my request to all of you accept and believe in the name of JESUS according to Philippians 2:9-11 and confess that JESUS Christ is my Lord.

Have a blessed Christmas 2023!!





Captain Latha Cheeli

Zonal Child Protection Specialist
& Education Secretary
India National office, Mumbai

Christmas & Generation Alpha

Christmas is profoundly significant to all of us as it marks the birth of Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's love and redemption for humanity. However, in the present generation, with changing lifestyles and cultural shifts, some are ignoring and forgetting its significance and losing its divine relevance. In this article, I would like to explore why Christmas remains highly relevant in today's world, providing meaning, connection, and an opportunity for reflection in the lives of the present generation. Generation Alpha, also called Gen Alpha, term used to describe the generation of people born (or who will be born) between 2010 and 2025. The term was introduced by Australian social researcher Mark McCrindle in 2008. Generation Alpha is often linked with the millennial generation (also called Generation Y), as most members of Generation Alpha have millennial parents, and they are sometimes called "mini millennials." Following Generations X, Y, and Z, Generation Alpha is the first generation to be named with a Greek alphabet letter instead of a letter from the Latin alphabet. I want to highlight few thoughts on the facts that the younger generation is missing.

Values of Love and Kindness

Christmas emphasizes love, kindness, and giving. These values are timeless and universal. In a world often marked by division and conflict, the spirit of Christmas serves as a powerful reminder to people of all generations about the importance of compassion and generosity.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) In a present generation that faces various challenges, from political divides to social issues, the message of love and kindness that Christmas conveys is more relevant than ever. It encourages individuals to extend a helping hand to those in need and to foster a sense of unity and community.

Family and Connections

Christmas has always been a time for families to come together. In today's fast-paced, digitally-driven world, where many people are dispersed geographically, this historic celebration provides an opportunity for families to reconnect and strengthen their bonds.

The present generation is often marked by busy schedules, long work hours, and the distractions of technology. Christmas serves as a reminder that spending time with loved ones, sharing meals, and exchanging gifts are essential for nurturing relationships. In a world where face-to-face interaction is sometimes overshadowed by screens, the tradition of coming together during the holiday season is invaluable.

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Christmas is an ideal opportunity to strengthen family bonds by offering assistance, sharing burdens, and being there for one another in a spirit of love and selflessness. Christmas is a time that highlights the importance of family, community, and extended relationships. It reminds us to come together, support one another, and create meaningful connections that reflect the love and unity exemplified in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Tradition and Heritage

Although Christmas is not traditional, it carries the weight of history and culture. For the present generation, embracing and celebrating these traditions can provide a sense of continuity and belonging. Whether it's the decoration of Christmas trees, the singing of carols, or the exchange of gifts, these customs are a bridge between generations. Preserving and participating in these traditions not only connects people to their own heritage but also introduces them to the global tapestry of traditions and cultures that celebrate Christmas in unique ways. In an increasingly globalized world, celebrating Christmas reminds us of the beauty and diversity of our shared humanity.

"But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." Luke 2:19

Christmas is highly relevant in the context of tradition and heritage as it preserves biblical prophecies, emphasizes ancestral connections, showcases cultural and belief. Christmas


continues to unite people of diverse backgrounds under the love of God, in the name of Jesus. These traditions and heritage help maintain the continuity of the Christian faith across generations, keeping the redemption story of Jesus alive for everyone who believes in him.

Faith and Reflection

Above all, Christmas holds a profound spiritual significance. In a generation that is often marked by scepticism and a focus on materialism, Christmas provides an opportunity for spiritual reflection. It encourages individuals to ponder the deeper questions of life, meaning, and purpose.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14)

Christmas reminds us of the loving grace of Jesus, who brought a message of hope, forgiveness, and salvation. In the present generation, where people may be searching for answers in a complex world, the story of Christmas invites us to seek spiritual guidance and renewal. It encourages people to explore their faith and engage in acts of worship and devotion. There are many people who are ignoring in the shadows of their so called busy lives and congested lives. If the meaning and purpose of Christmas in the lens of Jesus is not understood, the lives will certainly be miserable and throwaway.

In the fast-paced, ever-changing world of the present generation, Christmas- which is the love in action by God, the Father through Jesus; remains relevant by emphasizing timeless values, fostering family connections, preserving traditions, encouraging faith and reflection, and inspiring acts of generosity and charity. While the way people celebrate Christmas may evolve with the times, its core message of love, unity, and hope continues to resonate and bring meaning to the lives of people in the present day. Christmas serves as a guiding star, helping the present generation navigate the complexities of the modern world with a renewed sense of purpose and goodwill. May all of us bring this message of love and hope to everyone who is caught up in this intricate world find fullness in Jesus. 

The Charisma of Christmas 2023



We are inhabiting in a time when anticipation for things has been forgotten, replaced by instant gratification. If we want something, we buy it. For children, the magic of Christmas is that long-awaited time of the year when Santa Claus appears, when a list of desired toys is shared, or letters sent to Santa. Instead of instant gratification, children have an opportunity, for a change, to wait for presents. Christmas becomes a place in time where attitudes are those filled with excitement in anticipation of opening those gifts that miraculously appear under the tree.

For the adults, we see different magic that occurs at Christmas. The real magic of Christmas isn't in decorating our homes with Christmas trees, lights, garland, and stockings.


The real magic I see that comes with the Christmas season is an attitude of kindness, generosity, and a genuinely caring attitude for others. At a point in time, we become less selfless and a little more concerned about those around us.

I have heard about Santa's Helpers organization in America. There was a dedicated Christian lady rented a warehouse in St. Louis, and throughout the year, purchased boxes of gift items to

distribute. It became a mission for her to see that every child receives a Christmas present. She recruited volunteers to wrap the gifts and help deliver them on Christmas Eve.

I have heard about a family who heard came to know a person who had cancer, and instead of exchanging Christmas presents, they decided to give the money they would spend on gifts for each other to support this family. Recently, my husband received an email from someone in our neighborhood who wanted to help 18 children in need. A long list was sent out via social media detailing the age, gender, shoe, shirt and pant sizes of children along with their needs and wants. As a result of this attitude of caring for others, I see personal peace, happiness, and joy abound instead of a humbug or Scrooge-like attitude. There is definite truth to the words, "It is better to give than receive."

The attitudes of Christmas are what we need in the world but not for just a day or a month. We need to envelop our hearts and minds with the attitudes of Christmas every day.

Wishing you and yours the magic of
Christmas today and every day. 



Advocate Priyadarshini Palmer
B. Com., M. Div., D. Min
Maninagar Corps, Ahmedabad Division
India Western Territory



TESTIMONY

“The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore. Psalm 121:8”



I am Susan, a member of the Basingstoke Corps in the UK, and I am glad to share my testimony and God's guidance in my life.

I was born in a Christian home to my parents, Commissioners Dr & Mrs Yohannan(R). I am one of seven girls to my parents and we were brought up in the Salvation Army in Kerala. After training as a registered nurse in India, I worked in the ministry of health Sultanate of Oman.

I am married to Mr Ebenezer, son of Major N S David & Selvamma David in



1995. While we were working in Oman my husband got a job in England and we moved to UK with our children in 2004.

We have three children David Ebenezer, works as a teacher, Deepthy Ebenezer (trainee Junior Scientist) and Dhanya Ebenezer graduate student.

I work with Orbis International, a global charity organisation based in New York, USA. Orbis organisation aims to prevent blindness worldwide and provide specialist training to

ophthalmic surgeons and nurses in the visiting countries while carrying out complex eye surgeries in adults and children. Our team consists of specialist eye surgeons, nurses, technicians, flight engineers, IT professionals and pilots from around the world.

We travel to our destination in the Orbis plane, which then converts to the Orbis flying eye Hospital. This plane has been specially designed to accommodate operating theatres and recovery. Following the landing of our flight at the designated area, we



receive patients into the flight, carry out essential surgeries, and ensure they are well-recovered post-surgery.

We generally have three or four

programmes every year, each lasting between four to six weeks. In the last seven years, I have visited and worked on numerous programmes worldwide, including the United States, Vietnam, Zambia, Cameroon, Bangladesh, China, Mongolia, Japan, Alaska, Peru, Myanmar, Jamaica, and Barbados.

It is such an incredible experience to aid in providing vision to blind people and meet staff from different hospitals. An added bonus is the opportunity to be able to attend the Salvation Army services and meet salvationists in so many countries.

I am so grateful to my God for all His provision and guidance in getting me to where I am right now. At the same time, I cannot forget to be thankful to my parents, Commissioners Dr & Mrs Yohannan, who brought me up in the fear of the Lord. As well as my husband and children, who support me enormously in accomplishing my mission, and my corps family at Basingstoke, who continuously hold me up in their prayers.

I am so blessed and satisfied with God's provision in my life. He fills me with joy, peace and happiness in my daily life which the world could not offer. My family, career in the UK and my frequent travels makes my life always busy. But He holds me in His arms. I am sure that it is the Lord who preserves my going out and my coming in from this time forth and even

for ever more.

Kind regards 

Susan Ebenezer

Christmas more than an ordinary celebration!



Ms. Kinjal Macwan

Nadiad Central Corps, Nadiad Division
India Western Territory (Gujarat)

I was looking for inspiration to write something based on the bible, so I thought of finding keywords in the Bible, but no surprise "Sorry, we didn't find any results for your search." No search results for Christmas trees, mistletoe, caroling, wreaths and Santa Claus in the Bible.

From past many years, we all have seen Christmas as it is with lights, midnight church masses, decorating the home, putting the brightest star outside the home and a Christmas tree inside the living room. It is a tradition.

There is no Biblical significance of the day, but Christmas is a worldwide celebration and we Christians do not oppose the celebration rather as Paul suggests in Romans 14:5-6, we join the world in celebration of the day and enjoy holidays. Sometimes, when we go out and see the market before Christmas, it has become too commercial, carefully merchandised,

too materialistic and has no spiritual connection to the celebration.

We have realised too that the real cause of celebration is always left behind the sparkling worldly artificial lights, and we forget the real starlight that showed the way leading to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Christmas is all about that real light.

How we observe Christmas is the real question we are supposed to ask ourselves. Do we observe it for the Lord's sake, or do we even think about why and how we celebrate it? That is the heart of the matter. Christmas is an opportunity for us to exalt Jesus Christ. We ought to take advantage of it.

Are we ready to love like God as He gave His begotten son to the unworthy world? Or are we still concerned about completing an obligatory list on Christmas to purchase lights and worrying about what to wear on Christmas day?

Thomas Monson in his famous writing stated about Christmas during this season, "Our hearts are softened. Enemies are forgiven, friends remembered, and God obeyed." That is the real purpose of Christmas and God would truly appreciate it.

Though there are no connecting Bible verses about celebrating Christmas, we can do it as an opportunity to glorify Jesus' name high and fulfil His purpose in this world.

Merry Christmas!





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Our Mission

"The Salvation Army is an international movement, a part of the Christian Church whose spiritual motivation has practical application in an evangelical, social, educational and health ministry.

It's goal is to help all people find fulness of life in a relationship with the living Christ discovered through the scriptures and demonstrated by holy living in peace and harmony with others."



Jerusa Gohil

Bapunagar Corps, Ahmedabad Division, IWT

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

Thank You, Lord, for helping my heart to rest in Your presence. My heart is overwhelmingly grateful as it overflows with gratitude. I, Jerusa Gohil, am writing this testimony to express His unconditional love & and grace to bring me up in my career. I began my journey as a Staff Nurse at ESIS Hospital, Bapunagar in the year 1995. Then I completed my B.Sc. Nursing degree in 2001 and M.Sc. Nursing in 2007. I was a student of the 1st batch of M.Sc. Nursing at Government College of Nursing, Ahmedabad where the M.Sc. Nursing course was introduced for the first time in the state of Gujarat. Side by side, I studied LLB & PGDHM and also passed successfully. After completing of M.Sc. Nursing, I got the opportunity to work as an Ad hoc Lecturer CL-II at a Government College of Nursing, Jamnagar in 2008 and as an ad-hoc Professor CL-I as well as an I/C Principal at a Government College of Nursing, Vadodara in 2011. In 2015, I passed the GPSC Examination and was appointed as a Lecturer Class II at the Government College of Nursing, Ahmedabad. But still, He kept showering on His blessings in abundance. Again, I was selected as a Lecturer Selection Scale Class I (Professor CL-I) through the GPSC Examination & and have been appointed presently at the Government College of Nursing, Vadodara.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank God for His greatest blessing in the form of my loving family – My Parents, Sisters, Brother and sister-in-law, and Nieces which I can never pay off.

Once again, Lord, you have touched my heart so deeply that I don't think I will ever be able to articulate the depth of my appreciation.

In Jesus' Name, Amen. 🙏

National Church Growth Seminar

EXTEND-EXPLORE ESTABLISH-EMPOWER-ENGAGE

National Church growth seminar was held from 12th to 14th of November 2023 at Coonoor, The Salvation Army Conference Centre Surrender, with the theme extend-explore-establish-empower-engage.

The seminar was conducted by the India National Office under the leadership of Colonel S. P. Simon, National Executive Officer and Colonel Annamma Simon Secretary for Women Development, supported by Captain Aseervadam Cheeli, National Business Secretary for C & A.

On 12th November 2023 morning the seminar was inaugurated by Colonel S. P. Simon, National Executive Officer by lightening the candle, followed by Holiness meeting, led Captain Aseervadam Cheeli and message was given by Colonel S. P. Simon, National Executive Officer on the topic relationship and accountability which emphasized the importance of good relationship which gives a good accountability concluding with accountability is needed in every matter of the life.

In the three days of the seminar we were very much inspired by all the lectures.

The lectures were given by Colonel S. P. Simon, National Executive Officer on the topics, *"The officers and The Fulfillment of Great commission"* remembered our covenant in Gods Ministry, *"sharing Faith in the unreached communities"* and finally *"Development of Church*



leadership & Teamwork " was motivation to move forward with new methods for progress in church growth as a team.


The lectures given by Colonel Annamma Simon, Secretary for Women Development, were also brought us the deep understanding of emotions with the lecture *"Understanding of human emotions for church planting"* and the second lecture was *"Role of women in church growth"* which took us to back how women played a vital role in the church growth.

The lectures given by Captain Aseervadam Cheeli were, what we are in growing of church with the topics *"Need of Church growth for mission sustainability"* which includes *"Principles of Church sustainability"*, *"Effective evangelism Strategies for Church Planting & Growth"*. And final lecture was *"Discipleship and Spiritual*

Growth", emphasizing transforming of disciple by spiritual growth and its stages.

All the lectures were useful and informative for our responsibilities we take up in the church growth.

Group discussions on topic *"How can we reach the unreached and establish mission for better Church growth?"* given several ideas from each of the individual delegate.

Final closing session was led by Captain Aseervadam and message was given by SP Simon National Executive Officer topic *"Responsibility and Risk"*, focusing the biblical figures which encouraged everyone to take up the responsibility and move forward. finally while singing the closing song all the delegates came forward and rededicated themselves. 

Captain S. Mounika
Central Corps



 **Pictorial**

National Finance Workshop 2023 was conducted by India National Office, Kolkata from 8th -10th November 2023 held at The Salvation Army Retreat Centre, Coonoor.