



Faith in Action Missions

Prayer Newsletter December 2020

THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

In December 1903, after many attempts, the Wright brothers were successful in getting their "flying machine" off the ground. Thrilled, they telegraphed this message to their sister Katherine: "We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas." Katherine hurried to the editor of the local newspaper and showed him the message. He glanced at it and said, "How nice. The boys will be home for Christmas." He totally missed the big news--man had flown!

As we glance at the nativity scene we can be caught up with the characters and the story surrounding the event and yet we can miss the BIG NEWS. – **God became man and dwelt among us.**

Matthew and Luke tell us the Christmas story through the eyes of man while John looks at Christmas through the eyes of God.

As we consider the Christmas story there are various things that we can see.

A PERSON

"Behold "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matt. 1v21)

Jesus was a common name in those days but this Jesus was unique, he was unlike any other:

His Biography was written hundreds of years before He was born. Hundreds of prophecies were written by Spirit inspired writers in the Old Testament and included specific details of his birth, life and death. His birth was announced by an angel and it was miraculous - He was born of a virgin against the laws of nature.

He lived a sinless life – The Bible says He knew no sin, He did no sin and in Him was no sin. He made the blind to see, deaf to hear, dumb to speak, lame to walk, sick to be healed, lepers to be cleansed and He raised the dead to life.

He was the promised Messiah; He died as the perfect sacrifice for sinners and then He rose from the dead and lives in the power of an endless life.

He is the incomparable Christ.

A PRESENCE

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." (Matt. 1v23)

Jesus took upon Himself the form of a man – He was God incarnate.

John records – "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1v14

The carol **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**, contains the words – 'Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate deity'

The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding. Martin Luther

God became man and lived on earth among men. He knows our pressures and struggles and He is Emmanuel 'God with us'. He continues to abide with those who know and love Him.

Why did he come?

A PURPOSE

In one of his letters John records, 'The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world' (1 Jn 4 v 14) and as Paul wrote to Timothy he said, 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners' (1 Tim 1 v 15).

V21 – Jesus (Saviour) wasn't just His name it stated His purpose for coming into the world.

Luke 2:11-14

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

The Lord Jesus was born to die, that was God's perfect plan from eternity. He was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev 13v8)

God's love for the world was so great that He gave His perfect Son, who became the ultimate sacrifice for sin, so that those who were once condemned in their sin could receive forgiveness and eternal life by trusting in Him. No wonder Paul exclaimed, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift" (2 Co. 9v15)

Because of Christmas there is something else that we can experience.

A PEACE

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9 v6)

Almost continuously there are peace talks ongoing around the world as governments try to broker agreements or seek reconciliation between opposing sides. Any peace that the world offers is temporary and fragile.

Even in our lives as individuals there can be turmoil and trouble hidden behind a smile as we seek peace in our circumstances.

The Peace of God makes it possible to experience peace during lives storms. There is a peace that God alone can give.

The peace that Jesus gives is not the absence of trouble but is rather the confidence that He is there with you always. It endures and outlasts difficulties, it is **'the peace of God, which passeth all understanding'** and it is an everlasting peace.

The Christmas story tells us about a Person (the Lord Jesus), a Presence (Emmanuel – God with us), a Purpose (Saviour) and a Peace (Everlasting). The Christmas story reminds us of is one final thing.....

A PROSPECT

The Lord Jesus who came, lived and died, rose again and ascended into heaven. As the disciples stood gazing into the sky they were told that this same Jesus would return.

Despite Peter's verbal commitment to lay down his life for the Saviour, Jesus told him that he would deny Him. Even as the Lord said this to Peter, to someone who was going to fail, He continued by giving great words of encouragement.

'Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again**, and receive you unto myself that where I am, there you may be also"' (John 14v1-3)

To those who have learned to love and trust Jesus, the prospect of meeting him face to face and being with him forever is the hope that keeps us going, no matter what life may throw at us.

For the true Christian, the best is yet to be. What a prospect! What a Saviour!



'I am the light of the world'

John 8 v 12

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Hello dear brothers and sisters, the team of Faith in Action Missions would like to wish you all a very happy and Christ centred Christmas, and a God glorifying New Year, may you know the blessing of the Lord in the year that lies ahead.

Who would have thought last Christmas, that the following year would see a pandemic with over 50,000 people dead in the UK, and well over one million deaths worldwide, surely this shows us just how fragile life really is.

James 4 v 14, whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow, for what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanishes away.

Life can feel endless at times, but the Bible reminds us that compared to eternity, an individual life on earth is like a vapour.

It's so important to recognise the brevity of life so that we don't squander the time we've been given.

God often allows trials into our lives to remind us that this world is not our home.

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3 v 20

The FIAM team have not been allowed into Ukraine since last January, nevertheless the work continues in the different areas that we normally minister in, even though Covid19 has also spread to Ukraine our team there have tried to keep things moving.

Recently, FIAM set up two sickness funds to help the people through this very difficult time, one in the village of Stari Saltov through Pastor Valentin and the church there, the other sickness fund was set up in Sokolova through Pastor Pavel and the church there.

The sickness fund has been a great blessing to many people who are sick with covid19, this enabled people to be able to go to the doctors, and to pay for prescriptions, even to receive hospital treatment, thank you for providing for this fund, you have no idea how important this sickness fund has been to the brothers and sisters there.

If you would like to support your brothers and sisters through this pandemic, and you would like to donate to the fund please contact Donald - 07595 052208.



PASTOR PAVEL

Thank you for praying for Pastor Pavel, he has been through a very difficult time with his health, he almost lost his eyesight, but after six operations he is able to read with the help of glasses. Then came a virus, not covid19, but another unknown virus, the doctors gave him one week to live, but thanks to lots of prayer for Pavel, the Lord has restored him to better health and strength. Although he is still not fully recovered, and only has 3% immunity, he is in good spirit, and is self-isolating in the House of Hope.



**Pastor Pavel
looking much
better following
his recent illness**

**Please continue
to remember him
in prayer**

Just before his illness Pavel and some of his fellowship visited a remote village to witness to the villagers. It was here they found Maxim, a 24 year old young man, he was sent home from hospital to die, he suffers from type 1 Diabetes, he is going blind, has chronic kidney failure, anemia, and hepatitis C. Maxim lives in an abandoned house in this village, with no sanitary conditions, or running water, he has no one to care for him, but now through the Lord leading Pavel to him the church look after him, and bring him food. Please pray for Maxim as he is not saved, it just seems like an impossible situation, but our God is able.

In the images below, Pastor Pavel is pictured with 2 of his Deacons praying for Maxim (left), the man lying in bed (right).





THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Many of you will have good memories of our brother Sasha, and his Christian school. Sadly the pandemic affected the running of the school and they had to work online, with the outcome that some families lost their jobs and could no longer afford to send their children to school. This in turn affected the staff's salaries, and the problems just continued to grow, but praise the Lord for our brothers and sisters who provided to help the school through the first wave of the pandemic. Please continue to pray that the Lord would keep the school open and operating.

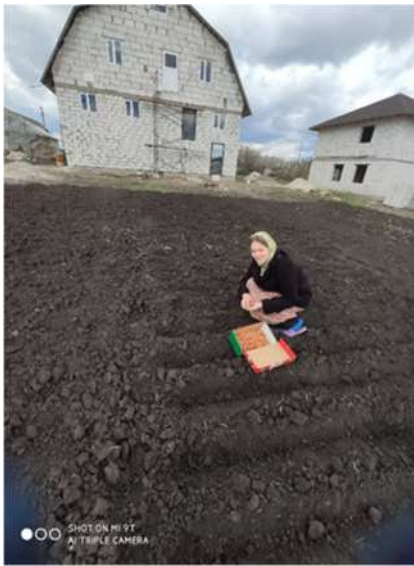


THE HOUSE OF HOPE

Praise the Lord for the House of Hope as it just continues to go from strength to strength, and a lot of that is down to the total love and dedication shown by the Christian carers. The work of caring is led by our sister Vera (middle photo at the top of the next page). Vera was recently married and she and her husband have both have dedicated their lives to serving the Lord in the house of hope.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support prayerfully and financially, may the Lord bless you for your care.

Please enjoy some photos on the next page.



STORIES FROM UKRAINE



Greetings to Brother Donald and the team. Accept great gratitude from my family and personally from me, Obozny Andrei, the father of three foster children and five native children!!! God allowed me to get coronavirus. The disease struck me, and my life was in danger. Among most people in our church, thank God, the disease did not progress much, but I could not fight it at home. I changed my treatment program three times; the doctors did not give positive prognoses. But my recovery is God's answer to many prayers from my family, church, and friends. While there was a storm of life, I was in the hospital, but to restore my health I was discharged home and now, thank God, I am gradually returning to my former life. For my family, your help was a great blessing, as we are treated in Ukraine at our own expense, and during my illness I could not

work. May God reward you for your kindness to us and your sacrificial hearts!
With gratitude, the family of Andrei Obozny.



Dear brothers and sisters!

Our family would like to thank you for your help in treating our children. My husband and I raise our son Timothy, but we also serve as a foster family. About five months ago, our family adopted 5 children until their parents changed their lives for the better. During the epidemic, our own son fell ill and we were in the hospital. While we were there, our foster child fell ill. Due to the fact that foster children from disadvantaged families and parents did not pay due attention to the health of children, it is necessary to constantly treat or examine children. Once again, accept a huge thank you from our family, this money has helped a lot in restoring the health of children.

The Mayatsky family is grateful.



This family are believers, the girl's name is Donata. The 12-year-old son boiled hot water to soak his feet, stepped aside and the girl fell into a basin of boiling water. The family lives 25 km from us. This morning the child's condition has stabilized, she drinks and eats. Yesterday we brought her family money, a heater, a kettle and food. She is very scared, she suddenly shouts and says, "I'm falling." Many thanks for your financial and prayerful support in such difficulties.



Brother Pavel from the Odessa region came to me with his family. He is the father of 15 children, native and adopted. Unaware that he had the coronavirus, although he had felt unwell a week before, he overcame this path. He got worse on the way. When we saw him, we were immediately isolated on the second floor of my house. Doctor Lyuba immediately collected medicines from those who were ill at the time and immediately began to treat her brother. The next day he was examined. The figures were so bad that doctors did not give a chance at life. The family went home, and he and his wife stayed. All the time my brother was with me, Lyuba was treating him. By the grace of God, the threat to life passed and the brother went home to recover. But the children who rode with him in the car now also began to get sick. They are ill in moderate form, but it becomes more difficult to treat. Now there is such a situation in Ukraine that the drug, which helps well and is effective, is bought up very quickly. Therefore, the shortage of some drugs is growing every day. But this family is supervised by Lyuba and there, in the Odessa region, there

is our nurse who takes care of that family. Paul's family thanks them for saving their father from the imminent death of their father!!! Thank you



Brother Donald and Jacqueline, as well as those who helped our family during the illness!!! I am Natasha Mikhailychenko, a mother of ten adopted children. The coronavirus epidemic also came to my family. But due to the heavy workload, I could not leave him and no one could replace me either. Therefore, I carried the disease on my feet, there were cases when I lost consciousness while driving a car. I was in severe pain and for a long time, when I thought I had recovered, the disease came back. My husband and all our children became less ill with the coronavirus. Now we are recovering, some children are still sick. But in general the picture is improving! We are very grateful for the help for our family! She helped us a lot! After all, when one person in a large family is ill, others soon begin to get sick! We thank God and you for your love for us and for not passing by our needs! We are waiting for guests!!!



Greetings, brothers and sisters! My name is Tanya, I am a mother of nine adopted children! During the global pandemic, our family also fell ill. It was difficult to bear the disease. Since the family is large and I am raising children alone, it was not possible to isolate myself completely. Soon the children began to get sick. Thank God, their illness was in the best shape. At that time we did not go to church and the children did not go to school. Our treatment cost tens of thousands of hryvnias and your help was a great blessing for the family! It's long over and we're getting better! Thank you for your kind hearts and work for us! May God reward you and your families!

PEACE TO YOU, dear brothers and sisters!!! Many greetings and gratitude from the Kotlyar family. We are a large family, God has given us 12 children native and adopted. During the pandemic in Ukraine, our family also fell ill. It all started when our youngest child, Samuel, started breathing hard. He was six months old at the time. Soon after, another son fell ill. And soon almost all the children and my wife and I also got sick. They were treated for a long time, because not everyone got sick at once, but they were on self-isolation until everyone recovered! The disease was very difficult for my wife, it was scary that we could lose her! But, thank God, everything passed, God answered our prayers and our family gradually recovered. We thank you for the financial help of our family, for us it is a great gift from God and a manifestation of His love for us through YOU. May God reward you and bless you!!! The Kotlyarov family



Peace to you, Donald and Jacqueline! And team, and sponsors, from all the residents of the House of Hope, we thank you for your help during the pandemic. Residents of the House of Hope are at risk and are more likely to be infected with the coronavirus. Some because of age, and some because of disease. We are now quarantined and closed for visits, but our workers go home and come to work again. Therefore, since the beginning of the pandemic, our residents are on constant prevention and Dr. Lyuba maintains the health of each resident and folk remedies and medicines. Thank God, He still protects us from this terrible disease. To maintain the health of the residents of the House of Hope, the cost of medicine had to be increased several times. Every resident of the House of Hope thanks you and misses you. We are waiting to see you! With a prayer for you and with great gratitude, residents of the "House of Hope"!!!

May you all know the presence and the peace of God this Christmas, and for those of us who love him, Christmas always begins with Christ.

Happy Christmas

God bless

Stay safe, keep healthy, stay close to the Lord

Donald & Jacqueline and the FIAM team

If you would like to support this outreach, please contact Donald – Mobile: 07595 052208