



Dear Friend

Today, I am reflecting on a year of challenges:

- A year of health set backs with two episodes of pneumonia
- Quarantine
- An economic collapse
- Our city (Minneapolis) on fire
- Protests and rioting
- Floods and fires around the world
- Churches closed due to the COVID epidemic

This doesn't include the thousands of lives lost due to the coronavirus. Almost everyone I know has lost someone due to COVID-19.

Many of us are wondering, "Will ever end?"

I have some good news!

Over 2,000 years ago in the Middle East, the Jews were under the oppression of the Roman government. There was no open vision or any prophets declaring the words of the Lord. It was a dark time for the people God.

As I have had said, many times in the past few years, "God is up to more than you think!" During this time, a young Galilean girl was visited by an angel of God and was chosen by God himself to carry the Hope for the world.

In the midst of darkness and hopelessness, shepherds—the poorest of the poor— were visited by a choir of angels declaring the birth of a Savior.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great

joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests'" (Luke 2:8-14, NIV).

Can you feel it? Hope arises from the ashes of hopelessness!

Then there was rejection—no room in the inn for this young couple. Hope would be born in a cold, smelly stable.

Do you remember the last time you felt hopeless, empty, and frustrated with life? Often, it's in those moments of darkness that God reveals His love and mercy for us.

Almost 42 years ago hope was birthed in my heart and my life. I nearly lost my life due to the influence of alcohol and drugs. I awoke that night from a terrible head-on collision. I later began reading a book I found in a garbage can. Almost a month to the day, the seed of God's Word came bursting from deep in my soul and brought me to my knees. I called on the Savior of the world to fill my soul with hope!

**"I came that they may have life, and have it to the full,"
(John 10:10, NIV).**

Jesus continues to bring hope to our world—even in the face of adversity and crisis. We follow His example, and we never stopped giving hope in 2020. In spite of the pandemic and other crises around the world, we were able to dig several wells, feed the hungry in India, purchase motor bikes for pastors, and send money to help the elderly in India. Though we could not travel, we continued to minister to pastors in India through Zoom calls. (Isn't technology amazing?)

Photos from our 2020 COVID-Relief outreaches





✚ అనంతపురం జిల్లా పాస్టర్ వెల్వేర్ సొసైటీ
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 jude 23 ministry వారి రెవ. జార్జ్ బర్నర్
 గారి సహకారంతో రెవ. M. తిమోతిరావ్
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We are grateful for all of you who continue to encourage us, pray for us, and financially invest in Jude 23 Ministries—in spite of this "eventful" year. As we enter into a new year, I encourage you to spread hope to our world that desperately needs it!

Brenda and I are praying for you during this holiday season.

Merry Christmas!
 George & Brenda



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