



## CHRISTMAS LETTER – 2020

How many of you are as eager as I am to say 'goodbye' to 2020? I must say though that at the beginning of the year, I was kind of optimistic about it. I even thought it had a good ring to it. How so, you may ask? Well, when we say someone has an excellent vision, we use the term '20-20 vision', or when we talk about the ability to see clearly what should have been done, we say '20-20 hindsight', or even going back to 1947, the writer of a comic book used '20-20' to refer to someone who is good-looking, attractive. Hmm... This last one may seem a bit farfetched but apparently there was one that came out that year! That's just to tell you we can always find through the Internet any kind of information to help prove our point, even as ridiculous as this one is!

Seriously though, if we stop and briefly review this year, nationwide, all of us would probably agree that it didn't turn out to be such a great one after all; the Covid pandemic, for sure, being at the top of the list. We've all been affected by it. However, some people have seen it more closely than others... We could say that we're living in very troubled times in our country. We could also add to the list our own personal challenges we had to face during the year. Oh, I could go on and on, but I'll stop right here.

Christmas is not a time to dwell on what went wrong during the year. It's a time to rejoice, right? In fact, it's a time to celebrate the birth of someone quite exceptional who came on this earth to accomplish an astonishing mission. At some point, He may have been a baby lying in a manger, He may have grown up as a normal child, and He may have felt the same emotions as we do. He may have experienced the same life's exigencies as we know them, but He was very different in that He was the Son of God. His mission of redeeming humanity from its sinful nature wasn't an easy one to accomplish. He knew beforehand what it entailed; that He would be misunderstood, mistreated and at the end, He would pay with his own life, hanging on a cross. However, because of His amazing love for humanity, He accepted his mission willfully, selflessly...

As we celebrate Christmas, I don't want to remember Him as 'little baby Jesus' born in a manger but as my Savior, the Lord of lords and the King of kings. It's with great joy in my heart that I want to celebrate Him not only on Christmas day but every day of the year! And should you have the opportunity to gather together with family and friends despite the restrictions due to the virus, it is my hope that you would all make Jesus' birthday a very special one. After all, He is truly the 'Reason for the Season'! My thoughts also turn to the ones who will be alone or homeless this Christmas. I pray God to bless and comfort them.

May the coming year be a time for all of us to reflect on our priorities in life; not only about our families, responsibilities, goals and dreams, but also...about our eternal destiny.

May God bless you abundantly throughout the New Year. May you always find HOPE, JOY AND PEACE from His loving presence in your lives.