

A Reason For Hope

Once again, we prepare for the coming of God's presence among us through the birth of Jesus the Christ. In our time when so many are caught up in fear and anger, let this Christmas season remind us that through Jesus, God has already given us the things that make for peace and joy in our lives. What are they?



- The gift of salvation
- The gift of his presence through the Holy Spirit
- The gift of love received and shared
- The gift of a community of believers with whom to seek God's leading in our lives
- The gift of giving yourself in service to others
- The gift of forgiveness – both given and received
- The gift of the joy of giving – a full measure pressed down and running over – of the bounty God has given us to give to others

All these and much more come from God – all we must do is accept his gifts and make them part of our lives!

LLF

This week, pray for:

- the **COVID-19 pandemic**. Help all of us continue to do all we can to keep each other as safe as we can. The first vaccine is now being given to people here in the U.S. as well as in the United Kingdom. Remember those who handle, administer, and receive this new vaccine. Remember those who are caring for the sick & the dying. Remember those who are suffering.
- **Refugees and all who are homeless as winter comes**. Their plight has been all but forgotten in recent months though it is still as grave as ever.
- **those dealing with drought, storms, fires, flooding, earthquakes, & other disasters**
- **Nigeria**. This week another secondary school in Nigeria was attacked. It is a boy's school this time. Numbers are not clear yet, but as many as 400 of the 600 students at the school are unaccounted for. Some of them may have escaped the initial attack and not yet been found.
- **The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** Tensions between two political factions (supporters of Félix Tshisekedi and of Joseph Kabila) have reached an unprecedented level. Ron Lubungo (a leader in the Church of the Brethren in the DRC) shared that an "open war" has broken out between political leaders and their respective parties. Lubungo's email to the Global Mission Office detailed episodes of violence, even in the Parliament building, and there are media reports of corruption allegations against national leaders. (Newslines 12-11-2020)

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