



*For today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you
who is Messiah and Lord.*

Christmas 2010

Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions:

Once again we enter into the Advent Season, which is a time of preparation to celebrate the birth of the Messiah. We are called and challenged to “*prepare the way of the Lord*” (Is 40:3) in our lives. It is a familiar call, but is it one which we truly take to heart?

Each year we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ. Is Christ reborn in us just in the Christmas season when we have a heightened awareness of Christ? Or is He reborn in our hearts throughout the year?

In these busy days it can be difficult to find the time to reflect on the beauty of the season. The challenge of the Christian is to reflect on the true meaning of the birth of Christ, not just at Christmas but throughout the whole year. Do we take time to experience and understand the meaning of the birth of Christ in our lives? Can we truly say that the birth of Christ, the Incarnation, makes a difference in how we live?

I think I have experienced an awareness of the presence of Christ in the world most powerfully in our missions. I am moved by the depth of the faith and the meaning of God in the lives of the poor whom our friars serve in the missions. Perhaps when you have so little materially you can truly appreciate a gift: the gift of the Christ child, the gift of God’s real presence as an important part of your life.

It is through your continued support that we are able to continue our service in these foreign lands. **On Christmas Day, a Mass will be offered for the intention of each of you.**

On behalf of our friars and our staff may you have a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.

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