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December 2002

Merry Christmas

Dear Pastors & Co-workers,

O, what condensation, that "And the WORD was made flesh and dwelt among us..." And Mary said, "Behold thy handmaid (slave) of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy Word." During this season, many will be celebrating Christmas. Gifts will be sent and received without realizing the real significance of Christmas. I wonder, how many would speak like Mary? In order to bring the Saviour through her womb, she was willing to jeopardize her marriage and reputation. She could have been stoned to death for having found with child before her marriage to Joseph. But unselfishly and submissively she accepted the will of God; "be it unto me according to thy word." May the Lord find us with the same attitude, during this season.

I don't have to bother with my heart for the next six months. Though not fully satisfied, the doctor has given me an O.K. sign. But this is not the case with Molly, my wife. She has been getting fever in spite of being treated with medicine for the past 4-½ months. We have done elaborate blood tests and now she is due for a C.T. Scan. The nasty fever keeps coming back every evening accompanied with nausea and head ach. But there is no weight loss. Please pray for Molly.

Bible College:

We are now well into the 2nd Semester and expect to have graduation in the 1st week of April 2003. I have a load of 23 hours per week both at Tirupattur and Bangalore alternatively.

One of our Burmese students, James by name had to go back to Burma for a month, as he had to harvest his fields. His parents are too old to work. Pray that he will be able to come and back finish his Bachelor of Divinity. God has done great things in the young man's life. Pagin, the student who was operated for T.B. of stomach and intestine, is doing well. He is now taking a full load of studies, with a positive attitude. One of our lady students, Hepizeba by name had come with a Penticostal background. Now she has changed her views and has decided to serve the Lord in Jawadhi Mountains.

I am teaching Christology in Tirupattur and Theology Proper in Bangalore.

The Churches:

At present all the three churches i.e., Whitefield Baptist Church, Olivet-Grace Baptist Church and Tirupattur Baptist church are engaged in Christmas activities and Carol singing in houses. Sunday School programs are done with a view to invite unsaved parents and let them hear the gospel. At Tirupattur we visited the families of our School Staff and gave the gospel by way of singing and preaching. May the Lord give the increase.

Grace Baptist School for Hearing and Hearing Impaired.

Grace Baptist School for Hearing and Hearing Impaired, Calvary Baptist Bible College & Seminary and Tirupattur Baptist Church, together presented a Cantata including Tamil and English songs at a Y.M.C.A. Hall. Many unbelievers came and heard the songs and the spoken word. For many of the teachers and students, this was a new experience. Leena my eldest daughter, and her husband Francis Newton, the principal of the School and Charles Edwein the pastor of our Church and his wife Abigail (my daughter) took the initiative in this venture. Tirupattur our town had not witnessed something like this before. Many were touched. May the Lord give the

increase. The whole program had the touch of God.

Evangelistic Trips:

Jawadhi Mountains: During our inter-semester vacation we took over 25 persons, including staff and students of the Bible College to Jawadhi mountains. We were loaded with 3 days of provisions, including all food items and drinking water. Accommodation was scarce and water was muddy and dear; but we managed to stay for 3 days. It was such a joy to mingle with students and staff in cooking food, teaching God's word and preaching the gospel. My daughter Abigail with her husband Charles and Emma my daughter and Pastor Adrian her husband with their families endured the ordeal. We visited 5 villages in the Mountains, namely Malayandipatti, Nillivasal, Nellipattu, Chambera and Malaitrupattur. The last two villages were 3500 to 4000 feet high. The whole train of people including women and children climbed up on foot over the rugged mountains trials with the glorious gospel of Salvation. You should have seen the sight. We halted a number of times, while climbing but accomplished the goal. We preached out our hearts. They wanted us to visit them again. May the Lord give the increase.

Hyderabad & Halla: With all the busy schedule we took a long evangelistic trip to Hyderabad and Halla village at the invitation of my sister Helen. (It was her husband that was injured hip-down in the car accident. He is progressing wonderfully. Please keep praying). We held Evangelistic meetings with youth and school children for two days. There were many Hindus present. The Lord blessed the word. In this long trip of 2000 KM., Leena & Francis accompanied us. Molly came inspite of her sickness. May the Lord give the increase.

Property:

The property that we talked about in the last prayer letter is gone out of our hands. Some one else bought it. We are negotiating

for another property in Jawadhi Mountains.

Christmas & New Year Greetings:

May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year. Many of you sent greeting cards to us. We are thankful. Some of the best wishes came from the members of our Mission Board, namely the World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions. We are proud to be part of this Mission Board.

Prayer Requests:

1. Kurumberi Church Building needs funds.
2. Monthly support needed to be increased. If you have not yet taken us on, please do so. Need more than \$1000/- increase.
3. Pray for Tamil speaking families to work in Jawadhi Mountains.
4. A God sent revival in all our work.
5. Financial support for Stephen Franks at Bob Jones University.

Lovingly in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Eric W. Franks.

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