

Christmas, 2009

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN. UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN.



Dear Family and Friends,

Angels spoke to shepherds. Shepherds "came with haste." They "made known abroad." Those who heard "wondered at those things." "But Mary...pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2)

We have many churches here in North India today. It is not difficult, however, for me to remember Christmas, 1952, our first Christmas in India. We had no Christmas celebration as there was no church. We had no Christmas music. There were no Christmas decorations. That has changed, so very much, over these 58 years. We, our pastors, evangelists and church planters, will be celebrating Christmas in more than three hundred places with our believers here in North India and Nepal this year. This missionary continues to ponder these things in his heart.

Last Christmas, it was my joy to be with our family in USA. This Christmas, I am far away from Brenda Kay, Michael, Don, Milly, Christina, Tim, Caleb, Mark, Beth, Bonnie and Lainey. All of us can remember past Christmases and past blessing and continue to show the love of the Christ of Christmas to His world. Our extended family in USA is very precious to us. We are thankful they love our Lord, they love India and they love us. This helps us to rejoice together though many miles apart.

This is the beginning of our cool season and a beautiful time here. Our view of the Himalaya is breathtakingly beautiful. Our flowers, too, are beautiful. By the side of our church and on the north side of our garden we have rows of poinsettia: about fifty twelve-foot-tall trees brighten the whole compound with cheerful red.

Our older son, Don, and his wife, Milly, came out with me this time. We left Charleston, SC on 3 November. It was a joy to have them here with us and for them to share with our family here. They visited Milly's family in Maharashtra before returning to USA.

We need you to pray for a training session for about one hundred of our people which will be held 19-22 January. Our annual conference will be in March. Please pray this will be the best one we have ever had. We usually have five to six thousand in attendance. If our people are able to come freely from Nepal, we should have more than that. The words of the well-known chorus come to my mind now: "The world behind me/The cross before me/No turning back/No turning back." Please ask our Lord to shower His blessing on His work in India here in the North and on our work in South India. Rejoice with us in all He has done up to now and pray for much, much more in 2010.

Thank you for your prayers and support for us and for dear India. Have a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled full with His choice blessing is our prayer.

Lovingly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carlisle".

Carlisle Hanna