



B.A.S.I.C. –DECEMBER 2015

Greetings in the name and for the glory
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Dear **B**rothers **A**nd **S**isters **I**n **C**hrist, it has been our tradition for the past several years to give the Board of Missions the privilege of sending greetings to all of you through the December issue of the BASIC newsletter. So, on behalf of the CLC Board of Missions, we send our greetings to each of you with prayers to the Lord's throne of grace that He will grant continued blessings as we rejoice in faith over the greatest gift ever given, His only begotten Son! We are thankful to the Lord for each of you and the many opportunities He gives to all of us to go about the privilege of proclaiming the Good News of sins forgiven through the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

During these past few weeks of the Advent season I have had the joy of reminding and encouraging the souls that I am called to serve with precious message of comfort. We have considered the comfort of a faithful God who loved sinful people like us and promised to send the Messiah to be their savior. We considered and were comforted in the truth that John the Baptist was a promised fulfilled as he came preaching and baptizing in the wilderness to prepare the people for the Messiah. And we were comforted by the truth that our warfare was ended when God was in Christ reconciling sinners like us through the atoning sacrifice on His Son. On Christmas Eve we will be comforted in the truth that the God has faithfully kept His promise when He sent His only Son to be born in Bethlehem just as the prophets had foretold!

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God.

“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her,

That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned;

For she has received from the LORD's hand Double for all her sins.”

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low;

The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;

The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see *it* together;

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Isaiah 40:1-5 (NKJV)

At the birth of Jesus, the wait was finally over. The true Comfort of Christmas was finally here. What happened that night in the small town called Bethlehem would eventually resonate across the globe, throughout all of history, bringing comfort to many broken hearted sinners. But first, the news had to be spread.

Those shepherds, who were out tending their flocks by night, were the first to hear and be comforted by Christ's birth. They must have known the significance because they went with haste to Bethlehem to see their Savior. That was 2000 some years ago but the birth of Christ

holds just as much significance, importance, and comfort for us today as it did all those years ago.

Only Christ brings us true and eternal comfort. This message is proclaimed to us in the pages and promises of Scripture. We hear it and we are called and privileged to proclaim it in our churches, at Bible Schools, training seminars, and in our own homes. It is a message that is proclaimed throughout the year, not just in December. Just as we hear of those first Shepherds

*Now when they had seen Him, **they made widely known** the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. Luke 2:17-18*

And so, we too have the privilege of proclaiming Christ to the world. Christ the Savior, bringer of Salvation and true Christmas comfort it born!

Soon it will be Christmas day! A day to enjoy with your family and those you serve, trusting by faith that we celebrate Christ's birth, His love, and His forgiveness. The excitement of a Christmas celebration without the birth of Jesus will eventually wear off. But true Christmas comfort, found in the pages and promises of Scripture, will last throughout the year and into eternity. **"Comfort, yes, comfort My people! "Says your God." Isaiah 40:1**

Rejoice in the true Comfort of Christmas!

I pray that the Lord will bless each of you, your families, and the souls you have been called to serve in the year ahead! It is my privilege to serve alongside each of you in this great harvest field!

On behalf of your brothers and fellow servants of the CLC Board of Missions,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Ohlmann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pastor Todd Ohlmann, CLC Board of Missions Chairman