

Dear Families of Gilead Bible Church,

Have a blessed Christmas!

When I think of Christmas, I am reminded of the historical account in *Luke 2:4-7*.



First, Christmas is about God's fulfillment of his own promises. God promised that a ruler will come from a very specific, small town according to *Micah 5:2*, "*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.*" This was fulfilled within the above historical account: '*So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.*' Therefore, as we live life, we can trust God because he is faithful and true.

Second, Christmas is about Joseph and Mary's obedience to government decrees. Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. The historical account tells us, "*He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.*" We praise the Lord that the parents of Jesus set an example for us to obey government decrees wherever we journey and live.

Third, Christmas is about making room for Jesus. The historical account tells us, "*While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*" Jesus was born in a barn and his first hours of life were spent in a container that animals use to eat their food because there no other rooms available in Bethlehem. We live in times where our celebration of Christmas consume so much of our time, energies, and activities that we have no room for Jesus. *Make room for Jesus this Christmas!*

God Bless,

Pastor and Helen Moy

親愛的基列主內弟兄姊妹，

祝您有一個幸福的聖誕節！

當我想到聖誕節，我想起了路加福音2：4-7記載的歷史。



首先，聖誕節是關於上帝實現了自己的諾言。神應許有一個統治者將會來自一個特定而細小的城鎮，正如彌迦書 5:2記載：“伯利恆、以法他啊，你在猶大諸城中為小，將來必有一位從你那裡出來，在以色列中為我作掌權的；他的根源從亙古，從太就有。”而在上面記錄的歷史已應驗了：“約瑟也從加利利的拿撒勒城上猶太去，到了大衛的城，名叫伯利恆，因他本是大衛一族一家的人”因此，在我們所過的生活裏，我們可以相信上帝，因為他是真實可信的。

其次，聖誕節是關於約瑟和馬利亞服從政府的法令。凱撒奧古斯頒發要整個羅馬普查的法令。在悠久歷史的記錄中告訴我們，“要和他所聘之妻馬利亞一同報名上冊。那時馬利亞的身孕已經重了。”我們讚美主耶穌的父母樹立了榜樣。我們無論在那一段生命旅程上都要服從當地政府的法令。

最後，聖誕節是關於要保留時間和空間給耶穌。歷史悠久的記錄中告訴我們，“他們在那裡的時候，馬利亞的產期到了，就生了頭胎的兒子，用布包起來，放在馬槽裡，因為客店裡沒有地方。”耶穌出生在一個動物住養的地方，他人生的第一個小時是被放在一個動物吃食物的槽中，因為在伯利恆那裡沒有其他房間可供他住宿。我們生活在這個時代，我們花費很多時間，精力和活動來慶祝聖誕節，致令到我們不能留出時間和空間給耶穌。在這個聖誕節裏，要保留時間和空間給耶穌！

願主祝福你們，

梅牧師及師母