



*“...I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.” Luke 2:10*

7 December, 2016

Dear MOGA Friends,

Christmas Greetings!

I love to reflect over the great stories from missions at Christmas. One I enjoy is about the CHRISTINGLE from the early Moravian Missionaries. It started in a small Moravian congregation one December evening in a small village in Germany in 1747 and eventually spread throughout all the Moravian missions. The Pastor, John De Wattville, wanted to explain the message of who baby Jesus is to the children in a very simple and challenging way to this little German congregation. He started with a tabor candle and some red ribbon, and then later an orange was added and four skewer sticks. He told the children that Jesus came into a very dark world and he brought light—Jesus is truly the Christ child of light (Luke 1:79; 2:32; John 1:5,9). But this message is for all the peoples of the earth! (Matt. 2:1-5; 28:19-20) So an orange reminds us of the whole world and so the candle is inserted into the top of the orange and then a red ribbon is placed around the orange. This red ribbon tells us about the blood of Jesus which atones for our sins (Matt.1:21; Luke 2:11). When Jesus was born, Joseph was told that he must name Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins. What a baby—born to save from sin and born for all the different peoples of the whole world. Then four skewer sticks were inserted into the orange representing the four corners of the earth and on the skewers were placed sweet and dried fruits—blessings! Just think of the incredible blessings which we experience from the Lord through the birth of His Son Jesus Christ—peace, joy, favour, pardon, grace, eternity, and reconciliation and more (Luke 2:10,14,20; John 3:16) .



The Moravians in the 1700s were great missionaries—taking the Gospel message to many very different places like Suriname in South America, Labrador and Greenland in the north,



several of the Caribbean Islands, Southern Africa, and Tibet and the American Colonies. The CHRISTINGLE went with these missionaries and so they told the children each Christmas of Jesus the Light of the world, his atoning blood, and that this is for all peoples to hear and to share in the blessings from the Lord. They sometimes had to use an apple rather than an orange but the message was still the same—Jesus is the light of the whole world and the Saviour of sinners.

This is the story of MOGA also. We share this same Gospel message across North America on radio stations and to the world through sermon audio. We proclaim the Gospel in churches in villages and cities in Africa and we help train up more preachers of the Word in Africa through bible college ministry. Thank you for partnering with us in 2016 to make this possible. As the year comes to a close we look to the Lord's people for these last few weeks this year to help with the financial needs of the ministry. Whatever you are able to give towards the work of MOGA we are most grateful—you are our faithful partners. Please pray for the spread of the Gospel—together we shine because He first shone into our lives.

May the Lord bless you this Christmas as we speak about the true child of Light who came into a very dark world of sin.

Yours in the Bonds of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World,

Jack & Nancy Whytock, for all at MOGA

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