

Christmas Message to the Nation of Indonesia

I want to share this evening about 2 Christmas miracles. The first miracles took place At the very first Christmas when the Lord Jesus Christ was born in the town of Bethlehem 2002 years ago.

God sent an angel named Gabriel and appeared to a young lady named Mary. Mary was startled and afraid but the angel said, "Don't be afraid Mary you are blessed of God. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and you will call him Jesus. He will become great and be called the Son of the Most High. He will become King and His kingdom will never end".

Mary said to the angel, "How is this possible since I have no husband?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of God almighty will overshadow you. The child you give birth to will be called holy, the Son of God." (Luke 1:35) The angel added, "With God nothing is impossible".

The angel also appeared to Joseph who was considering breaking relationships with his fiancée, Mary because he discovered she was pregnant and certainly not by him! The angel said, "don't be afraid to accept Mary as your wife because the child in her womb is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you will give him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sin".

Finally Mary answered, "I am God's servant, may it be as you have said". She accepted the message from God and totally submitted to the Lord.

The angel also appeared to a group of shepherds who were watching their sheep outside the town of Bethlehem. "Do not be afraid because I bring good news for the entire World. Today is born Christ the Lord in the city of David." Then appeared with the angel a multitude of God's army praising God saying "glory to God in the highest and peace to all, this is pleasing to God".

God is pleased with the Peace Agreement signed at Malino. God is also pleased with the Peace agreement signed on December 10th between the Free Aceh Movement and the Government of Indonesia. War is not of God because Jesus Christ was sent into this world to bring peace.

The second miracle of Christmas takes place in the year 2002 when men and women, young people, boys and girls receive the same Lord Jesus Christ born at Bethlehem 2002 years ago into their lives and hearts. God calls this being BORN AGAIN. It takes place much the same way Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem.

Once a very religious man came to Jesus one evening. His name was Nicodemus. I believe that Nicodemus represents all Indonesians. The Lord Jesus told Nicodemus that you cannot enter heaven if you are not born again. Nicodemus was a very religious man, prayed 7 times each day. In fact he was a leader of the Jewish religion.

Yet he had trouble sleeping and was not sure of his future status after life ended on earth. That's why he came to Jesus to inquire as to what he must do to be saved. Several times Jesus told Nicodemus "You must be born again". Nicodemus asked the same question Mary asked the angel, "How can this be?" The answer is also basically the same. It is a work of the Holy Spirit. To be born again means to be born of the Holy Spirit.

How can you and I be born of the Holy Spirit? Jesus explained this to Nicodemus in great detail as recorded in John 3. This world-famous answer is found in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that any one who believes in Him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life. God sent His Son into this world not to condemn the world but to save the world. Any one who believes in Him will not be condemned but anyone who believes not is condemned already because he has not believed in God's only son." John 3:16-18.

Jesus Christ wants to enter our hearts, forgive us of our sins, and give us joy and peace And change our lives drastically and totally. This is the second miracle of Christmas.

Mary answered "I am God's servant, May it be as you have said". Nicodemus also believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and accepted Him as His personal Savior. There is no account that he changed his religion. But he was born again by the work of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and salvation is free to you and I. Joy, Peace and freedom from condemnation is also free to you and I.

You know actually Peace in Ambon and in Aceh were paid for by the blood of those who died in the struggle. Jesus Christ also paid for our salvation with His blood. He died on the cross 1969 years ago. He died for all men. God accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the sinless prophet. He never sinned. Yet he took our sins upon Himself and died in our place. Three days later He rose from the dead. He is well and alive today.

So He wants to be born in your heart today and bring forgiveness, joy and peace. Let us say with Mary, "I am God's servant may it be as you have said. I am no angel and I don't look like an angel either. But actually angel means "God's messenger". Tonight I am God's messenger sharing the miracle of the first Christmas and also the miracle of Christmas 2002. My prayer is that tonight at Christmas Eve thousands of people want to be born again and become the children of almighty God. How can it be?

What must I do to be saved? asked a Roman commander of a prison to the apostles Paul and Silas. The answer is the same today and will never change. "Believe on the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved, you and your entire family". Acts 16:31.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and may the miracle of Christmas take place in your life and heart this Christmas.