



Merry Christmas

DECEMBER 2019

Imagine the scene in heaven, as the Father looked down on the fallen earth. What had begun so nobly and been so good, became tainted by sin. Where eternal life was meant to reign, now death had come and perverted God's design. No small problem, the situation was so dire that only God Himself could correct it.

God knew (of course!) that the only way for sin to be taken away was for Him to take it into Himself and let the sin die with Him, disappearing into His very real death. For that to take place, He had to come into the world as one of us. Jesus, born of a woman, lived under the same rules that we have, only He alone did it without sin, mistake, or flaw. He alone remains without sin, so He alone has the right to deal with sin.

He forgives us, taking our sin into His grave, and then shares His victory with us in His resurrection. His victory allows us to be transformed. Jesus actually plants His character in us, and helps us become more and more like Him!

Now, as we look at the world, we see bleak circumstances. We see sin, struggle, heartbreak, pain, and defeat. Jesus invites us into relationship so He can help us become more like what we were designed to be.

At Christmas, we celebrate new life in Christ and the miracle of forgiveness. Even more, we celebrate because we see His victory and how it revolutionizes our lives. But our new lives in Christ are not just meant to make us feel better. He rescues us to transform us, and then commissions us to go into the world to share the powerful truth of the Gospel and the transformation we can bring to others.

When we receive His forgiveness and begin to experience His transformation, we look at the world differently. We begin to see with His eyes and compassion, and begin to love something of the way He loves.

When we see hunger, we should be moved with the compassion of Jesus and work to feed the

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

***“Whom shall I send,
and who will go for us?”***

Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

Isaiah 6:8

hungry. When we see poverty, we should reach out to aid the poor. Where we see false teaching, leading people away from the redeeming love of Christ, we should seek to eliminate it and banish it from the church!

It was the experience of the overwhelming love of the Father through Jesus Christ that led to the establishment of Ekklesia. We reached out to Anglican leaders in other nations, asking them for help as we struggled in the U.S. with many people abandoning Scriptural authority. From that outreach, we realized that there was a need for many partnerships in Gospel ministry to help those who were helping us and to care for the poor.

Since our humble beginnings 25 years ago, we have administered millions of dollars worth of ministry and projects, organized countless conferences, and pursued Gospel ministry in about 50 nations. Over the years, more and more people have joined in—people like you who have partnered with us to share the good news of the Gospel in many lands, and to take the kindness of Christian care to some of the most [financially] poor people in the world, constructing clinics, building radio stations, helping with agriculture and job training. It is beyond my ability to calculate the breadth of the impact that your partnership and faithfulness have brought, but I can tell you that it is eternally significant. Now as we celebrate 25 years of ministry, we are identifying new and exciting ways to reach out to bring light to darkness!

+Bill

DISCIPLESHIP CONNECTIONS & SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

A FEW EXAMPLES OF EKKLESIA'S THREE PILLARS IN 2019:

I TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST BY PROCLAIMING AND DEFENDING THE GOSPEL

One of Ekklesia's great and fruitful partnerships is having Bishop Bill teach at the GAFCON Bishops Training Institute, usually administered in Africa. In October, the first training course was held outside of the continent. This course, principally for Bishops in South America, was held in Recife, Brazil. Of the many topics in the Bishops Training Institute, none are more rewarding for Bishop Bill to teach than how to incorporate the work of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of a Bishop. Other topics include understanding spiritual gifts and how bishops can minister to their clergy as they go through various stages and landmarks of spiritual life.



GAFCON DUBAI

For those unable to travel to Jerusalem, a "GAFCON makeup" was held in February 2019 in Dubai. About 165 leaders gathered from nations where Christians experience persecution. Bishop Bill met with and taught young leaders from Islamic nations about "Training 4 Trainers," the foundational principles of the Disciple Making Movement based on Jesus' command to "pray for laborers for the harvest".

II TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN A NETWORK OF SENIOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS (PRIMARY IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION)



Ekklesia's Director of Development and Field Operations, the Rev. Dr. Rob Cornelison attended the

celebration of the new cathedral church in Lake Rukwa, Tanzania and two training events for GAFCON. Rev. Dr. Cornelison did "Timothy Training" with pastors teaching the leaders how to train others. The syllabus covers theological and practical aspects of ministry in three years' worth of modules. Second, he was able to do some ministry about trauma recovery. People can experience what Jesus promised when Rev. Dr. Cornelison said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."



III TO PURSUE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

IN THE "WEST": SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
IN THE TWO-THIRDS WORLD: PROJECTS WITH ECONOMIC BENEFITS.



We partnered with the Jesus Film Project to deliver the projectors in countries on four continents this summer! Ekklesia is linking faithful people together all over the world in some of the most challenging environments that exist today. This was possible because of the relationships that Ekklesia has built worldwide over the years.



Jesus Film Project photo used with permission

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