

Dec 1983

TOMORROW AND PREM DAN

Dear Friends,

This year I have chosen as the theme of my Christmas Letter - The Meaning of Christmas. Our Greeting focuses your attention on Tomorrow & Hope for all children especially in Prem Dan.

Every new-born child is a sign pointing to the truth that life is stronger than death. Every birth is a sign that creates hope. But the child we celebrate this Christmas creates more than this natural hope. As God's love for us and his interest in humankind is revealed in this child, his birth gives rise to the final hope that in God and with God life certainly is stronger than death, love certainly stronger than hatred, and God and his mercy certainly stronger than our human and irrational attempts to destroy ourselves and the whole of creation. "Peace to all people who enjoy God's favour!" This is the message of Christmas.

The birth of Jesus also tells us a lot about the sanctity of children especially that of helpless and vulnerable children. He committed himself to life and to all its mysterious and exciting stages of growth and development. Children are not owned by their parents; they are entrusted to them by God, to be loved and protected and encouraged through the excitement of life. Christmas has this to tell us: the life of innocent children is sacred. "This day a savior has been born to you - a son has been given to you." Jesus was born to point to the dignity of such little ones - of such is the Kingdom of Heaven. This is the message of Christmas.

In our Christmas celebration we rediscover in this child the great love and kindness God has for us. Afterwards, like the shepherds so many years ago, we are to go back to our daily life "glorifying and praising God" - full of gratitude to God and ready to make known to people everywhere what God is doing by living the love that has come into the world with this child. This, too, is the message of Christmas.

I thank God for each one of you dear Sponsor for the special care and concern you have shown in sharing your life and love with a needy child. This is the message of Christmas applied to daily living.

May God bless each one of you and your families with His choicest blessings and graces for 1984.

Gratefully in Jesus & Mary

Sr. Felicity Morris
R.J.H.