PREM DAN

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15, NATHALAL PAREKH MARG, MUMBAI 400 001. TEL : 284 1975/202 0474 FAX 284 1975

December 1, 1998

Dear Friends,

This year I have hardly any news to give you after the extra-large September
newsletter.

I have realized that many of you have not seen any photograph of your child except
the one sent at the time of sponsorship. We have decided to send you one every
Christmas instead of the Christmas card. In this manner you will see the growth and
development of your child.

As Christmas is fast approaching. I wish to share a few thoughts with you.

The Christmas story is about how God entered (and continues to enter) the world as
a real presence in our lives. We celebrate this mysterious and wonderful moment as
'Christmas', the birth of the child Jesus, the Word made flesh.

The event, as recorded in scripture, is remarkably ordinary. A pregnant woman and
her husband, weary from long days of travel, find simple shelter. The baby is born in
the humble surroundings. News of the birth spreads to the community. Everybody
celebrates. It is a touching story, but not much of a headline-grabber.

Of course, Christmas is not simply about Mary and Joseph and the baby. It is about
God becoming part of our daily struggle, transforming the world through us. It is the
age-old, yet ever current, miracle of God whom "no one has ever seen" filling us with
the promise of new life. The Christmas story is newsworthy because the birth of
Jesus is something that happens to each of us every day. God comes into the world;
a light shines in the darkness. Nothing can ever be the same again.

I wish each one of you a Very Happy Christmas. May Christ our Saviour reward you
too for becoming saviours to our children. May the year 1999 bring each one of you
and your families all the graces and blessings, you so richly deserve.

Yours gratefully in **Jesus and Mary**,

(SISTER FELICITY MORRIS)