PREM DAN

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November 19, 2001.

Dear Friends,

As Christmas approaches I realize that it is time for another newsletter. The saddest event since I last wrote to you is the reality of facing a world war. The event of September 11, 2001 has left us all heart broken. I know that many of our dear sponsors are now jobless. Many have lost some of their near and dear ones. You are all in my prayers and accept my deepest love and sympathy.

The schools here are closed and the children are on Diwali vacation. They will re-open on the 26th of November.

You will be happy to hear that the Good Lord has at last heard my prayers to send Prem Dan a Sister who will take care of my Dream Project. Sr. Patricia Santos arrived on the 4th of September. I'm sure she will do all that has to be done for every child and all who belong to the Prem Dan Family. Welcome Patricia. May God bless all your efforts to carry my burden.

Each year with the celebration of Christmas, we re-enter the mystery of God becoming one with all humanity — Emmanuel, God with us! Isaiah's words prepare us with powerful images that stir our souls; "The people have seen a great light", " the yoke of their burden (is) broken", " a child has been born for us (who is) Prince of Peace".

Luke's gospel announces the birth of Jesus in language reserved for kings. But quickly the story reveals that this child was not born in regal splendor but in simplicity and vulnerability, closely identified with the poor and humble of the earth. Placed in a manger, he is to be spiritual food for the life of the world.

As the angel-awakened shepherds go eagerly to see for themselves what has taken place, we too are invited to take time with the One born for us. In his presence, listening with open hearts, do we sense, like the first shepherds, a spark of new enthusiasm for the good news? Do we feel the Sprit of Christ directing us to go out again to be light for the lost and abandoned? ...To be hope for those crushed by life's harsh realities? ...To be truth and love where compassion and justice have all but disappeared? While celebrating this sacred time, may our vocation and mission in Christ be re-born and may we become ever more deeply one with the Prince of Peace.

I wish each one of you A Very Happy Christmas and A New Year filled with God's Choicest Blessings and Graces.

Yours gratefully in Jesus and Mary,

(SR. FELICITY MORRIS)