



Dear Friends

For many, Christmas is nothing more than a holiday date they circle on a calendar. It is a time filled with gifts, goodwill and good boys and girls (we hope). The Christmas holiday swoops in like an unsuspecting gust of wind and then all is calm and life returns to normal. The tree comes down, the decorations retreat to a dark closet and life continues on like nothing ever happened. Unfortunately, this is how many treat the Christmas season. The story of the birth

of Jesus is nothing more than a seasonal holiday that disappears along with the decorations. Jesus did not come to establish our most favourite holiday; He came for individuals like you and me. Luke 2:11 says, "**For unto you** (*emphasis mine*) *is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*" I hope you caught the significance of what Scripture has said. Jesus came for "you". Here were the shepherds looking after their sheep and an angel appeared to tell them that Jesus was born for them. This good news was for every person in the world. Christmas reminds us that God wrapped His arms of love around us through His Son Jesus Christ. Oh how unprepared our minds are to absorb such a powerful thought. Christmas is the wonderful, personal, deep love of God on display for you (John 3:16).

At NBBI we rejoice that Jesus came and we are thankful for the Christmas season that enables us to hit the pause button on life and reflect upon the arrival of our glorious Saviour. Had it not been for the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of our Messiah, we would have no hope or reason to exist as a ministry. We reach out to you, our supporters and we thank you for your meaningful connection with us. God has blessed us with so many friends and faithful partners in this work. Let's rejoice together that we have a personal God who loved us so deeply that He sent His Son to redeem us from sin.

This year, we also want to bring an urgent matter to your attention. We have recently discovered that the oil boiler furnace for our Kenneth M. Robins Study Centre (it heats our dining hall, lounge, classrooms) has reached the end of its life. It is old and worn out and we have been warned that it should be replaced very soon. This is a large furnace that heats a large area. The estimated cost of replacing it is between \$30-\$35 thousand dollars. With the cold winter months coming, we would love to have a new boiler in before our students return for second semester on January 14, 2022. The good news is we have a **Matching Gift Challenge**. Every dollar that we raise will be matched using funds from another gift. We are trusting God to supply the resources to meet this pressing need. Would you consider partnering with us in helping us meet this urgent challenge? With this Christmas challenge, every dollar you contribute will be matched until the goal is reached. Thank you for considering helping us with this much needed project.

We are greatly encouraged by your support in helping us train God's people for God's work. May you have a blessed Christmas and a joy-filled new year. Let's remember that the beauty of Christmas is not in the **presents** but in His **presence** (Matthew 1:23).

So glad He came, looking for His return,

Matthew Little
President

ML:bc
Enclosure

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