

December 2011

***Merry Christmas everyone,***



**KENYA** - For those of you who have not heard yet, I didn't go on my trip to Kenya last month. Things just didn't work out very well for me to go, so I cancelled my part of it. However, my dear brother in the Lord (and the CEO of CrossWay), Dean Chollar, with whom I was to share the teaching duties, went ahead and conducted the conference without me. As it turned out, He met a Kenyan pastor who had good training and experience, and who was skilled at clearly teaching the Word of God, and the Gospel of Christ's gift of eternal life. In fact, Dean was able to use his help during the conference.

Who knows, it may be that the Lord arranged the entire situation, including the circumstances that led to me cancelling my trip, just so Dean could meet and utilize this brother's gifts. Even though I didn't go, the generous donations many of you made for this conference were used to help make it cost-free for 50 Kenyan pastors who learned how to explain the Gospel more clearly, and how to train those in their churches to do the same. In the meantime, we are now talking about which of the other overseas trips I can participate in and how I can be used most effectively.

**CHRISTMAS** - Recently I've been studying the book of Hebrews and, though it's not usually associated with Christmas, let me take a stab at it. This is a Jewish letter, written to Jewish believers ("Hebrews"), pointing out some things about their Jewish Messiah, Jesus. Longing for the Messiah had been the burden on Jewish hearts for thousands of years, and continues to be for many Jews today who believe their Scriptures.

The basic message of Hebrews is that Jesus came to Earth and did what no one else could do – no man, no priest, no angel; that He personally became the one and only sacrifice for all sins. Through that, He secured eternal salvation for anyone who puts their complete trust in Him as their only rescue from the eternal penalty of their sins.

When I was young, my family went over to my Aunt Joyce & Uncle Ralph's house every year on Christmas morning. Then my cousins, my brothers, and I waited for Uncle Ralph to come downstairs from his bedroom where he was wrapping the

gifts he had purchased at the last minute. When he would finally descend with his arms full of freshly wrapped presents, someone would shout, “Here he is!”

In the Christmas story the angel, Gabriel, informed Mary that she would have a baby who would be *“the Son of God”* (Luke 1:26-35). Later, an angel told Joseph that Mary was pregnant, though still a virgin, and their child would be *“Immanuel – ‘God with us!’”* (Matt. 1:20-23). An angel also announced to the shepherds, *“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ (Greek for “Messiah”) the Lord!”* (Luke 2:8-14). In other words, **“Here He is!** The One we’ve been waiting for – the one and only Priest Who could truly offer the ultimate sacrifice for our sins! He’s not like the Jewish priests in the temple who *“stand daily ministering, and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices which can never take away sins; but this man (Jesus), after He had offered one sacrifice forever, sat down on the right hand of God . . . for by one offering He has perfected forever those that are [saved],”* (Hebrews 10:11-14).

Aren’t you glad He’s here? Don’t we have the best Christmas gift ever? Share it with someone else, and . . .

**Have a Merry Christmas!**

*In His Service Together,*

*Bruce*



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

Bruce McIntosh  
c/o CrossWay International  
14 Fabra Oaks Road  
Boerne, TX 78006  
Cell: 717-773-7165  
[www.gocrossway.org](http://www.gocrossway.org)  
Email: [bd.mcintosh@comcast.net](mailto:bd.mcintosh@comcast.net)