

when Jesus comes

▶▶▶ Dear Friend

Jesus came among them and said, “Peace be with you!” (John 20:19)

In this story Jesus came to His fearful disciples, who were hiding behind closed doors, and said to them, “Peace be with you. As my father sent me, so I send you.” And He breathed on them to receive the Holy Spirit.

What a wonderful encounter! One that made a group of ordinary people into history makers — a defining moment for them and the world. And the vital element in it was Jesus coming among them.

The statement and story of Christmas is “2,000 years ago, Jesus came to earth to transform the world we live in.” All through the Bible, whenever Jesus came to people and places, a transformation took place. While He was in Peter’s home his mother-in-law was set free from fever. As He walked by the roadside blind people received sight. Even when the woman who was subject to bleeding for 18 years touched Him, her vitality was restored. When He ate with people such as Zacchaeus, the whole house was saved! When He attended a party with the rich Pharisees, a sinner’s life was transformed.

The good news of Christmas is about Jesus. When He comes there is always potential for transformation — should we choose to respond. The Bible says, “Jesus in us, the hope of Glory”; therefore we have a chance not just to receive Jesus but also to take Him to places, nations, and circumstances where He will make a lasting difference.

This year, we at The King’s Lodge YWAM centre went to over 35 different nations, where we saw Jesus touch thousands of lives. One of those trips saw a team go to the Philippines. This was a team of ordinary people — students from the School of Biblical Studies (SBS), Introduction to Primary Health Care School (IPHC), and Discipleship Training School (DTS); friends from our local churches; and YWAM staff. We treated many wounds, fed many people, visited prisoners, shared the gospel, and distributed Bibles. All of these are good things, but the best outcome was to see Jesus touching lives — both Jesus working through us to touch others with hope, and Jesus continuing His work of hope in our own lives through our Filipino believers.

While in the Philippines, I was taken very ill and ended up in hospital for nine days. During this time, I experienced God as my rock, refuge, tower of strength, Saviour and rescuer. As I was discharged from the hospital, three of the nurses

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came to wish me well. As I talked about Jesus, one of them started to cry. When I asked her, “Why are you crying?” she answered, “I don’t know.” I said, “Can I suggest that Jesus is here and wants to give you life.”

At this point the other two nurses began to cry too, and I was able to lead all three of them to Jesus, again witnessing the joy of people encountering Him.

This Christmas, I hope that Jesus will come in you and through you more and more to make a difference in your life and in the lives of those around you. The world we live in is experiencing one disaster after another; all around us there are so many people in so much pain. Jesus longs to come to this hurting world to preach good news, bind the broken-hearted, and provide for those who mourn, declaring freedom over the prisoners — and He often chooses to do these things through us.

May we be excited afresh with how much Jesus wants to do in us and through us in this next season.

With all best wishes for Christmas,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maged". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke under the 'd'.

Maged Kalta
YWAM England Executive Leadership

“I said, ‘Can I suggest that Jesus is here and wants to give you life.’”

If you would like to receive the devotional letter by e-mail, and have not told us yet, please contact us on ywamnews@oval.com, giving your full name and address.