

December, 2014

Dear Friend,

Just imagine what it would have been like to be one of those privileged shepherds on that very special night, just outside of Bethlehem. "Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord'" (Luke 2:8-11, NKJV).

The "glory of the LORD" had departed from the temple over 500 years previous to this night, and now these simple shepherds were chosen to behold that glory once again. Hard to imagine, but the best was yet to come. Soon they were in the presence of the Lord of glory, "the Babe lying in a manger." They beheld His glory, "the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14b).

What overwhelming joy and wonder they must have felt. When they left His presence "...they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child" (Luke 2:17).

All of us on staff in CEF[®] of Maine, want to thank you for being a part of this ministry, helping us bring "good tidings of great joy" to the children of Maine and far beyond.

Together with you, we will continue to bring the message that "there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

I do hope that this Christmas season will be one of joy for you and your loved ones. As you come together to worship, gather for family meals, and for the giving and receiving of gifts, I trust you will remember that Christmas is really about the greatest of all gifts: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...."

I know you will rejoice in that thousands of children here in Maine have come to know that wonderful Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And I trust you will remember that there are thousands more who have yet to hear.

One of our CEF Christmas traditions is to bring gifts of toys, clothing and food to a couple of needy families. There is great joy in giving to that effort; there is great joy in shopping for those items, in wrapping the presents, and finally in bringing them to those families in the name of our Savior. When we do so this year, we will remember all of you who partake in this ministry with us.

As we share "good tidings of great joy" in all of our CEF ministries, we will do so with joy in our hearts, and we will do so knowing that you also are partakers of that joy.

God bless you and give you a very "Merry Christmas."

On behalf of our CEF staff,



John



Child Evangelism Fellowship[®] of Maine, Inc.

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