

Advent, 2012

Very soon we will joyfully remember and celebrate the Birth of our Savior. Never mind it is not His real birthdate and all around us the World and the Enemy bombard the celebration with sugar coated lies and distractions. We, who are called by His Name, know the Truth. We have met the Christmas Baby in the Waters of Baptism, at the Cross, and near the Empty Tomb. He Reigns in our Hearts and one day we will Reign with Him in Eternity. Nothing the Enemy and the World can throw at Him and His Children can shake us. He has come and He *will* come again. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

All of us at L IMM send our heartfelt thanks and prayers for each of you and for your faithfulness to the Gospel. You have made it possible, through L IMM assisted projects, to spread God's mercy and share the Good News with those in China, Cambodia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Palestine, the Philippines, Chile and other countries, as well as here in the United States. Because so much of what L IMM supports involves community health teaching and training, the impact continues to multiply and build bridges to reach the lost.

In a recent letter, Rev. Cristian Rautenberg, President of the Lutheran Confessional Church of Chile (IELCHI) writes: *"The Church continues her work in the South (earthquake damaged region). In July, we had the first confirmations and several more are already in the process of doctrinal training.The Liska's (Carlos and Lorena, with daughters Melina and Malena, who received CHE training last winter) are anxious and have already initiated the process of residence in Chile. We have found a high school for the girls and we are already looking forward to their arrival during the first days of January, 2013. It is my hope that we all can grasp the value of this couple's coming to Chile. It is the first time in the history of the Lutheran churches in Latin America that a lay couple is called to do diaconal service from one Southern country to another. We thank God because L IMM and IELCHI are working together on this."*

Raeda Mansour writes from "Besieged Bethlehem":

As you know, I am the only Parish Nurse not only in Palestine but also in the Middle East... and the opportunity to gain experience and exchange information (L IMM provided her transportation to meetings in Finland in October) allowed me to make many connectionswhich enabled me to gain information and learn new ideas.... In the seminar I was able to do a presentation about our parish journey in Bethlehem...It was a wonderful fruitful trip...so encouraging to be with my sisters....

Mercy pours forth, the Holy Spirit touches hearts, lives are changed and the Kingdom of God grows. How many souls, who now bear the Mark of Christ upon their brow, are sharing the Gospel with others because you were willing to share your love, prayers, service and tithes for L IMM to continue assisting with medical ministries throughout the nations? You will meet each and every one of them in Heaven. What a day of rejoicing that will be!

May our Lord richly bless you with great and joyful anticipation.

He is coming!

Rita Nickel

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