

2018 ADVENT DEVOTIONS



SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST
IN THE NORTH



Glory
TO THE
NEWBORN
King

Introduction

Dear friends of LAMP and brothers & sisters in Christ,

LAMP is pleased to gift you with this Advent devotion book as our thanks to God for His bountiful blessings and to you for supporting our cross-cultural ministry sharing Jesus Christ with God's people in remote areas of Canada.

Our Advent devotionals are written by our staff and volunteer missionaries regarding their experiences while serving in the North. I trust your hearts will be encouraged by the love of Christ that is conveyed through them. I am always amazed at how and what God accomplishes through His servants.



Although we go to plant the seeds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we know that ultimately it is only God who can work in people's hearts. And He does! The Holy Spirit works in their hearts, knitting them together in harmony like a beautiful tapestry of transformed lives.

As we prepare for Christmas and reflect on the gift of Jesus, may we be reminded that we all need Jesus *daily* in our lives. Because of His ultimate sacrifice for us, we can look forward to His second coming and life eternal.

God's blessings,
Catherine Williams
Executive Assistant, LAMP

*Merry Christmas to everyone
from all of us at LAMP!*

“So, faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”

Romans 10:17-18 ESV

As we prepare to travel north each summer to share the Good News of Jesus, we ask God to use us to plant seeds in the hearts of our friends of Shamattawa, young and old alike. We ask God for listening ears among our friends to receive this important gospel message.

When the angel Gabriel came to inform Mary of the upcoming birth of the Saviour, she must have questioned this event and how it would come to be. Did she hear correctly? Luke 1:38 says Mary overcame her initial fear because she said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your words.”

As we share the salvation message in the northern communities, we pray that they hear His Word, believe His Word, and keep it in their hearts. The Bible stories and music we share are only tools that God gives us to declare His Word. This is an amazing privilege, and yet a challenge that God has put into our lives.

Lord, as we enter Advent season in anticipation of Jesus’ birth, we pray for all those who have not heard Your message of salvation for the world. Where

the seeds have been planted, let Your Holy Spirit foster those seeds into a thriving, believing faith in You. Amen.



Leon Dawkins
Volunteer
Missionary,
Shamattawa, MB
LAMP US Board

“But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.” and to Mary, “You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.”

Luke 1:13, 31 NIV

God was the inventor of names as he called the first man, “Adam” and the first woman “Eve.” Biblical names often have a meaning that reflects an event surrounding the child’s birth. In Luke 1, God selects the name of the child yet to be conceived telling Zachariah his child will be named, “John” and that Mary’s son would be named, “Jesus,” which indicates that God does see our names as important.

In the North, both children and adults love it when we call them by their name. With about 100 children at Vacation Bible School, it is a challenge given the changes in the children’s appearance from year to year. Making it extra challenging, it has become a great game for the children to collect other’s sticker name tags. So one child ends up with eight name tags on them or they will trade names. So I must admit I am not very good with names, but I keep trying.

God knows your name! That is the message I want to pass on to the children in Lac Brochet. Even when I fail to know it, God never does. He knows and loves them, and He calls them by name.

Father, thank You for knowing my name and for sending the One You named Jesus, Son of the Most High, to come and seek and save the lost. Amen.

Dana Naumann
Volunteer Missionary
Lac Brochet, MB
LAMP US Board



I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

Psalm 122:1 NIV

Going to God’s house can be a chore or delight—for the writer of this psalm, it was a delight.

This verse came to mind this past summer at Vacation Bible School in beautiful Kitamaat Village, B.C. One of the little girls became very worried when everyone started a game with balloons. She grabbed my hand and said she was scared. I asked her if she would like to go upstairs in the church until that game was over—she absolutely did!

I asked her if she had ever been in the church—she shook her head and then stared in amazement at the beautiful stained glass windows that portray their cultural symbols and the beauty of God’s creation. She twirled around and around and in complete wonderment said, “This is so awesome!” She ran to see the crèche at the front of the church and in a whisper of reverence—“This is so awesome—Baby Jesus is so cute!”

Are we, am I, in awe when we enter God’s house? We are so fortunate to be able to worship freely and often! Let’s rejoice and worship in reverence and thanksgiving this wonderful Advent season and reflect on the immense sacrifice God made for us by sending Jesus into the world to redeem mankind!

Dear Heavenly Father, I give thanks You sent Your Son into the world for our redemption. Thank You for Your love, Your forgiveness, and for Your guidance in our lives. Thank You for Advent when we remember the Gift You gave us. Amen.

Kathleen Galbraith-Richardson
Volunteer Missionary
Kitamaat Village, B.C.



I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow.

1 Cor. 3:6-7 NIV

We are only with the children for a short time each summer. It is easy to wonder if the message gets across to them, and what influence we can have with this short time. This past summer, God reminded me it's not up to us but Him. We are only called to plant and water seeds. God will bring the growth.

We got a surprise visit toward the end of the week from a young adult. He attended VBS as a child. He told me he had been sick, and it took the doctors awhile to figure out what was wrong. One night when the pain was bad, he said he sent his dad to get a doctor. He was scared, and while his dad was gone he cried out to God. He said he felt some relief from the pain and a calm had come over him. Then he looked at me and said, "I may be suffering now, but Jesus suffered for all of us." Indeed, seeds of faith had grown in this young man's heart.

Yes! Jesus suffered for all of us. He came to pay a price we could not pay. He died to pay the penalty for all our sin. And the third day rose to conquer death. During this Advent season and always may we live in the grace of our Saviour Jesus.



Dear God,
help to us to remember we are called only to plant and water. May we have peace in that and trust You for the growth.

Shane Anderson
Volunteer
Missionary
Garden Hill, MB

“Be still and know that I am God.”

Psalm 46:10 NIV

As Christmas approaches, we remember Elizabeth, who was with child in her old age. Her husband laughed at God when He told him they were going to have a child.

I can relate, somewhat, after our daughter and her husband waited 10 years for the gift of another child. We had all decided a second child wasn't in God's plan for them. Much to our surprise, God's plan was fulfilled, and He gave her a beautiful baby girl. Just when we think we have things figured out, God shows us His way. Our God is an awesome God.

I am sure many Old Testament people gave up on the Messiah coming. But, after wondering how this could be, Mary, a virgin, became a faithful servant of God's plan for her and gave birth to our Saviour.

My prayer is that our northern friends believe the Bible stories we share with them and that Christ will be real in their lives, not just during the VBS week or

at Christmas but their whole lives. May they reflect on God's love. All glory and praise to God for His wondrous works.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for having a plan in each of our lives. Help us to be open to what You have in store for us and fulfill Your purpose. Amen.

Pam Heiden
Volunteer Missionary,
South Indian Lake, MB
LAMP US Board



“This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:9-11 NIV

God is love. I was taught that in Sunday School. Later I learned God loved me before I was a twinkle in my father’s eye. Then I learned God had a plan for me and my life. Surprise!

God loves us so much that He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to make us “at one” with God. Jesus, the perfect one, took all our sins to the cross. Jesus suffered and died so all of us can live eternally in heaven. What a sacrifice! What love!

Because of God’s love for me, I travel to Big Trout Lake to share God’s love. This past year, our team found many hurting people hungering for something. Former students, now adults, came to our house seeking prayers, hugs, and love. The stair landing became our prayer spot. Thursday evening’s program was attended by more adults than children. Even though we offered no refreshments, many stayed to put their name on a heart and attach it to the cross on the wall, recognizing God’s love for us through Jesus. We prayed with them, sometimes with a translator!

Heavenly Father, Your love for us is so awesome. Help us to share Your love with others, as You have commanded. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Linda Stoetzer
Volunteer Missionary
Big Trout Lake, ON



And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you *good news of great joy* that will be for all the people.... And *suddenly* there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host *praising God* and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!

Luke 2:10, 13-14 ESV
(emphasis added)

singers started singing, prompted by pure joy. They knew every word to every song. I was truly amazed they remembered the tune as well as the lyrics and message of each song!

I am reminded each year with LAMP what a joyous place Heaven will be;



all nations and peoples praising God, giving Him all the Glory. The children, during this walk, suddenly sang with the purest of joy just as the angels did that Christmas night.

The joy we receive knowing Jesus has come with Good News for all is infectious. And it is a Great Joy. May we never lose our joy for Jesus.

Father in Heaven, thank You for giving us the joy of music. Continue to shine in our hearts as we share the Great Joy that is knowing You. Amen.

Hannah Kehe
Volunteer Missionary
Brochet, MB

“I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness.”

John 12:46 ESV

cell phone service...just darkness. Freezing temperatures add to the uncertainty as we inch our way down Highway 165 in search of the turnoff that will take us into Hall Lake. When we finally arrive we are met by more darkness until... there on the hill leading down to the lake we see it. Can it be? Yes, someone has turned on the light in the church, and the stained glass cross is shining brightly into the night, welcoming us back to our second home.

Matthew 5:12 says God calls us to be lights into the world. Do you know someone who is living in darkness? How can you reach out to them today, make a difference in their world?

What would happen if each of us would shine in our home, our church, and our communities this Christmas season? The more candles, the brighter the light.

Dear Lord, let me be that light on a hilltop, shining brightly for those who still remain in darkness that they may come to know You and believe. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Judi Luckhardt

**Volunteer Missionary, Hall Lake, SK
LAMP Canada Board**



“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 NIV

Before He ascended into heaven, Jesus told His disciples that they, empowered by the Holy Spirit, would be witnesses to His life, death and resurrection. These same disciples then witnessed Jesus ascend into heaven with the promise He would return.

It must have been unimaginable for those disciples to believe Jesus would use them to take the gospel message to the very ends of the earth. Yet two millennia later, we can see how the Holy Spirit has worked through those disciples, the Scriptures, the church and you to bear witness to the Saviour Jesus.

In flying over the vast wilderness of northern Canada, I often see only lakes and trees with hundreds of miles between small villages. Few people will ever travel here to what seems like the end of the earth. However, Jesus is fulfilling what He told His disciples by using you and me to be His witnesses.

On the ground in those villages, I see children excited to hear of the Good News of Jesus. I see women who have never owned a Bible being taught the

Scriptures. I see youth who have lost hope finding peace through faith in Jesus.

You, like Jesus’ disciples, are witnesses. As you pray and share your faith, there is a ripple effect from you. As you celebrate the birth of Jesus your Saviour and the hope in His return, be encouraged that Jesus can and is using you to be His witness reaching to the ends of the earth.

Dear Jesus, I pray that no matter my circumstances in life, You would use me to be a witness to You, the Saviour of the world.

**Ron Ludke
Executive Director**



“Lord, our Lord, how majestic
is Your name in all the earth.
You have set Your glory in the
heavens.”

Psalm 8:1 NIV

and run out the door. Once we’ve reached the darkest spot in town, we look up at the stars, the moon, and the dancing coloured lights.

This past year was particularly difficult for Wapekeka as several young people passed away. Our hearts and theirs were heavy. But as we all gazed up into the night sky, we became overwhelmed with peace that can only come from God. We began to sing: “You were the Word at the beginning, One with God the Lord Most High. Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in You, our Christ... What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus Christ my King...”©

The beautiful name of Jesus sustained us and the children of Wapekeka that night, that week and beyond. Jesus—what a powerful name it is! Nothing can stand against!

Father, thank You for the peace and hope we have because of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus. Yours is the Name above all Names. Amen.

Jeanne Johnson
Volunteer, Wapekeka & Big
Trout Lake, ON

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Evenings are an active time for our team. That’s when the older kids hang out with us. One of the things we enjoy doing together is viewing the Aurora Borealis.

When we hear the words, “The lights are out!” we gather up our jackets and flashlights



“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

Hebrews 6:19 NIV

I asked God to give me wisdom in the words I would need to speak.

We talked about suicide and how she had been struggling with suicidal thoughts. I asked questions, listened and prayed with her. I prayed that she would find hope in God and to remember that she is cherished. Taking this time to speak with her did give her hope and reminded her she is not alone.

In this time of Advent, I want to remind everyone to have hope in God. We all go through difficult times in our lives, but we are never alone. I was able to be there for this precious girl in her time of need. I know I am broken and in need of people to speak into my life as well.

This summer was my fifth year serving in Wollaston. Mid-week I noticed a girl sitting by herself crying, and I asked if she would like to talk. We found somewhere quiet. Then we opened with prayer, and I

One day, we will be able to be accepted into heaven because God loves us all dearly. Because of Jesus, we have secure hope that gives us life after death.

Dear Heavenly Father, please help everyone have hope; hope that will stay firm in You and to remember that You sent Jesus to be born, die on the cross and be resurrected for each one of us. In Your name we pray, Amen.

**Madysan Theroux
Volunteer Missionary
Wollaston, SK**



Is God calling you?

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GOD calls each one of us to share His love with others. Call today to be the someone who makes a difference in these children's lives!

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“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.”

Psalm 19:14 ESV

an “earthquake” and all those tagged were freed. They would come around the jailor and say, “God or Jesus loves you!”

One child earlier in the week had been using “colourful” language after VBS. However, during the VBS tag game, he was boisterous, yelling “GOD LOVES YOU!” to each jailor. I was grateful to God for the way the game was used to bring words into the kids’ mouths to help replace the “colourful” words.

During this season of Advent, may your words be used to proclaim to those around you that “God loves you.” God sent His Son Jesus into the world to save us! What amazing love, as shouted from the kids in Cat Lake—GOD LOVES YOU!!

Dear God, use me today to proclaim Your truth and love to those around me. May my words and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer! Amen.

Lynne Rustad

Volunteer Missionary, Cat Lake, ON



“All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

Galatians 3:27 NIV

My first LAMP trip came with some uncertainty about what to wear. I’d wear our team’s T-shirt, but what about protection from the elements and the bugs? The cowboy hat I brought was a big hit with the kids and many took turns wearing it. Eventually I learned the young men’s dress code: hoodie sweatshirt, ball cap, and sunglasses resting on the brim. At first I thought this was just to look cool, but these items proved quite helpful in a swarm of mosquitos. What one wears can make a big difference!

This is true also of our *spiritual* clothing. By nature, we’re all wearing the “filthy clothes” of our sinfulness (Zechariah 3:3-4), and we can’t just layer over

it our own good works for in the same way “*all our righteousness acts are like filthy rags*” (Isaiah 64:6). But, by God’s grace, we can declare “*He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of His righteousness*” (Isaiah 61:10).

We can say this because God clothed Himself with human flesh in the incarnation of His Son, Jesus Christ. As Martin Luther put it in a hymn: “*We praise You, Jesus, at Your birth; clothed in flesh You came to earth. . . the gift from God’s eternal throne here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.*”

God, thank You for clothing Your Son like me, so that I might be clothed with Him.

Rev. Paul Naumann
Volunteer Missionary
Lac Brochet, MB



“...and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.”

Isaiah 61:3 NIV

Jesus, to earth as our Saviour. Through His life, death and resurrection, we are given the free gift of salvation—freedom to rise from the ashes and begin building a new life of hope in Jesus. What a wonderful gift to be thankful for as we go forth in Jesus’ name!

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the precious gift of Jesus, Your only Son, sent to earth as a baby to be our Saviour from the ashes of our sin. In Christ’s love, let us rise with vigor to honour Him by serving others! In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Lori Dawkins
Volunteer Missionary
Shamattawa, Manitoba

Sadly, our northern community has suffered the recent loss of many buildings due to fire. We were disheartened to see the destruction during our winter visit. However, upon our return in July, we were happy to see new construction taking place, bringing with it the anticipation of modern buildings rising from the ashes. So it is in our lives—choices made that end in disastrous consequences, leaving us burned and battered, without hope. But God, seeing us wallowing in the putrid ashes of our sin sends His perfect Son,



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”

John 14:1 (NIV)

One of the messages in LAMP’s training is to *walk beside someone who is experiencing suicidal thoughts and to just listen*. While in the community, we stayed in the rectory. Our team was in need of a peaceful sleep, but God had other plans.

It began with a severe rainstorm and dogs barking loudly outside our window. I prayed all would be well and tried to fall asleep. A while later, I heard Father Rheal come into the house and felt moved to get up to see what had happened. He explained that a young man had been hurt in a fight that broke out after an evening of drinking.

Miraculously, the young man had no serious injuries! Although he had suicidal thoughts that night, he knew where to go for his troubled heart to begin to heal. Fr. Rheal welcomed him with open arms. In God’s house, we all can receive His PEACE to heal our troubled hearts.

Dear Jesus, we are so much in need of the PEACE that comes from faith in You. Please comfort our hearts and those who are struggling in their lives with challenging situations or troubled thoughts. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Janine Cain

Volunteer Missionary
Little Grand Rapids, MB



“But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”

Isaiah 53:5 NIV

It’s bound to happen during VBS. One of the children, most likely while playing, will get hurt. The visible wound and tears compel us to tend to the child and comfort him or her the best we can.

But there are other wounds that are hidden—the heartache from a granddaughter who committed suicide or anxiety from a debilitating disease that suddenly struck a person. These are just some of the wounds volunteer missionaries and I tend to in northern communities, especially the wounds sin leaves behind...despair over broken relationships, fear from being bullied, hopelessness due to a friend committing suicide.

Yet that is exactly the reason Jesus became one of us. Hebrews 4:15-16 says, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Jesus was born so that He would die for our sins, forgive us, and promise complete healing of our wounded souls. He knows what each of us goes through in our earthly life. He also promised us an eternal home in heaven. So as you celebrate Christmas, celebrate and rejoice in the complete healing of your sins that comes through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Almighty God and Father, help me trust in Your promises that by sending Your Son, Jesus, the wounds of my sins are forgiven and completely healed. Amen.

**Rev. Dennis
Ouellette
Pastor-Pilot, LAMP**



“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:11 ESV

Many, especially children, are counting the days until Christmas! What surprises are in store for them? Will they get the gifts they are longing for?

In the same way, there is an air of expectation in each of our communities as the children count the days until their team arrives. As they line up, you can hear the excitement as

they anticipate seeing their friends again. Through the week they have great fun and enjoy the presence of the team. But then Friday comes, and everyone is sad because the mission team will soon be gone. There are many tears and inevitably the question is asked, “When are you coming back?”

This sequence of events mirrors exactly what we celebrate each Advent. As Christians, we look forward to the annual celebration of the Incarnation. The very fact that God stepped into human history to save His people. Christ’s disciples gathered around Him seeking to learn and understand. Then came the time when Jesus completed His earthly ministry and returned to His Father. The disciples were also sad and confused and asked, “When are you coming back?”

The season of Advent helps us reflect not only on the initial coming of Christ, but also His long-awaited return to claim His people and fully establish His Kingdom.

Lord, we pray that this Advent season be very significant to us as we excitedly celebrate Your first coming and reflect on Your triumphant return. May the words of the great Advent hymn, “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,” ring true in our hearts.

Gordon Gilbey
Missionary Staff, LAMP



“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

Wow, I’m not sure about this. Five years is a big commitment! This was a common sentiment when our church considered partnering with LAMP to serve the community of Cross Lake, Manitoba. It was a big commitment, and one we prayed about and discussed at length. Our high school youth would go to serve the first year, but what would happen in subsequent years? Would we have enough volunteers? What

about the cost? It’s 1,100 miles each way from Billings, Montana!

That was 10 years ago. Today, a team from our church goes to Cross Lake twice a year (summer and winter). Our first VBS, which had eight kids show up, now has 300 children attend. Over the years, God has expanded our ministry in Cross Lake in amazing ways—Bible distributions, women’s tea and devotions, and teen, radio, medical, and men’s fishing ministries.

Was this our hope 10 years ago when we partnered with LAMP? No, our goal was to finish our five-year commitment to bring Jesus to this community in some way. We could never have dreamed this big!!

Dear Lord, thank You for doing so much more than we can ask or imagine. Most of all, we thank You that You sent Your Son to be born in a manger, die on a cross, and victoriously rise over sin and death so we can have life! Give us faith to know that with You all things are possible. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Jonathan Boll
Volunteer Missionary
Cross Lake, MB

“I, the Lord all powerful, will send My messenger to prepare the way for Me.”

Malachi 3:1 CEV

Malachi means my messenger. As we celebrate the season of Advent, we are reminded we are all God's messengers. We are preparing the way.

Though the nights are long and the days are short, we look to Jesus. Psalm 27:1 says “The Lord is my light and my salvation.” In the northern communities where LAMP mission teams serve Jesus by teaching VBS, the nights are even longer and the days even shorter.

There is a spiritual darkness. We depend on our Saviour as we bring His light into the communities we serve in. As we work for Jesus, Satan can and will do everything to discourage us. But, we can rise above the darkness by remembering the message Athanasius wrote long ago: “The Son of God became the son of man to enable us to become a Son of God.”

Telling and living that message is the greatest job in the world. We are the hands and feet of Jesus. He gives us the power we need to be His messengers. Jesus is walking with all of us this Advent season. He empowers us to focus on His message. What a privilege to be His messenger!

Thank You, Jesus, for encouraging us to be Your messengers. Guide and direct us as we tell others the Good News of Jesus who loves us and died for us. Amen.



**Marilyn Witte
Volunteer
Missionary
Grandmother's
Bay, SK**

“While we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.”

Titus 2:13 NIV

I celebrated my tenth year going to Wollaston last summer with all four of my children on our team. It was such a joy to share this experience with them. My children share my deep love for my family in the North.

The children in Wollaston spend the whole year waiting for us to return. From the very beginning, I have had children begging us to come again soon. But, they have had to wait until summer for our team to come back each year.

Advent is a time for waiting and preparing for the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In Advent, we celebrate love and hope. Our mission in Wollaston is to love others as Christ first loved us. This is not easy and truthfully, we need Jesus to make it happen. Our northern brothers and sisters are in such need of Hope. Suicide impacts our northern family so intensely. Our time with

them in the community is spent sharing that great Hope in Jesus. We give them Jesus by words and actions.

My life has been forever changed as I continue to share the blessed hope of Jesus with my northern family.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You so much for the gift of Jesus. Help me to slow down and cherish all that You have done for me. Help me to be patient in my waiting. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Roxanne Theroux
Volunteer Missionary
Wollaston, SK



“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Romans 3:23-24 NIV

We are all sinners and needed Jesus to save us. He came for each and every one of us, no matter our nationality or ethnic background, no matter how close or how far away from him we may seem. That is also why we continue to go back year after year to the communities in the North.

We have many lives yet to touch, many ears yet to hear the story of Jesus—a story we all love to hear over and over again, reminding us of a Father who loved us so much, who sent His one and only Son to take on the pain, suffering and death we deserved. All glory to God during this Advent season and the rest of the year from all of us, the reasons for the season.

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your son Jesus for each of us, the reasons for the season, to provide us with forgiveness of our sins and eternal life with You in heaven. In the name of Your precious Son we pray. Amen

David Schneeberger
Volunteer Missionary
Shamattawa, MB

We often hear “Jesus is the Reason for the Season.” While the Advent season is certainly about the miraculous and glorious birth of Jesus—one fact remains that “we” are also reasons for the season.

Jesus didn’t need to come to earth in the form of a man for Himself. He came because we are all sinners and needed Jesus to save us. He came for each and every one of us, no matter our nationality or ethnic background, no matter how close or how far away from him we may seem. That is also why we continue to go back year after year to the communities in the North.



“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths, and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Luke 2: 6-7 NIV

Having served in the same First Nations community for eight years, it still concerns me when I arrive and am reminded of the lack of basic necessities in the community that we may take for granted—good roads, access to health care and adequate housing. When the kids share their stories, the fact that we are all broken people living in a broken world is reiterated.

During our evening tea with the women, these sweet First Nations ladies share with us their genuine need for a Saviour in Jesus as they reveal their brokenness.

How honest am I in my prideful cocoon of order and function in my life of my need for Jesus? Yet, it is for all of these reasons and our utter helplessness, that God gave us the infant Jesus. Jesus was born in a lowly manger in a broken world.

As we prepare for God’s gift on Christmas Eve, let us reflect on how much we need Jesus. No one is too broken to fall short of God’s amazing grace. And so, we teach the children every summer that God really does love us all in spite of our brokenness. Through Jesus’ death on the cross, we are truly forgiven.

Heavenly Father, open the eyes of my heart to see how You are working in my life and to be grateful every day for Your incomparable gift of Jesus. Help us to share this good news in this broken world. Amen

Anke Berner, Volunteer Missionary
Grandmother’s Bay, SK



“For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Saviour,
who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11 ESV

I was traveling the road late at night. There were icy spots and snow on the highway. I had just left a community I call my second home, Gitanyow in British Columbia. My thoughts turned to Mary.

What was Mary’s journey like? There was no snow to deal with, maybe heat. Were the roads dusty? Being in a car where it was warm and filled with air bags I felt pretty safe. What risk did Mary take when she traveled pregnant with Jesus to Bethlehem? The Bible really doesn’t say much about Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem. The Bible doesn’t even mention a donkey for Mary to ride on.

Does the journey matter as much as the destination or what happened at that destination? Jesus, our Saviour, was born to take away the sins of all who believe in Him. Although I enjoy driving through northern B.C., my time spent sharing the gospel message with the people in that area is far more valuable.

As we journey from Advent to Christmas, may our focus be on the gift given to us by God, sending His Son, Jesus, to take away the sins of the world.

Dear God, as we journey down the Advent road, help us remember the reason



Jesus was sent into this world -- to die for our sins. Please help us share that message of hope with others during the Christmas season. We love you, Jesus. Amen.

Nathan Schmidt
Missionary Staff
LAMP



Taking the light of Christ
to the ends of the earth



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