

## *A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices...*

Dear family and friends,

We write to you knowing that our experiences are so similar as we try to make sense of what is happening to our world, our countries, our cities, churches, families –and even what is happening in us.

We enter this Advent season with a subdued posture of waiting, and wondering what lies around the next bend, realizing once again that there is no refuge in this world outside the arms of God and His grace and love extended to us over and over again

We are not sure where this Christmas note finds you but we pray into your days that you would know that there is a hope within and beyond your current circumstances. We celebrate “God with us” in Emmanuel. We celebrate that He has come and that He is present in our lives, both in the joys as well as the struggles.

Quick update:

Carl is busy with school renovation projects in Bangkok during the International Community School 3 week Christmas break. Karen is staying connected with Thai colleagues while jumping into the medical upkeep needs of her mom, connecting with kids and grandkids via zoom (sigh...so close, and yet, so far) and taking deep breaths as she dips into the water of giving spiritual direction this semester.

This Christmas week, we are meeting daily with our grandkids to do crafts, play games and hear the Christmas story on zoom. How grateful we are for these means to connect with loved ones. We pray for you, our friends, that you are finding refuge in God and that His presence would be your peace,

Love, Carl and Karen

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**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS**

May the God of love and peace be with you!



We thank God for you!  
May you be filled with joy  
in His presence.

Carl and Karen 2020