



A GIFT OF LOVE

Two thousand years ago, a young carpenter and his wife left home traveling from Nazareth to their town of origin, Bethlehem. This young couple was proud to affirm they were the descendants of David from whom the Christ would come.

While in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to a son whom they named Jesus. That day, Joseph and Mary became parents and the humble but blessed life of this Holy Family began; and as we know, their journey would be interspersed with many challenges and tribulations.

Today, we too experience many challenges in our family life. We get caught up in all kinds of schedules and acquisitions, trying to provide for our children, grandchildren, and family members, all that we believe they need to become a well-rounded and productive individual, 'living a good life.' Yet, not one of these things is more important than love.

Knowing we are loved by God, united in sharing this love with one another is ultimately all that we need. Once we become gifts to each other, as Jesus is the Father's gift to us through Mary, we are able to distinguish the difference between what should be a trivial matter and what is really important. Then, we will live and share together in His Love having created a life filled with joy that will lead and sustain us through all of life's adversities.

A child was born. Christ, the Son of God, the Emmanuel, has taken flesh to be among us. This Christmas Season, may this sign of God's love to each one of us fill our hearts and minds so that we may be recognized as His witness of love in everything we do and by everyone we meet.

Albert Thévenot M. Afr.
Bishop of Prince Albert
December 25, 2011