

Merry Christmas
From
Yucatan Outreach Ministries



Dear YOM Friends and Partners,

"The one who is the **true light**, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even **they rejected him**. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become **children of God**." (John 1:9-12, NLT)

Our Christmas gift-giving traces back to the Magi who brought gifts to the baby Jesus. We have heard that these original Christmas gifts included gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They were extremely valuable. However, it is not the material gifts brought by the Magi that cause us to catch our breath, but the gift that is Jesus Himself.

Jesus is described as the true light. He is the once-in-eternity gift. He provides and is for us the key to a never-ending relationship with God.

Humanity, which desperately needed this gift, rejected it! Quite an insult to the Giver. And consider the loss to those who rejected him.

The Good News is that the gift is still available. John makes it plain that there is still time to accept God's gracious gift. He says that we need only believe in Jesus and His work to receive Him, and we will become part of His eternal family.

People have accepted and people have rejected this gift. We would be foolish to reject a gracious gift from a well-meaning friend. We would surely accept an offer for a ride or a meal from them if we were in need. And we would express gratitude with a thankful heart. How much more should we accept a gift that will satisfy the needs of our heart and soul from the one who loves us beyond our comprehension?

I love Christmas. You do too. Let us always remember that the greatest gift was lying in a manger two thousand plus years ago. The choice is still the same: accept Him or reject Him?

In as many ways as God will help us think, that's a part of the story of Jesus that we try to share every day. Many who read this are helping us at Yucatan Outreach Ministries to consistently do just that.

It has sure been quite a year for all of us, huh? Thankfully, we have the J-variant!" That would be Jesus. He is faithful. And he is the same in any language, and in any nation.

Since our last YOM update, several of our on the field missionaries have had COVID. Most had mild symptoms, and they wisely quarantined for at least two weeks. Pastor Scott and Annette Gahn, in Tulum, MX, had it and suffered the most. In fact, Scott was hospitalized for a week in Tulum. The doctor in the hospital in Tulum told Scott the first two days in the hospital, "you could die." COVID attacked his lung terribly. Considering that, Scott and Annette resigned as pastors, and moved back to South Carolina, for lengthy recuperation. We have spoken numerous times since. They are getting better each week. I would appreciate your praying for them. They are our dear friends.

We are searching for God's man to pastor Lighthouse Church, Tulum, MX. Please make that a matter of prayer as well. Angel Hernandez Fernandez is pastor of Casa de Dios, in Tulum. It is a Hispanic church. Fortunately for us, Angel speaks exceptionally good English. He is serving as Interim Pastor of Lighthouse Church, Tulum. He is a tireless man of God. Lift him in your prayers too. Larry and Linda Smith, Texans, have been down in Tulum for a month. They have been collaborating with Pastor Angel. But they're returning to Texas soon. Larry is a retired pastor and has been an exceptional asset.

We took a wonderful team of volunteer missionaries to the Mayan Village of Ek Balam, a few months back. We will be returning with another team in May. Construction on Zacil Naa (House of Light), will prayerfully be completed in 2022! Of course, God has been faithful. Alongside Him, missionaries Debi, Omar, and Pedro have been faithful. They faithfully minister and pray for the village, and for funding and people to complete the current building project. They did not escape COVID, but cases were mild. TYJ.

Ministry continues in the Mayan Village of Hondzonot, too. Lidia is a very diligent missionary the village. She and Jorge have five children, yet the kids are almost missionaries themselves!

We are going to celebrate Christmas with a trip to Allen, TX to be with our children and grandchildren, and in Gatesville, where we have granddaughter Martica and her husband, Rayven; and two wonderful great grands, Peyton, and Leo. The Candlelight worship on Christmas Eve will be no doubt a blessing. Our grandson Caleb, and one of our close friends are coming to dinner. On Christmas Day we will reflect on Jesus, family, friends, and consider our 2022 goals. We are excited.

Each other, family, supporting YOM missionaries, ministries, and construction projects are our primary commitments, along with the ministries of our local church, Coryell Community Church, in Gatesville, TX.

As the year ends and a new one begins, could it be that you could consider a year-end gift to the Kingdom through Yucatan Outreach Ministries. God has met every need in 2021. He is faithful and we are quite grateful. As the new year begins, we see new challenges and needs. A number of our friends and partners have been faithfully generous with their giving to meet the challenges of the past. We are sincerely thankful for you. As YOM commits to ministries and missions in Tulum, Ek Balam, and Hondzonot, MX, we see the cost of those commitments and we will depend on the Lord to soften hearts of fellow Christ followers to meet those commitments. Extra help will be appreciated in 2022. You may make a one-time gift in any amount as God would lead you. You may make monthly gifts as He leads you too. Please consider. Ways to donate appear below.

In closing, virtually all our donors are personal friends. It would be with great fondness that we would enjoy sitting and talking with you this Christmas (or any time). It is our prayer that as we join you from afar worshipping our Lord this Christmas, you experience a fresh peace and confidence in His salvation. We ask God in prayer to meet your needs as he decides, and that you experience the love of your family, near or far. We serve a great God.

We love you, and we would love to hear from you,



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