

Peace to our brothers and sisters of the KFI Ministry.



When we think of Christmas, we think of shopping, family, travel, craziness, chaos and stress? Of course, we do. It is part of the season. Should it be?

Many decades ago, what was Christmas for us? Christmas can be meaningful if we know that someone who loves you is contemplating something special, specifically with you in mind. When we were growing up in the Philippines, our parents did that for us and our siblings. And we got to do that for our own children and now our grandchildren. And we believe God is doing this for each of us every day.

During the late 1980's, our children went through the big Sears toy catalog and picked what looked awesome. After we purchased the gifts, we set them out under the tree. They would shake the wrapped gifts and tried to figure out what was in there for them. As hardworking immigrants, we worked with our budget, and therefore we could not give what they wished for, although they admitted that they got more than they really wanted.

As soon as Thanksgiving Day was over, lite FM Radio 106.7 had the classic carols playing until Christmas day. We loved listening to these carols on our drive to and from work every day. It brought back nostalgic memories.

As we are ending the year of 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic is still in our midst. We are thankful that things have improved with regards our COVID-19 battle, even though it is not over yet. Though the CDC guidelines of maintaining social distance are still in effect, we are in the process of planning to have time together with family and friends as safely as we possibly can. As we look around our neighborhood, people come out and adorn their homes with elaborate decorations. We feel that there is some sense of normalcy in these challenging times. The pandemic taught us a lot of things, especially making God first in our lives, followed by family, and then community.

As husband and wife, we have matured in our spiritual journey. As Jesus' followers, we know there is more to Christmas than just these earthly activities—a LOT MORE. Christmas is a beautiful and meaningful time of the year. We have to find ways to deal with some distractions or temptations to enter into the spirit of the Advent season.

Advent is the season of HOPE and great expectations.

We hear often that **JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON**. To us Christians, after all is said and done, it will still be about Jesus. We should find Jesus at the very core of Christmas. The Christ-child is the center of Christmas. In this secular world, let us pray for everyone to put Christ back in Christmas.



I, Marlene, attended a Catholic college for women run by Benedictine sisters. I had a nun professor in my study of Christianity. I remembered she shared that Advent calls to mind Christ's three comings: the first is in HISTORY, the second is NOW and the third is at the END OF TIME.

In **HISTORY**, we read in the many writings that God came to this Earth in a humble way in the form of a baby born with swaddling clothes in a manger in a little town of Bethlehem to fulfill the promise of Salvation. The **NOW** is every Christmas time when we celebrate His birth. We are called to REJOICE for His coming. We are to be prepared for something great in our lives is happening, and the way to that life is through Jesus. And thirdly, during our earthly life, every day we have to dedicate our words and deeds to Christ's teachings. Doing so we are working for our souls and at the of **END OF TIME**, we ask that we may share the ETERNAL JOY.



As your head servants of the KFI Ministry, we are calling on all members to make a difference. Our mission is to evangelize by bringing Jesus to those who do not know him. Let us be generous to our parishes and charitable organizations. Such wonderful acts of generosity are not only for this time of year. As a reminder, we, too, can share our talent, time and treasure. As so many people of faith, we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by giving to and caring for our fellow citizens especially those who may be lonely, those in the state of depression, those who are fighting addictions, those who have lost loved ones, the forgotten seniors, the homebound, the sick, the orphans, the unemployed, the homeless, the hungry, and those who are in need.

When we begin to see Jesus as God's gift to us, then all the other gifts God has for us will be given.

Together as members of the KFI Ministry, we pause to give thanks and to pray that the season of Advent will be a blessing for each of us, our families, our Catholic Church, the KFI Ministry and all God's children.

From our home to yours, we wish you a joyful and **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and Spirit- filled homes in the **NEW YEAR 2022**.

Bro Jun and Sis Marlene Osma
Christmas 2021

