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“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

—
Isaiah 9:6

Dear Friends,

This time of year is full of anticipation as we enter a season of Christmas celebrations. Many anticipate a time of rest, reuniting with loved ones and reflecting on the year gone by.

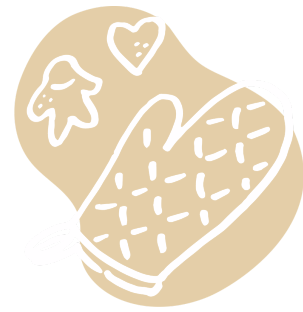
Yet 2000 years ago, the people of Israel were also living in anticipation, as they awaited the coming of the Messiah; God’s chosen King. They had been promised that this king would be the saviour of the world. Yet they did not anticipate how this king would come into the world – as a weak, vulnerable, helpless baby. Our King and our Saviour humbled himself, by taking on human flesh, to rescue those who had rebelled against him.

As you anticipate and experience this season of celebrations, I encourage you to take time to reflect and praise the One who gave his life, that we may inherit life eternal.

All around the world CMS missionaries are busy pursuing the many opportunities that this season brings to share this truth in partnership with local churches.

This year we will be hosting a Christmas party for our language teachers. Many of them are of the majority local faith and don't usually celebrate Christmas. We plan to share the Christmas story with them. We are also planning to bake, decorate and hand out Christmas cookies to our neighbours and some local friends.

– Chris and Erin, currently serving in South East Asia



Our suburb is a mix of Muslim and Christian. The local council has put up these funky metal Christmas tree light displays on every street, and there is no problem with this. Everyone celebrates their own "Eid" without trouble.

– S, currently serving in the Middle East

As you partner with our missionaries serving across the world this Christmas, please pray that the Spirit will be powerfully at work in those around them as they share about the birth of our humble Saviour and King. Pray that we too will take hold of every opportunity to speak of this good news that brings great joy, as together we seek to see a world that knows Jesus.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Christ,



John Lovell

Executive Director, CMS NSW & ACT



Monthly prayer points and other resources:

[Download January prayer points](#)

[View Checkpoint online](#)



Coming up:

6-12 January 2024 [CMS Summer School](#)

9 February 2024 [CMS Canberra Mission Focus](#)

9 March 2024 [CMS Central West Mission Expo](#)

See mission in action



[Watch this video](#) to meet new CMS Associate Gillian Akers, who plans to help those in France mature in their knowledge and love of Jesus by being a regular attending member of a local church and participating in everyday church life, as well as building relationships with people in her local area.

Get involved in mission



Talking with Catholics about Jesus

At CMS Summer School 2023, we heard from our International Speaker Leonardo De Chirico about the great need for Roman Catholics to hear about Jesus. Matthias Media has now released this digital course which explores Catholic thought and provides practical evangelism advice. It is suitable for individuals and small groups, and features input from CMS missionaries Simon Cowell and Chris Overhall.

Head to Matthias Media's [website](#) to access the course and find out more.



CMS Summer School

6-12 January 2024, Katoomba

CMS Summer School is just around the corner! Register now for an exciting week of being refreshed in the Word and enjoying fellowship with God's people. We look forward to hearing Ed Loane speak from Paul's letter to the Galatians alongside great missionary sessions, joining together in song, and more.

Don't miss out! Register today.

Register for Summer School now



Could you go?


Have you been considering whether you can use your gifts to bring the gospel to the nations? We'd love to help! Start a conversation by emailing Daniel Morris (dmorris@cms.org.au) who would love to speak with you.

You may also like to explore some of the current cross-cultural ministry opportunities around the world at cms.org.au/opportunity.

Stay in touch

CMS NSW & ACT is on social media! Find out about our upcoming events, hear missionary updates, and be inspired to regularly pray for global mission.

 CMS NSW & ACT

 @cms_nswact

 vimeo.com/cmsnswact

Pray with us

- **Praise God** for our Saviour and King, Jesus, who came into the world on that very first Christmas 2000 years ago.
- **Pray** that Christians around the world will be filled with all joy and hope as they gather to celebrate and give thanks this Christmas season.
- **Pray** that many who do not yet know God will hear the gospel preached faithfully this Christmas and put their trust in Christ.
- **Give thanks** for the ongoing partnership our CMS Fellowship has enjoyed this year, as together we work to see a world that knows Jesus.

Thanks for your ongoing partnership in the gospel!

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