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Merry Christmas

Celebrations have already been underway over here. I hope you all have a great time of remembering this special Birthday and rejoicing together in all it continues to mean for the whole of mankind.

A few women and I were able to go out to celebrate with the women of a small village group. As we shared together it was sad to see the ongoing struggles there. Few regular attendees and many that have walked away from the faith, locals that won't sell them milk because their 'gods' would be mad, and even just the daily challenges of life in a rural area of mostly subsistence living. The ladies were so encouraged by this small gesture, mentioning they had felt "forgotten". There is such a need for these tiny scatted groups to be encouraged and strengthened.

This week we've already had a couple parties and now will start the typical caroling and eating together that will lead up to a full-day Christmas celebration together.



We had a little extra help with our Christmas song singing

The middle tin building is the meeting place for this small village Body. Many challenges for them in this lonely rural area.



Certainly a bit different than a normal Christmas celebration, but sharing this time with a small group in the village was a blessing.

Unfortunately the remote village visit I shared about in the last letter didn't happen. I got sick with a respiratory bug that took me out for a couple weeks. I'm still fighting a bit of leftover cough and ongoing sinus congestion. We weren't able to reschedule this month because of planned programs related to Christmas. It's always encouraging to see the efforts many groups make to reach out during this season. As people listen to find out what this 'strange' holiday is all about, may their hearts be turned to seek more and find the true answers.

I can't say I'm excited that this also means time is almost here for my research renewal process. I'll need to head back into the city the first week of January to start the process. Last year was long and delayed, and then led into my being down sick for even longer. Let's hope both accounts are much easier this year. I do have the different issue now of my actual visa running out before the usual year renewal to finish my research project. Not really sure what that is going to mean or look like. Be praying for favor with those I deal with, that this would go smoothly and that potential problem issues will be worked out without any big struggles.