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Joel & Rebecca Jessen

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people to see. He is a light that will reveal salvation to the nations and bring glory to your people Israel.

Simeon, Luke 2:30–32

Dear friends and family,

What does sharing the gospel and our lives practically look like? Well, it starts with the gospel. That doesn't necessarily mean that the *first* words we always speak to someone explain the gospel, but it might. Speaking the gospel *is* what we do, and it remains of first importance. So, what that really means is, as we meet new people, what we desire most is to share with them the good news about Jesus Christ and see people respond by placing their faith in Him.

As believers, we have "good news of great joy," that people still need to hear! Let us remember Christ, the origin of this good news and great joy.

Luke 2:8–12, The Shepherds and the Angels

"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.""

As we celebrate advent, we remember that our faith is dependent on Christ. He is not only a historical person but also our Savior. He was prophesied about in the Old Testament, born among men, crucified on the cross, and raised from the dead. He is alive today, and we await His return. How can Jesus be good news of great joy? How is a baby lying in a manger a sign? Shepherds raise sheep, and the importance of sheep in the second temple period was found in their sacrifice on Pesach (Passover). John the Baptist makes this link explicitly when he sees Jesus come to be baptized: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes







away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29b). What better news could we find? What can bring us more joy than knowing that Jesus Christ has died for our sins? Let us turn to Him, trust Him, worship Him, and tell others about Him!

We are so thankful for your love and support as we continue to share our lives with military people. Since returning to Germany, we have had many opportunities

to share the gospel and our lives as we encounter service members. We are encouraged that we have seen people come to faith in Christ. Please continue to pray for us and with us. We desire to see more people respond to this great news and find their joy in Christ.

Grateful for Him, and for you, Joel and Rebecca



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