

Merry Christmas

...the Sunrise from on high will
visit us,
To shine upon those who sit in
darkness and the shadow
of death,
To guide our feet into the way
of peace.

- Luke 1:78-79

The Sunrise shining on those in darkness.' In scripture Jesus receives many names, but what a vibrant word picture this one is! The prophet Zachariah, filled with the Spirit, applies Isaiah's prophecy to the unborn Messiah. It is the confirmation of hope, of tender mercy from God. Instead of leaving His people to fumble in the dark, groping for hope, God would come as the dawn – gently, steadily, beautifully, inconspicuously, yet unmistakably so. He Himself would come as a baby, live as a man and die as a Savior to offer a guiding, saving light to all people. When this Christmas message lights our souls we can rejoice with CS Lewis: "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."



We are praising God this season as we remember all He has touched in our ministry this year. Students coming to Christ in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx through our Spring Break steps of faith. Hundreds exposed to the gospel in Wildwood, NJ through the summer mission we helped staff; 20 accepted Christ! Kristen, NYU student leader, is jumping on the countless God-given opportunities to represent Christ naturally and boldly with RAs and residents alike. Isa is growing exponentially after responding to a clear presentation of the gospel. Olivia is coming face to face with the God of the universe as she's persistently brought back the Word. The stories keep pouring in as cracks on campus are illumined by His light.

This gives us great anticipation for all the Lord will do in 2017! He continues to provide opportunities for greater impact and broader scope and we continue to trust Him for the resources to match that vision.

As you may know, year end giving is significant to our overall budget. This year we are trusting the Lord for an additional \$6,000 in year end gifts. **Would you prayerfully consider giving a special Christmas gift of \$500, \$250, \$100 or another amount?** We know we couldn't carry out the work He's called us to without your partnership (Phil 1:3).