



Merry Christmas, dear partners!

Jesus' birth changes lives forever! Alexandra and I are the living proof! The course of our lives was completely changed when we met Jesus and made Him the Lord of our lives. That's why Jesus needs to be kept at the center of everything we do this Christmas season and into the New Year. When we lose focus of Him during one of the busiest times of the year, we can easily become influenced by the worldly things around us and lose the opportunity to share Jesus with everyone around us in our world. Juggling our work schedules and parties, balancing different family and friend events, trying to find the "perfect" gifts for everyone on our list, Jesus (and the true meaning of Christmas) can easily get muddled and forgotten in all of it. And then there are others who are coping with loneliness and depression and they can hardly wait for this season to end. We as believers have to consistently keep our focus on Jesus and set time aside in prayer so that our light can shine brighter now than ever in this dark world and reach those who aren't saved. This is our time to shine as Christians! Jesus said that we are the light of the world and that we are to let our light **shine** before others so that they will see it and glorify God (Matt. 5:14-16).

Our lives took a completely different course when we accepted Jesus Christ. As Alexandra and I reflect back during this Christmas season, we think about how our lives were destined for destruction and failure if it wasn't for the birth of Jesus. I was born out of wedlock, an only child, my parents divorced when I was very young, raised by my stern grandparents until I started school, moved to a small studio apartment with my single mom and raised in a big city. I never had a relationship with my biological father even though I tried several times only to be rejected by him. I was very angry at the world and at everyone around me. I did poorly in school, cheated my way through high school, played horrible pranks on neighbors, cursed everyone who looked at me wrong, was very sickly in my body, and had a general hatred for life. But one day my uncle gave me a Bible and I read it from cover to cover in two and a half weeks. It changed me from the inside out. Not long after, that same uncle brought me to an underground church and the presence of God was so heavy in that church that I immediately collapsed when I walked in! I was delivered from all hate and anger, all sickness left my body, I was set free from foul language, and was able to forgive everyone in my life including my parents and family. Praise the Lord that my mother and grandparents found Jesus shortly after I did! I am a true testament of how Jesus' birth and sacrifice can take a life like mine and radically change it for HIS glory! How can I ever forget how the love of Christ changed me from the inside out!

Alexandra's story is much different than mine. She, on the other hand, was born into a hardworking, loving family with both parents present in the home, and raised in a small village with two older sisters. No foul language was spoken in their home; they were very dedicated to their Orthodox religion, and well respected in their community. With two small mouths to feed already, her mother almost aborted her on several occasions because times were tough and farm life was extremely difficult. As the youngest child, she often felt rejected and isolated. Growing up, she remembers being terrified every time she went to the Orthodox services. She often said to herself, "*There has to be something more to God than this.*" She remembers her father reading the Bible to her and her family and desperately wanting to know more about this God. She also had a beautiful voice and her dream as a child was to sing at a high competitive level. But Alexandra's father searched for something *more*. One day a group of Lutherans gave him the true Gospel message and he received Jesus as His Lord and Savior. He found the treasure he had been searching for all his life! Alexandra was the first person to see him after he

accepted Christ, and she can still remember how his face radiated with a light she had never seen before. Shortly afterwards, the whole family received Christ in their hearts, Alexandra being the last. Her parents remained wholly dedicated to serving Christ until they went home to be with the Lord.

Our lives are a testament to how the Seed of the Gospel message planted in people's hearts can change the course of their lives so radically! I was never the same again! And her life will never be the same again! Jesus was our answer. He changed the trajectory of our lives forever just like He changed yours and countless others. He is the true treasure our hearts yearned for and He is the answer for our broken world. This is why we continue to spread the message of the uncompromised Gospel to people all over the world through the platforms we've been entrusted with and we will never stop!

This Christmas season and going into this brand New Year, we are urging you, our brothers and sisters, to *remember* the real reason you're celebrating Christmas and *Who* you're living for. Remember the moment Jesus took your life and changed its course forever. That's the moment your name was written in the Book of Life and your seat was reserved in heavenly places (Rev. 21:27, Eph. 2:6). Take some time and reflect on His wondrous, miraculous, supernatural birth that brings peace, joy, salvation, restoration, love, healing, deliverance, and *eternity with Him*. The greatest of all being *eternity* spent with HIM. Eternity spent without God is eternal damnation separated from Him without any hope of salvation forever. We have the responsibility to share Jesus with the world, even if it's only through a friendly smile or word, through an act of kindness, or by planting the seed of the Gospel when God opens the door for us. You and I may be the only "Jesus" someone sees. The simple act of my uncle giving me a Bible and inviting me to an underground church changed the destiny of my life forever. The simple act of a group of dedicated Lutherans changed Alexandra's entire family's life forever. Imagine what an impact our actions and our words can have on someone's life this Christmas season when we allow the Light of Christ to shine brightly in each and every one of us! Are you a container of this precious Gospel or a pipeline for His glory to continue flowing through you? God never withholds Himself from those who search for Him with all their hearts! There is no person who seeks after God that will not find Him! *You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...
John 1:1,5,14

We're wishing our entire John Militaru Ministries family a Very Merry CHRISTmas and a prosperous, blessed New Year! We're honored to call you family! We love each and every one of you and are thankful to walk alongside you on this journey together to depopulate hell and populate heaven one soul at a time!

In His Service,
John & Alexandra

