

CONNECT IN PRAYER

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### **GOD WITH US** AMONG THE MUSLIM PEOPLES



¡Latinos al mundo islámico!

December 2024



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### **SPECIAL MESSAGE**

The Christmas story is unlike any other ever told. Although we have read, narrated, heard, and seen it represented in many ways, it has the power to continue to amaze us. It is not mere fantasy but a real story, full of the supernatural power of the Most High God and, upon reflection, should inspire us to deep worship.

This story happened "when the fullness of time came" (Galatians 4:4), at a real historical moment, in a real geographical location, and with protagonists who were real people. It was an elemental part in the unfolding of God's plan of redemptive love, and the effects of those events continue to impact the lives of all of us who have lived since then.

This story brings us to consider the Son of God taking the form of man, born as a real baby in that manger in Bethlehem, for in God's inexhaustible wisdom, only that supreme gift, the Word of God incarnate and given for us, could redeem us. It is a story full of grace and truth, and it should never cease to amaze us: our God fulfilling His promises, drawing near to us and drawing us near to Himself, opening to us a new and living Way, and blessing us with His eternal presence.

This Christmas, may we take the opportunity to pay close attention to this story, to meditate on the incarnate, crucified, risen Christ, and to marvel and celebrate Him in profound adoration.





May our hearts and minds be captivated by the character of God and the perfection of His plan, as we remember the miracle of the Messiah's conception, and the wondrous events surrounding His birth. May our full attention and focus be on Christ Jesus, and our loyalty to Him be affirmed and strengthened.

As we contemplate that manger, hear the voices of multitudes of angels announcing the birth of the one who brought peace to men and good will, observe the amazement of those shepherds and watch Joseph and Mary caring for that little baby, and hear the words of those who recognized in that child the Messiah sent by God, may we be transformed and encouraged to worship Christ, celebrate our Salvation, and be excited to share this story with all the families of the earth, so that He may be known and glorified.

This Christmas, may the focus of every heart and in every home be the coming of our Lord and Savior, Emmanuel, God with us, and may it be His glory that protects our hearts from every other inclination! May we have, as a result, a Christmas filled with His joy and His blessing!

Let us continue crying out together: "May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you." Psalm 67:3

#### **PMI EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT**

Merry Christmas!







## 40 years is JUST THE BEGINNING!

The passage of time leaves us with memories, emotional landscapes, portraits, and narratives that we might not have recognized at the time we lived them. Four decades later, passing time vindicates the initial vocation that inspired this path. Days and hours, months, and years did not let slip the call to be living signs of God's faithful presence among Muslim peoples.

Forty years is nothing in comparison with eternity. At the same time, forty years is sufficient so that, inspired by those who went before us, we have new eyes and new ears to see and hear what He is doing in and through us as a community--no doubt a small herd called to do something greater than ourselves.

We are sustained by the conviction of knowing that the Kingdom of God is manifested in the place where each one of us is present. Our secret is to wait in hope, as the mustard seed has been planted and something has already begun there, and we want to witness it. Fully present in each place, we are nourished by the certainty that the mission is happening, believing that this hour is the Kairos for each people, for us as a community, and for each individual.

Forty years... We must live this milestone as a new beginning, as a unique opportunity, full of new life and full of the promises of Emmanuel, God with us. We must be patient and sensitive to discern the gentle movements of the Spirit.

We are a flowing river. Every joy, every tear, every remorse, every triumph, every journey, every sacrifice was necessary so that in this here and now, our hands would meet in the celebration of the four decades of PMI.



We continue to choose this vocation. Today, more than ever, we continue to pray to the Lord to keep us faithful, to do well the few things we are called to do, remaining in joy and peace, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus and following the example set before us, trusting that we will know how to live our identity and mission, declaring the manifold grace and presence of God in this world.

We are united by our history, our memory, our shared vocation to the ends of the earth and until the Lord comes, when together with a great multitude of all nations, ethnic groups, languages, and people, we will praise His name forever and ever.

M.C.M. Missionary in Africa



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