

# *PMA Notes ~ January 2021*

## *Christmas to Epiphany!*

By John Dumler, PMA

He is born! Our future is set! He is the King! That is what we see at Christmas time and into the New Year - the light, the hope! Not as a challenge but a sign for renewal, love, joy, hope and peace! Emmanuel! Our star! The sign that we will overcome! All these words and phrases describe our Christmas season!

By the time this comes out in the Newsletter, Christmas Day has come and gone, and we are facing January - a new year with new hopes! But we also take a look back - Pastor and I were talking about what was happening - for a long time there was no prophet, no message, but now we are running back to our Lord with the knowledge that we have a new King!

How many times do we expect one thing and get another? I have come through the Corona virus and thank the Lord that Deb and I are still here with you all. It was our most precious God and his healing hand that saw us through. Deb and I were in the "at risk" category. It is thanks to our doctors and treatment (experimental) as well as your prayers and God himself that we are able to celebrate Christmas. It was indeed a gift of healing for this Christmas. We won't have pictures or memories of our family gathering together this year, but the lingering cough and a little lethargy will remind me that our Christmas miracle was indeed being able to share this holiday with you all. Again - thank you all for the prayers!

In this same way we don't know how to respond to a Savior that is coming - he isn't the king we expect, but by far a better one we get! I am grateful that with the hope, love, joy and peace of Christmas we look back at a year of hard times, fear, and trepidation. What will this year bring? Without our Savior we will continue to be divided.

We now know we have a Savior and as the Church, we need to be his followers - listen, help, show love, forgive, and be kind to everyone! Let us pick ourselves up and stretch out our hand to others, even those with differing views! I will pray that we overcome the animosity, hate, jealousy, and fear of what will come. As Christians we can help everyone get past those feelings, just by reaching out and sharing "Christmas" with everyone!

Our Advent is based on hope, love, joy and peace. Like Jesus, let us give Hope, Love and Joy to all, and continue to strive for Peace on Earth! We are renewed with His birth!

Thank you all! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

~ John