

## REFLECTING ON CHRISTMAS

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." (2Cor. 9:15)

by Fubara Ibama

"Now thanks be to God for His Gift, [precious] beyond telling [His indescribable, inexpressible, free Gift] (2Cor. 9:15 – *Amplified*)

About this time of the year, a lot of families and individuals flood the stores, shopping for Christmas gift of some sort to give to friends or family members and it feels so good either to receive or give gift. When you receive a gift, you feel remembered and loved, and you have a good feeling when you give – contributing positively to someone's life.

Gift giving was not our idea. It was God's idea. We got this tradition of giving gifts from our Father; God Who gave His very best to us because of His intense love for us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) Furthermore, in Isaiah 9:6, the Bible says, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." God special gift was perfect. It was an all-in-one package customized to suit all our need. Paul refers to Him as the "Unspeakable, indescribable, inexpressible Gift. Why so? It is because this singular Gift is an embodiment of grace and truth, salvation, healing, deliverance, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption, provision, advocacy, intercession, defense and peace. He is the precious Lamb of God, our Shepherd, our Lord and King. He is our captain, our strong tower and our mighty Warrior. No wonder the bible declares, "... We are complete in Him" (Col. 2:10)

I remember, growing up as a child up until this very moment that the Christmas season comes with a special feeling – a feeling of well-being and joy. From the very first Christmas night when the Savior was born, God's special messengers made this spectacular announcement to the shepherds: "**Fear not**: for behold, I bring you **good tidings of great joy**, which shall be to all people .... Glory to God in the highest, and **on earth peace, good will toward men**" (Luke 2:10-14) The arrival of Jesus on the earth also ushered in joy, peace and good will to all humanity. This is the reason for the special feeling. As it was to the earth when Jesus was born, so also it is for anyone who would receive Jesus Christ into his/her heart. He comes in with His peace, joy and well-being. He comes to us not in fragments but in His totality. This is how God has designed for humanity to leave on earth – peace, joy and good will.

When the angel appeared to the shepherds, the glory of the Lord shone around them. Jesus came to light up our darkness. Darkness, in this context, represents evil and all forms of undesirables in our lives and environment. "The people which sat in darkness saw a great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death, light is sprung up." (Matt. 4:16) Light is the only antidote for darkness. May I extend it a little further. Depression is darkness. Fear, sickness and disease, hate, poverty, confusion and pain are all forms of darkness. The bible says, "... For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." (1John 3:8) When the glory of God appears, satan's vices are summarily dealt with; miracles and healings become inevitable. Instead of waiting to make another New Year resolution that may not be effective, let us make a solid commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The best offering we can ever give God in response to His wonderful gift of love, is our life. Jesus Christ is God's provision to give us the qualitative life we have also desired. Peace be upon you. MERRY CHRISTMAS!