

引言 INTRODUCTION

There is a little more than one week before we celebrate Christmas. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, became a man and came into our world some 2,000 years ago. Jesus came to complete the salvation work for the sin of mankind. Today, we will study a key figure who prepared the way for Jesus. His name is John the Baptist. Do not mix it up with a disciple of Jesus who had the same name. That disciple wrote the gospel of John, the letters of John and the Revelation. John the Baptist was a messenger for the Messiah (meaning, the Savior). John is like a representative who calls people's attention to an incoming important person. His work is similar to an agent for a singing artist. He coordinates the promotion and gets a venue ready before the star holds a concert. John is also like a bridesmaid who assists a bride. When the guests see the bridesmaid, they know that the bride will appear soon. All the focus will be on the main characters. Many of us have played the role of a supporting cast before. It happened when parents expected their first baby. There was great joy in your anticipation. You sought advice from family members and friends. You cleared the clutter of a room or at least a corner of your bedroom for the crib. You bought all the baby accessories. The growing discomfort of the pregnant wife and her bulging belly signaled that everything was on track. Finally, at the end of about 40 weeks, the new-born would steal the show. That little guy will also completely change the courses of the parents for the next 18 years! In the Bible, the Jews were waiting for their Savior foretold in the Old Testament. It had been 400 years since the last prophet of God spoke. Then came John as a messenger to tell his peers that God had fulfilled His promise. Today, God also sends out Christians to proclaim the same message: salvation has come because the Savior has arrived.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 呼籲罪人悔改 Repent of Sins (v. 1-10)

How did John prepare the way for the Savior? First of all, John called people to repent of their sins. Who was John anyway? He was the person prophet Isaiah foretold about some 700 years beforehand. Let me refer you to a passage in John. Some religious leaders sent a few servants to question John the Baptist about his identity. Listen to his answer in **John 1:23** – John replied with the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’” He was quoting from Isaiah 40. In the context, God said He would lead His people to come back from exile in Babylon. The picture describes preparing for the visit of an important figure. People may clear up the trash on the streets and relocate the beggars elsewhere. John understood that he was the agent mentioned in the prophecy. John knew his calling from God. I often admire people who are certain about their life goals. Little kids may want to be an astronaut, actor or athlete when they grow up. A handful of them actually pursue their dreams. God gave me a calling to be a pastor. I enjoy what I do with gratitude. Do you know your calling from God? Your work is God's calling for you. God makes you a Christian-scientist, a Christian-store-owner, a Christian-house-wife or a Christian-retiree. Do not under-estimate your role. God puts you in that profession to profess about Jesus. John realized his task was to pave the way for the Savior. He called people to repent of their sins and he baptized them. Just like today's

baptism, John's baptism symbolized a commitment to live a new life in God. Among those who came to him were some Pharisees and Sadducees. We are more familiar with the background of the Pharisees. They were some religious teachers in those days. Jesus often condemned them for not practicing what they taught. The Sadducees were also Bible scholars. But the Sadducees were more interested in politics than teaching. The two groups together would be like professors from renowned colleges plus some liberal politicians. Instead of welcoming them, John was quite harsh in lecturing them. Look at **verses 7-8**: ... 7 "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." I will scare seekers away if I say the same thing to them! John would be described as a "fire and brimstone" evangelist in the American church history. Their opening statement is: "Repent, or you will go to hell!" We need wisdom and grace when we reach out to people. John said so because his audience knew the Bible from cover to cover. He challenged them to prove that they truly believed in God. The Chinese word for "repentance" reflects a two-step process. First, a person has to feel remorseful for sin. Second, he/she must turn 180 degree away from sin and toward God. In Luke, John the Baptist gave specific instructions to the people coming to confess their sins. To the general public, John asked them to show compassion by sharing their clothes and food with others. To the tax collectors, John ordered them not to collect more tax from people than what was required. John also told some soldiers to exercise justice and treat people fairly. You and I were held us in bondage by different sins in the past. Have you experienced any change since you received Christ? It may be a change in value system. Do you look at money and material possessions differently now? Are there any changes in your heart, or are you still overcome by pride, jealousy and malice? What about your speech? Have you cleared up lies, gossips and wicked criticism? I am not saying that we can be perfect in this life. But there must be some fruits of God's righteousness to verify that we are Christians. John went a step further to challenge the religious elites in **verse 9**: "And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham." Being born as a Jew did not confer automatic salvation. Becoming a believer is 100% God's grace. It has to be a personal decision too. Parents: pardon me for being blunt here. We only give birth to sinners. Your kids may inherit your beauty and smart genes. But we all get our sinful nature from Adam. Therefore, your kids have to repent and commit their lives to Jesus like you did. I would love to help your kids come to know Jesus.

2. 透露救主跡象 Reveal of Signs (v. 11-12)

John prepared the way for the Savior by calling people to repent. Next, he also revealed some signs about the Savior. Look at **verse 11**: "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." John admitted the Savior would be more powerful than him. John also humbly said that he was not qualified to even carry the Savior's sandals. The first sign about the Savior has to do with His baptism. John baptized people with water. The coming Savior would baptize people with the Holy Spirit and fire. Just like water will soak a person, the Holy Spirit will fill a person. John said the Holy Spirit would come as a fire. We do see a manifestation of the Holy Spirit like a fire later. At that time, some believers gathered at Jerusalem for the Pentecost. **Acts 2:2-4** record: 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were

filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. By “speaking in tongues” it means talking fluently in an unlearned language. Some charismatic Christians strongly believe that speaking in tongues is a required proof of salvation for every person. There is no Biblical support for that view. Miracles and signs were more evident in the first century to prove that God’s Kingdom had arrived in authority. The coming of the Holy Spirit signifies the beginning of a new era. Let us do a quick revision about the sequence of things in the Bible. Jesus told His disciples at the Last Supper that the Holy Spirit would come. The incident in the Act passage we just read happened after Jesus’ ascension. Since then, the Holy Spirit lives in the believers of Jesus. Today, we receive the same baptism, or indwelling, of the Holy Spirit when we accept Jesus. The Holy Spirit is a proof of those who belong to God. Do you feel His presence in you? The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible, strengthens us to obey God and convicts us when we sin. Besides baptizing with the Holy Spirit, a second sign for the Savior was His separation work. Look at **verse 12**: “His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” In the ancient world, after a crop like wheat or barley was harvested, it would be taken to a threshing floor. Oxen pulled a sledge to draw over the harvest to separate the grains from the straws. The heavier grains would drop to the bottom. The next step is called winnowing. A farmer used a fork-like wooden tool to shovel the produce up into the air. Chaff and straw fragments will be blown away by the wind. The grains will drop to the ground. The chaff and straw will be cast into a fire because they have no value. Those pictures depict a separation of the useful from the useless items. The Savior divides between those who would welcome Him versus those who would reject Him. As it turned out, most of the religious leaders despised Jesus. Even one of Jesus’ disciples betrayed Him. Wherever Jesus went, a big crowd chased after Him. But only a portion of those people were dedicated followers. If Jesus caused a big controversy in His days, how much more does Christianity draw debates today? People either embrace Jesus or deny Him. There is no middle-ground. Therefore, do not be surprised when you encounter strong opposition as you share the gospel to others. Perhaps you are now struggling in your heart whether or not to accept Jesus. A person must recognize the problem of sin before admitting that he/she needs a Savior. It is a direct blow to our human pride. After all, who wants to acknowledge that he/she is so corrupt that Jesus is the only solution? But there is no salvation without confession. Commitment to Jesus also requires a daily submission. We claim that we are self-sufficient people. We boast about our education, experience and talents. But to follow Jesus means that from now on He calls the shots. Jesus becomes our boss and we are only His servants.

3. 確認神的兒子 Recognize the Son (v. 13-17)

John prepared the way for the Savior by calling people to repent and revealing some signs about the Savior. Thirdly, John recognized the Son when He appeared. Jesus came to John to be baptized. John was surprised. He thought he should be seeking Jesus’ baptism. Listen to Jesus’ explanation in **verse 15**: Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. What does it mean by “fulfill all righteousness?” Matthew’s usage of righteousness is different from Paul’s. For example, the book of Romans tells us that a person is considered righteous by receiving God’s grace through faith. In plain terms, a person will be saved by accepting Jesus. However, when Matthew employs the word “righteousness,” he focuses on one’s behavior. In other words, a righteous person will do the right things God commands. In Matthew chapter 1, Joseph is described as a righteous man.

Therefore, he planned to do the right thing to cancel the marriage when he found out that Mary was pregnant. Here in the verse, Jesus told John that it was a right thing to both of them that Jesus received baptism. In doing so, Jesus affirmed John's message of repentance and his ministry of baptism. Something miraculous happened at Jesus' baptism. Read **verses 16-17**: 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Jesus does not need the presence of the Holy Spirit the way we do. They are both equal in their essence and glory. To Jesus, the Holy Spirit was God's enablement to preach the gospel. An analogy I can think of is like sport teammates encourage each other to boost the morale. For instance, after a basketball player shoots a free throw, he will hit high-five with his four teammates on the court before taking the next one. The gesture conveys an unspoken message: "We are with you. We know you can make it." The Holy Spirit encouraged Jesus in His future ministries. The passage says the Holy Spirit appeared like a dove. It may not have any spiritual meaning. The Holy Spirit could have emerged as a sparrow or an eagle. The shape of a dove gave some businessmen an inspiration to make money. People buy an emblem of a dove and put it at the back of their cars. God the Father were also present at the scene. He talked with an audible voice from heaven to affirm that Jesus was the Son. The manifestations of the Holy Spirit and the Father helped John recognize that Jesus was the Son of God. The gospel of **John 1:32-34** recount: 32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. 33 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." God told John beforehand how the Savior would appear. What John saw and hear confirmed Jesus' identity. John understood that his mission had been accomplished. Soon afterward, some of John's disciples and many people followed Jesus. John served God all his life. Then Jesus came and stole the spotlight. How will you feel if you were John? He shared in **John 3:28** – "... 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.'" Then also in **verse 30**: "He must become greater; I must become less." John had joy rather than resentment. He understood that his life purpose was to prepare for the Savior. Our role as God's children is just like John's to help people recognize Jesus. It is all about the Savior. It is not about us or even our church. You may think that you only play an inconspicuous part in church ministries. People may fail to appreciate your effort. But through our collective contribution, God leads people to know Christ. Once in a while, we have newcomers attend our church meetings. We do our best to make them feel at home. We may be discouraged that some of them do not continue to stay. The more important thing is that they experience God's love through our hospitality, and seeker friends know a little more about God in our studies. We should continue to pray that God will lead them to a church where they feel belonged.

結論 CONCLUSION

Salvation has come because the Savior has arrived. That is what Christmas all about. Family, great food and gifts bring us joy. But eternal joy can only be found in Christ. This Christmas may be quite different than what we had in the past. However, do not let the virus, empty malls and a depressed mood rob the joy we have in God. We are called to share this joy with the world that is hoping for joy. Let this Christmas be special not because we have more stuff, but because more people will come to know our Savior.

引言 INTRODUCTION

還有一個多星期我們就要慶祝聖誕節。神的兒子耶穌基督成為人，在 2000 多年前進入了我們的世界。耶穌來完成了拯救人類脫離罪的工作。今天，我們會來看一個為耶穌鋪路的關鍵人物。他的名字叫施洗約翰。請不要把他和耶穌的門徒約翰弄混。那個門徒寫了約翰福音、約翰的書信和啟示錄。施洗約翰是彌賽亞（即救主）的使者。約翰就像一個代表，呼籲人們注意即將到來的重要人物。他的工作類似於歌星的經紀人。他在舉行演唱會之前協調宣傳的事情，並把場地準備好。約翰也像一個協助新娘的伴娘。當客人看到伴娘時，他們知道新娘會很快出現。所有焦點將集中在主角的身上。我們許多人都扮演過輔助的角色。例如父母充滿喜悅地期待他們的第一個孩子。他們尋問家人和朋友的意見。他們清除房間的雜物來安置嬰兒床。他們購買了所有的嬰兒用品。隨著準媽媽越來越覺得不舒服，她的腹部逐漸漲大，一切都表明步入正軌。在大約 40 週後，新生嬰兒將搶盡風頭。在接下來的 18 年中，那個小傢伙還將徹底改變父母的生活！在聖經中，猶太人正在等待舊約中預言的救主。在之前 400 年神停止差遣先知傳達信息。然後，約翰以信差的身份來告訴他的同胞，神已經實現了祂的應許。今天，神差派基督徒傳揚同樣的信息：救恩已經來到，因為救主已經出現了。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 呼籲罪人悔改 Repent of Sins (v. 1-10)

約翰如何為救主鋪路？首先，約翰呼籲罪人悔改。約翰到底是誰？他是先知以賽亞大約在 700 年之前預言會出現的人。讓我們參考約翰福音的記載。一些宗教領袖派僕人向施洗約翰詢問他的身份。請聽他在約翰福音 1:23 中的回答 – 他說：「我就是那在曠野有人聲喊著說：『修直主的道路』，正如先知以賽亞所說的。」他引用以賽亞書 40 章的話。那段經文的背景是神說祂將要帶領百姓從巴比倫的被擄中返回故鄉。那個畫面描述為重要人物的訪問做準備。人們可能會清理街道上的垃圾，並將乞丐移到其他地方。約翰知道他是預言中提到的使者。約翰了解神給他的呼召。我很羨慕那些清楚自己的人生目標的人。一些小孩子可能夢想要成為太空人、演員或運動員。其中有少數人最終達成夢想。神呼召我成為牧師。我以感恩的心情享受我所做的事情。你知道你從神那裡來的呼召嗎？你的工作就是神給你的呼召。神使你成為基督徒的科學家、基督徒的老闆、基督徒的家庭主婦或基督徒的退休人士。不要低估你的角色。神把你放在那個專業上是要為耶穌做見證的。約翰意識到他的任務是為救主鋪路。他呼籲罪人悔改，並為他們施行浸禮。就像今天的浸

禮一樣，約翰的浸禮象徵向主委身過新的生活。來找他的人有法利賽人和撒都該人。我們對法利賽人的背景比較熟悉。他們是那時的一些宗教老師。耶穌經常責備他們沒有實踐他們的教導。撒都該人也是聖經學者。但是他們對政治更感興趣。這兩批人就像是名校的教授以及一些自由派政治家一樣。約翰不歡迎他們，甚至嚴厲地向他們訓話。看看第 7-8 節：…7「毒蛇的種類！誰指示你們逃避將來的忿怒呢？8 你們要結出果子來，與悔改的心相稱。」如果我對福音朋友說同樣的話，肯定會把他們嚇跑！在美國教會歷史上，約翰會被描述為「硫磺與火」的傳道人。他們的口頭禪是：「悔改，否則你會下地獄！」我們需要以智慧和恩典向人傳福音。約翰之所以這樣說，是因為他的聽眾是很懂聖經的人。他挑戰他們要證明他們真的相信神。中文「悔改」這個用詞包括兩個步驟。首先，一個人必須為罪感到懊悔。其次，他必須以 180 度從罪轉向神。在路加福音中，施洗約翰吩咐那些來認罪的人該怎樣做。約翰要求一般大眾與他人分享衣服和食物來表達同情心。約翰也命令稅吏不要向人們濫收稅款。約翰還告訴一些士兵伸張正義，以公平對待人民。過去，你和我一直被各種的罪所束縛。自從接受耶穌以來，你經歷過任何改變嗎？這可能是價值觀的變化。你現在對金錢和物質的看法有所不同嗎？你的心態有什麼改變嗎？還是你仍然受驕傲、嫉妒和怨恨所控制？還有言語方面呢？你有沒有把謊言、閒話和惡意的批評清除掉？我並不是說我們可以在今生做到完美。但是必須有一些神公義的果子來證明我們是基督徒。約翰在第 9 節中進一步挑戰宗教領袖們：「不要自己心裡說：『有亞伯拉罕為我們的祖宗。』我告訴你們，神能從這些石頭中給亞伯拉罕興起子孫來。」生下來是猶太人並不等於他們會自動得救。成為信徒是 100% 神的恩典，也必須是個人的決定。家長們：請原諒我的冒昧。我們只能夠生出罪人。你的孩子可能遺傳了你的漂亮外表和聰明的基因，但是我們所有人都從亞當繼承了他的罪性。因此，你的孩子必須像你一樣悔改並將生命獻給耶穌。有需要的話，我非常樂意幫助你的孩子認識耶穌。

2. 透露救主跡象 Reveal of Signs (v. 11-12)

約翰呼籲人們悔改，用以為救主鋪路。接下來，他還透露一些有關救主的跡象。看第 11 節：「我是用水給你們施洗，叫你們悔改。但那在我以後來的，能力比我更大，我就是給他提鞋也不配。他要用聖靈與火給你們施洗。」約翰說救主比他更有能力。約翰還謙虛地說，他甚至沒有資格攜帶救主的鞋子。關於救主的第一個跡象與祂的浸禮有關。約翰用水給人施洗，即將來臨的救主會用聖靈和火為人們施洗。就像水會浸透一個人一樣，聖靈會充滿一個人。約翰說聖靈會像火一樣來臨。後來我們確實讀到聖靈像火一樣的顯現。當時，一些信徒聚集在耶路撒冷過五旬節。使徒行傳 2:2-4 記載：2 忽然，從天上有響聲下來，好像一陣大風吹過，充滿了他們所坐的屋子，3 又有舌頭如火焰顯現出來，分開落在他們各人頭上。4 他們就都被聖靈充滿，按著聖靈所賜的口才說起別國的話來。這裡「說起別國的話」(或叫作「說方言」)是指一個人會說一種未學過的語言。一些靈恩派的基督徒堅持說方言

是得救的必要證據。這種宣稱並沒有聖經的根據。在第一世紀，神蹟和奇事的出現是證明神的國已經來到，標誌著新時代的開始。讓我們快速回顧一下聖經中事情發生的順序。耶穌在最後的晚餐告訴門徒聖靈會降臨。我們剛剛讀到使徒行傳的記載是發生在耶穌升天之後。從那時起，聖靈就住在耶穌的信徒中。今天，當我們接受耶穌時，聖靈也居住在我們的心中(或是說我們接受聖靈的浸禮)。聖靈的同在證明一個人是屬於神的。你感覺到聖靈在你裡面嗎？聖靈幫助我們明白聖經、加添我們力量來堅守真理並且在犯罪時定我們的罪。除了接受聖靈的浸禮之外，救主的第二個標誌就是將信與不信的人分別出來。看第 12 節：「他手裡拿著簸箕，要揚淨他的場，把麥子收在倉裡，把糠用不滅的火燒盡了。」在古代世界中，農夫收割小麥或大麥等農作物後會打穀。牛拉著一個像雪橇的工具壓過收成品，將穀粒和稻草分開。較重的穀粒會掉到下面去。下一步就是篩選。農夫用一個大叉子將農產品鏟起。殼和稻草碎片會被風吹走。穀粒會掉到地上。穀殼和稻草沒有價值，將被扔入火中。這些畫面形容把有用的與無用的東西分離。救主要把接受祂與拒絕祂的人分開。事實證明，大多數宗教領袖都鄙視耶穌。甚至耶穌的一個門徒出賣祂。耶穌無論到哪裡去，都吸引了一大批人群。但是其中只有少部分是忠心的跟隨者。如果耶穌在當時已經引起爭議，那麼基督信仰在今天豈不是引起更多的爭論嗎？人們要不然擁戴耶穌，否則就是拒絕耶穌。沒有中間路線的。因此，當你與他人分享福音，遇到強烈的反對時，請不要感到驚訝。也許你現在正在為是否接受耶穌而在心中掙扎。一個人在承認自己需要救主之前必須意識到罪的嚴重性。這是對我們的驕傲的直接挑戰。畢竟，誰願意承認自己的內心是如此的敗壞，以至於耶穌是唯一的解決方案？但是不肯認罪就不需要被救贖。對耶穌的委身還必須包括每天的順服。我們聲稱我們是自給自足的人。我們以我們的教育、經驗和才幹感到自豪。但是跟隨耶穌意味著從現在開始讓祂做主。耶穌成為我們的老闆，而我們只是祂的僕人。

3. 確認神的兒子 Recognize the Son (v. 13-17)

約翰為救主鋪路。他呼召人悔改，並透露一些有關救主的跡象。第三，當神的兒子出現時，約翰確認了祂。耶穌到約翰那裡想要接受浸禮。約翰很驚訝。他認為他接受耶穌的浸禮才合理。請聽耶穌在第 15 節中的解釋：耶穌回答說：「你暫且許我，因為我們理當這樣盡諸般的義。」於是約翰許了他。「盡諸般的義」是什麼意思？馬太所說的義與保羅的用法不同。例如，《羅馬書》告訴我們，一個人以信心接受神的恩典時便被神稱為義。意思是一個人因接受耶穌而得救。但是，當馬太使用義這個字時，他專注於一個人的行為。換句話說，一個義人會做神所命令的正確的事。在馬太福音第 1 章中，約瑟被形容為義人。因此，當他發現馬利亞懷孕時，他打算按合理的方式取消婚事。在這節經文中，耶穌告訴約翰，祂接受浸禮對他們兩個人都是合宜的。耶穌這樣做，肯定了約翰的悔改信息和他的浸禮服事。耶穌接受浸禮後發生奇妙的事。請看第 16-17 節：16 耶穌受了洗，隨即從水裡上來。天忽然為他開了，他就看見神的靈彷彿鴿子降下，落在他身上。17 從天上有聲音

說：「這是我的愛子，我所喜悅的。」耶穌不像我們那樣需要聖靈的同在。他們在本質和榮耀上都是一致的。對耶穌來說，神透過聖靈為耶穌加添能力。我可以想到一個類比，就像球隊的隊友互相鼓舞士氣一樣。例如，一個籃球員投完一個罰球之後，他會與四名在場上的隊友擊掌，然後再投下一球。那個動作傳達了一個不言而喻的信息：「我們與你同在。我們知道你可以做得到的。」聖靈是為耶穌未來的服事加油。這段經文形容聖靈像鴿子。它可能沒有任何屬靈含義。聖靈也可以用麻雀或鷹的形態出現。鴿子的形狀卻是給一些聰明的商人帶來賺錢的靈感。人們買一隻鴿子的標記，貼在車子後面。當時父神也在現場。祂從天上用人聽得見的聲音說耶穌是祂的兒子。聖靈和天父的顯現幫助約翰確認耶穌是神的兒子。約翰福音 1:32-34 的敘述：32 約翰又作見證說：「我曾看見聖靈，彷彿鴿子從天降下，住在他的身上。33 我先前不認識他，只是那差我來用水施洗的、對我說：『你看見聖靈降下來，住在誰的身上，誰就是用聖靈施洗的。』34 我看見了，就證明這是神的兒子。」神事先告訴約翰，救主將會如何出現。約翰的所見所聞確認了耶穌的身份。約翰知道他的任務已經告一段落。此後不久，約翰的一些門徒和許多人轉而跟隨了耶穌。約翰終生服奉神。然後耶穌出現搶走鋒芒。如果你是約翰，你會有什麼感覺？他在約翰福音 3:28 中分享 - ...『我不是基督，是奉差遣在他前面的』... 然後他在第 30 節中說：「他必興旺，我必衰微。」約翰心中充滿喜樂而不是怨恨。他明白自己的人生目的是為救主鋪路。我們作為神的兒女的角色就像約翰一樣，幫助其他人認識耶穌。一切都是關乎於救主。這並不關乎於我們甚至我們的教會。你也許會覺得自己在教會事工中只擔任一些不起眼的角色。別人可能沒有肯定你的付出。但是神藉著我們的共同努力使人得救。有時候有新朋友參加我們的聚會。我們盡力使他們有賓至如歸的感覺。其中一些人不會繼續留下來，我們可能會因此灰心。更重要的是，他們通過我們的接待經歷了神的愛，而福音朋友因而對神有了多一點點的了解。我們應該為他們禱告，求神把他們帶領到屬於自己的教會。

結論 CONCLUSION

救恩已經到來，因為救主已經來到。那就是聖誕節的重點。家人、美食和禮物會帶給我們歡樂。但是永恆的喜樂只能在基督裡找到。今年的聖誕節可能與過去的聖誕節很不一樣。但是，不要讓病毒、空蕩蕩的購物中心和沮喪的情緒奪走我們在神裡面的喜樂。神差遣我們與世人分享他們在尋找的這份喜樂。讓這個聖誕節變得更特別，不是因為我們得到更多東西，而是因為有更多的人認識我們的救主。