



The Word became flesh and blood and moved into our neighborhood

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Eugene Peterson's version of John 1:14 brings home the fact that God, the almighty sovereign of everything, chose to put aside the privileges of deity and become human. He moved into our neighborhood because it wasn't enough that he had already told us about himself through the medium of great people and great actions; people still didn't understand who he was. So the next step was what theologians call "the Incarnation". God became a man. But not just a fully formed man in an instant of time.

He followed the process of conception and birth as a human baby and came into this world. This was the greatest and most awesome gift ever given. And God had no second thoughts about it. The angel told the shepherds that he was there to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody worldwide. The rest of the angels then broke into a praise chorus for the great thing God had done.

But from a human standpoint think about the risk of sending your only child to a place where the language, culture and worldview are so different he will stand out like a tree in a rice field. Hudson Taylor (founder of CIM/OMF) once said



"Unless there is an element of risk in your exploits for God, there is no need for faith." God "risked" everything in sending his son Jesus. But oh, what a difference it made.

We have no objective proof that Jesus was born on the 25th of December but somehow it seems fitting that one week after that date a new year starts. If Jesus moves into your neighbourhood then almost immediately a "new year" or new era will begin in your life and in the lives of your other neighbors. Things have to change when Jesus is around.

So here we are at the start of a new year. We came to Asia because of an invitation and ultimately we can trace that back to God. Did it involve risk? You betcha! Was it worth it? An unqualified "Yes!" What is God inviting you to do this year? If it doesn't involve risk then don't bother. But if it does, then take a good hard look at it because that may be the thing that God wants you to be doing. Go ahead, move with Jesus into a new "neighborhood".

Prayer and Praise

Prayer Needs:

- For God to continue to work in the hearts of the students who heard the Christmas message.
- Final two months in our language training. Time to complete one more language module. Pray that we will finish well.
- For provision of the right house when we move to Chiang Mai in March.

Praise for :

- The opportunity to present the gospel to over 3,800 school children in and around Lopburi in December
- A wonderful visit with our son Andrew at Christmas.
- A week of holiday in Chiang Mai.



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