


 Jesus is the Reason for the Season!
 

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Vardalas Vignettes

“...And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, ‘Now Lord, Thou dost let Thy bond-servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples’ ...” (Luke 2:27-31)



Dear Friends



The other evening, when I drove into our local town (village, really) they had put up Christmas decorations, and I had an “ah hah” moment. We have been so caught up in the political events of this country that I had to be reminded Christmas was approaching. This past year, especially, has been a turbulent one; firings in the public sector, non-payment for work done in the private sector, reductions in already existing pensions, strikes, our own version of “Occupy the Parliament Building.” The youth cannot find jobs, while people at work on their jobs are told by their bosses, “I can’t pay you.” Landlords are resorting to lowering rents. Young people have absolutely no future to look forward to.

In some minds, this presents a bleak picture. But for Christians it shouldn’t; we who trust in God’s promises, and walk with Him, can have hope as we see things on the world stage unfold as Scripture foretold. When Timo and I discuss the events here and all over the globe, and I speak in terms of political agendas, he tells me to “forget politics and the particulars, and watch God’s plan unfold; this is the way things must be, and worse, for the end to come.” Humanly speaking, we do have opinions and points of view about what we see

around us, but we must remember it is the world system, and we are not a part of it. Our citizenship is elsewhere. I have to keep that in mind, often, and I thank Timo for reminding me.

Timo and I look back on the past year and see how God is moving hearts in the countries where He is ministering, as well as all around the globe. We thank the Lord for the successful outcome of Timo’s two operations (one of which was for repair of his rotator cuff), as well as for our home church and for the children who are learning to walk with the Lord.

So let us celebrate Christmas this year as a reminder of His love for us, and let us look to the New Year for new opportunities for spiritual growth, ministry and the development and exercise of our spiritual gifts.

We ask for your continued prayers, and we thank God for each of you and for your unstinting support and many kindnesses throughout the years.

In Christ,

Timo & Eleni

Timo & Eleni



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!