

MISSION TO THE FATHERLESS Christmas

2020

Christmas in Kenya by Kennedy

Christmas is celebrated on December 25 in Kenya, but celebrations tend to occur from Christmas Eve through December 26, which is traditionally a day of relaxation and family time.

Christmas is often the only time large families will see each other all year. People try to be home for Christmas Eve so they can help with the Christmas preparations. Houses and churches are often decorated with colorful balloons, ribbons, paper decorations, flowers, and green leaves for a Christmas tree, some will have a cypress tree.

Celebrations typically begin on Christmas Eve with caroling. Many people, especially Christians, will go to a midnight church service. The service will have carols, songs, hymns, nativity plays, dances, and poems.

At home after the service,

the party really starts - you might well not sleep that night! In cities, going caroling is also becoming more popular. Some people will also go to church on Christmas morning.

In Kenya, Santa doesn't arrive with his reindeer but might well come by Land-Rover, camel, or even a bike! Father Christmas, like Santa, is a big man, dressed in red, that delivers presents on Christmas Eve. While gift-giving is a tradition, the emphasis is not as commercialized as it is in the West.

Popular traditional treats served in Kenya include a cookout which can be a goat, sheep, beef, or chicken. This is eaten with rice and chapati (flat bread). The big Christmas meal is called "nyama choma" or "kuku choma" (grilled meat and grilled chicken respectively.) People often make their own beer to drink and different



Harriet and a friend making a traditional Christmas flatbread called chapati.

tribes also have special dishes they make. If you live in a city you might have a Western Christmas cake, but these aren't very common in rural areas.

One way to say "Merry Christmas" in Kenya is "Kuwa na Krismasi njema."

A Message of Thanks from Elphas

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the MTTF family, both the US and Kenyan Board for the love, support, care and everything they show and offer unto my life.

And I would also like to thank the US Board for bringing me this far. God has used them in transforming my life, paying my school fee payment, monthly support, and everything.

May the living God bless you all more than you expected, for He knows the desires of your hearts. To all the MTTF sponsors: may the hand of God be with you and your families.

Thanks to my sponsors, Papa Kevin and Mama Karen Sweet, I love you all for everything. May the joy of the Lord be the strength of the MTTF family. I love you all.

Devotional by Harriet

As one of the biggest and most celebrated holidays in the world, Christmas is and should be a season of joy, a time for healing and renewed strength; for by the birth of Christ great joy was brought to the world.

Luke 2:10-11 says "'Don't be afraid,' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great JOY to all people. The Savior – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!'"

Christmas reminds us that God dwells in pure hearts, that love binds God to man, and man to man. Thus, the insight on the relationship that God has created between Him and mankind through sending His Son to earth, Who imbibes divine nature into sinners.

This is the season when families and friends celebrate Jesus' birth, and His ministry of how He came to seek and to

save sinners, to heal the broken-hearted, to destroy demonic works and to establish His kingdom of peace and joy.

So I leave you with this final verse, my friends: Philippians 4:4 – *"Always be full of JOY in the Lord. I say it again – REJOICE!!!"*

Let there be joy to the world, the Lord has come, and He IS coming again!

Devotional by Isaac

IMAGO DEI

Genesis 1:26-27 relates man to the image of God. What a privilege for man to be created in God's image?

Good and goodness are the virtuous characters that surround the creation story in the beginning pages of the Bible. What does this virtue have to do with us; owing to the fact that all creation proves the fact that everything that is, is good?

Just as His creation, God is good too: only that His goodness is not like man's which is as a result of participation.

The goodness of God is as a result of His essence - He is goodness itself. Goodness finds its full perfection in God Himself. And since God is good, He created man in the image of His goodness so that man could be good to others. All that man is - time, energy, skill, material resources - should be used to spread goodness to his fellow beings.

Being created in the image of His goodness, man then has as much goodness as his own act of being. Man ought not to suffer the shortage of goodness as long as he still exists. Being good does not need to be taught, learnt or desired; being good is as a result of the act of being. To be good does not cost a man a penny but his nature. Man is made to be good and he is wired to aim at goodness. This is because to be is to be good and to be good is to be.

Let's then be good as GOD is, as we take after his image. Let's be good to all men and let us share out the goodness of God in this season like never before.

A Message from the U.S. Board

On behalf of the MTF families in the US and Kenya, we want to wish you a blessed Christmas.

We are especially thankful for the generosity of our supporters. Our students and staff from Kakamega and Oyugis are grateful and remember you in their prayers.

Donations can be made through PayPal, debit, or credit card on our website missiontothefatherless.org.

If desired, a donation can be mailed in the enclosed envelope or sent to:

**Mission to the Fatherless
PO Box 770915,
Lakewood, OH 44107.**

We thank you as you consider assisting us in this mission.

The U.S. Board is 100% volunteer-led.

"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, Counsellor, the mighty God, the ever-lasting Father, the Prince of Peace." -Isaiah 9:6