

December, 2017

Dearly Beloved and Longed For,

Does that sound familiar to you? That was my beloved BOB's usual salutation. I think he would have liked it if I were to use it too.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

A good Bible expositor would be able to preach a rich message on each of those names. We speak of Him mostly as our Savior. God's children looked for His coming all through the Old Testament, even in all their disobedience. The Savior was first mentioned in Genesis 3 where He would crush the serpent's head. Isaiah 53 is probably the longest passage which goes into great detail about the Suffering Servant which the prophets of old did not quite understand. Even so, His true children longed for His coming. From the end of the Old Testament we find the the Shepherds, Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zachariah and their son, John, all waiting for His coming. And then He came, that Holy Night, born in a humble manger, King of kings and Lord of lords.

I'm emailing many copies of this letter. If you are reading it now, know that it is because I'm remembering you, your name and your face. God has so blessed me with my family, my new life in Christ, and the many dear friends God has sent my way over the course of my 94 years.

I will close with these words from a lovely card I received.

"At this holy season and through the year,
May God quiet you with His peace,
Comfort you with His presence,
And bless you with His love."

Let's imagine that we are all together singing His praises and rejoicing in our salvation. For those of us who truly know Him, that will be a reality on that day when we see Him face to face.

With love and a grateful heart,

Julie Collins