



APC Advent Devotional – December 18th, 2020

## **My First Christmas / Virus to Victory**

*Today's Scripture: John 5:17 (NIV)*

The many 'Nosophobia' filled tomorrows of this year have now become yesterdays. They have all impacted our today and provided insights for tomorrows. The Prophet Samuel created a memorial stone and called it Ebenezer, saying "Thus far has the Lord helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12). He wanted God's people to know that since God helped them 'yesterday' they could expect His help 'tomorrow.' As God is invisible, at times it may seem that He is absent from our situations. It is our First Christmas where we are going to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace socially distancing ourselves from our loved ones.

Christmas brings hope and happiness. None of us looks forward to illness, tragedy or loss. We hope for sunny days filled with laughter, prosperity and rejoicing. We, as believers, can have joy in our hearts regardless of the circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:16). Christmas also brings promises. Promises of God in our family, work, study, finances and relationships (Mathew 1:23). **Christmas creates opportunity.** Opportunity to explore, to achieve and to serve through our good deeds to others (Galatians 6:10).

Though we do not know what tomorrow will bring, but we do know all our days are already written in God's Book and His thoughts towards us are precious (Psalm 139:16-17). Therefore, as John 5:17 says, God is at work, we keep our focus on a miracle-filled tomorrow and a New Year.

*"Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand; But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand." - Ira Stanphill.*

By Mark Abhishek Das