## Agape World





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Merry Christmas And
May You be Blessed With
Your Dream Come True
In New Year 2020!

For unto you is born this day in the city of

David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11 KJV

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## Dear Friends

I expect by now that you will have finished shopping and are looking forward to enjoying the festive season with family and friends. As the end of the year draws near, we have been reminded in recent months that the country hasn't always been marked by calm and unity. The success of our event at the Japanese Embassy and the Paradise lunches prove that reconciliation remains not only necessary but possible.

As you know, Agape World was born out of the intention to bring people together, in the belief that healing and resolution can result. Next October, Keiko will further this goal by leading

Christmas can bring all sorts of emotions depending on your circumstances, but one thing we hope and pray is that you will experience much warmth in your hearts during this festive season as that is what Christmas is all about...God's Love to us all.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love in Christ, Harue

"In this season, the Church celebrates the Messiah's first coming, the Messiah of Israel, and of the whole world. He was the word of God incarnate, and the true light that gives light to everyone (John 1:1-13). For the God's word is "a lamp for [our] feet, a light on [our] path" (Psalm 119:105), whoever follows Him, "will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12)

May the true gift of this season be yours today and forevermore.

With every blessing and prayer, Hiroko and family"

another Pilgrimage to Japan. Many of those

whose will be travelling are family members of FEPOWs.

We are thankful that Keiko and members of her team in the UK and Japan are dedicated to making this trip a special and eventful time.

At Christmas, we are aware of the great example of reconciliation, that of God breaking into human history through the coming of a child. As we consider this amazing gift, we are also thankful to you, our supporters, for the gifts of your continued time, interest and involvement. May you all have a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

## Dr Paul Dakin

"We wish you a Happy Christmas & a hopeful New Year! Agape World's work of reconciliation is rooted in the reconciliation with God offered freely to us all by the coming to earth of the Lord Jesus. Our hope is sure because of His sacrificial love for us. We pray that you will experience this hope in 2020."

With our love,

Dee & Geoff Larcombe

I am, especially, thinking of you those who are alone and might be thinking that this time of the year is the worst season of your life.

I often feel that way when this season creeps in. My lovely home usually turns into the cold prison cell. I try to escape from London, and this year, I am with my niece who has been working in Dubai for number of years. She is a lovely person and very capable at work. It is nice to be in a warm county as well.

May Your New Year Brings You Happiness.

Much love, Keiko

## Here is our new vibrant trustee member!

"Hello Everyone, I am Hiroko, a new trustee at Agape World. It has been a great honour and privilege to have become acquainted with some of you during this year's events and reunions. Each encounter was special and taught me a great deal of personal, and family stories, which are all equally precious in the sight of God.

After all, Japan surrendered unconditionally, many were tried at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, and executed, and the demanded reparations were all paid in full. As far as I can remember, none of the Japanese media reported the infamous incident of burning of the flag of Japan.

Like many Japanese people, I did not know about this God whose business is to reconcile man to man, and ultimately man to God. For the national curriculum of Japan does not include Religious **Education whatso** ever, probably because the war was fought for the emperor, who was said to be the "living god".

My view and attitudes have totally been transformed, being after touched by this God. for it is His characteristic: "A bruised reed he will n o t break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through victory" (Matthew 12:20).

The norm was, and still is, I believe, that religion is dangerous.

So, when I first heard about the work of Agape World in 1998, at the time of the previous emperor's visit to the UK, I was rather disturbed to be very honest. I was working as a foreign correspondent for a business newspaper. My view was in line with the prevailing mood in the media, that the responsibility for postwar compensation, either financial, physical or psychological, should rest upon the British government.

The transformation took time. When Keiko asked me to join the team of Agape World, whose heart is full of compassion, and reconciliation, it must have been the fullness of time. It has been seven or eight years since I first met Keiko personally at Holy Trinity Brompton.

At Agape world, I am planning to update the website further. If this prompts any suggestions, I would love to hear from you."