

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... Isaiah 9:6*



We want to wish you and your family a

## **Merry Christmas!**

Thanks for partnering with us in taking this good news to the people of Africa.

John & Dawn Elliott—AGWM missionaries to Zambia

[www.JD-Elliott.net](http://www.JD-Elliott.net)

Maybe you are wondering what Christmas is like in Africa. Well, it's a LOT different than Christmas in the States!

- ◆ It's HOT! Here in Lusaka it's usually in the 80's with lots of humidity, and we try to stay in front of a fan or our one-room air conditioner (when we have electricity!). And things are green, as the rainy season is here.
- ◆ Christmas kind of sneaks up on you. It isn't as big a deal as back home, and so one morning you wake up and realize Christmas is almost here and there's a bunch of things you need to get done. Like getting on Amazon and ordering gifts for your family! That's a big change from the old days when we had to mail gifts from Africa months ahead.
- ◆ Unfortunately, there is very little mention of Christmas in most of our churches—no Christmas carols, and hardly any mention of Christmas in sermons (unless John is preaching!). That is because Christianity is relatively new to Zambia, as 50 years ago the majority of the population were still practicing traditional African religion.

But the Father gave His Son for all the peoples of the world, and there is a deep joy that comes in seeing the Good News being spread to those who don't know, like those shepherds long ago experienced when they "spread the word" that the angel had told them about this child. And there is a satisfaction that comes in knowing that millions of Zambians have already heard this good news and acknowledged Jesus as their Savior, whether or not they celebrate Christmas the way we do.

This Christmas, let's thank the Father for sending His Son, and pray that all peoples, everywhere, will hear this Good News!