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Dear Friends,

It is a great privilege to serve with you on the Leadership Development Team in the Northeast. Bob and I so appreciate you and what you bring to our team and the region. Each of us doing our part makes all the difference in our staff and interns lives around the region and the world. You are helping staff and interns succeed in reaching lost students and helping them become Christ-centered laborers. I have no idea the total number of hours in conversations, planning, praying, writing email, on google hangout, figuring out how to help someone - but may God be praised with our efforts. I think of the words in Colossians 3: 17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Thank you for your work in the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God and the encouragement of our staff and interns.

This year as I have thought about Jesus' birth, I have been struck by the announcements at the time of His birth. An angel told the shepherds and then is joined in song by a heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." The shepherds cannot keep the news to themselves and told others what they had seen and heard. A few days later, Simeon and Anna each made a great proclamation about the baby Jesus who was being presented to God in the temple. And we know of the three kings who come from a distance presenting gifts. It makes me think how appropriate it is that we make a big deal about Christmas. God did at the first Christmas all those years ago.

I love the words in John 1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. Yes, that is worth celebrating! Merry Christmas indeed!!

Because God became man,

