

January 2016

### REFLECTIONS ON THE FIRST OF JANUARY

Recently I came across this quote about the First of January and the final line really struck me; especially as we have all been reflecting upon *the* nativity of our Lord during these past weeks. The word “nativity” means of course “birth” - but much more. It marks the beginning of all that is yet to come. One of the amazing splendors of the grace of God is that every day is “*the nativity of our common Adam.*” As we look forward to what life and ministry may bring to us in 2016 (that is what we may “*count upon*” from this date) we know we are in His hands and as we launch into this year, may we daily reflect upon His grace and the meaning and significance of His nativity - which eventually brought about our redemption.

### CONTINUED FRUIT FROM MINISTRY PAST



This is the time of year for reflecting on the past, and one of the blessings that was mine during my years of touring as an illusionist / evangelist was the opportunity of mentoring a number of young men who have gone on to be used of God in ways we could not have imagined at the time. I recently received an update from one of those protégés, Justin Raj (pictured above and right).

Justin and I first met in 1997, when at the time he was a young staff member with *India Campus Crusade for Christ*. In the time that followed I helped Justin develop his presentation and materials; everything from magical effects to equipment cases, and even a motorcycle to transport his show. Over the years Justin has demonstrated to be a



No one ever regarded the First of January with indifference. It is that from which all date their time, and count upon what is left. It is the nativity of our common Adam. ~ Charles Lamb, "New Year's Eve," in *The London Magazine*, January 1821

tremendous steward of the time we worked together; the talents he's developed; and the resources God has provided—**sharing the Gospel with literally tens of thousands in some of the most unreached communities of the world.**

I am so humbled to have had a small part in his life and ministry. Over the years I know that Justin has also personally mentored many others. Please take a couple of moments today to remember in prayer Justin, his ministry in India, as well as his lovely wife, Meerebah, and the their children. You can follow Justin at: <https://www.facebook.com/justinmagic>.

### STUDENTS HELPING STUDENTS

During this past month I was also very proud to watch our students here at *Colegio Menor* in Samborondón reach out to the students of a local national school who have very little to call their own. As you can see from the expression of the boy on the right, their time together was a BIG success! Our students



(with the help of course of parents and staff) provided them with games, gifts, and treats to eat. We are hopeful that this event will be the start of a continuing ministry opportunity.

Thank you so much for your continuing support that allows us to continue serving here in Ecuador!

Yours for Christ,  
- Toby  
(for Tannia & Emma too!)