



# CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY, JAMAICA

National Office

6 Pheonix Avenue, Kingston 10, Jamaica, W.I.

Tel: 1876.926.8543; 1876.926.5571 | Fax: 1876.920.6059

[www.cogopjamaica.org](http://www.cogopjamaica.org)

INTERNATIONAL OFFICES:

Bible Place, Cleveland,  
Tennessee, 37311, U.S.A.



December 2, 2016

## NATIONAL OVERSEER'S MESSAGE TO BE READ TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

Dear members and friends of the Church of God of Prophecy, sister Leith and I send warm Christmas greetings to you in the name of Jesus the King of glory and Head of the Church.

As we approach the Christmas season, already the lights are on and the music is playing as merchants woo shoppers to their merchandise. The radio and television are being overtaken with advertisements to get us to spend money some don't even have. Need I remind you that credit you make this month will be due for payment next month – so be careful not to become distracted by the commercializing of the Christmas holiday.

As Christians, our celebration must reflect our faith in Jesus just like the angels and shepherds on that first Christmas celebration that Luke so vividly described in that picturesque scene of the birth of Jesus. **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”** the heavenly hosts declared as they heralded the Good News. Yes, the Christmas story is about the Good News of Jesus and His saving power and the end of the tyranny of sin in the lives of humans. As we receive Him in our lives we too participate in the offering of divine peace on earth, as was declared by the angelic delegation.

Looking at our beloved country however and the world at large, one would no doubt question whether or not the goodwill which the angels spoke of is being experienced. The state of murders in the nation is cause for concern by all of us. Recent incidents of crime have demonstrated a new low in the evil conduct of a few misguided Jamaicans. In addition to the crime, the general socio-economic conditions continue to affect the poor in particular. Therefore, as we pray for the peace of Jamaica, let us also work in our various families and communities as good stewards of the grace of God to effect greater peace on earth in the New Year.

I am therefore using this medium to once again declare January as a time of fasting and prayer and an emphasis on stewardship. During this time I am asking that each local church be engaged in the 21 days of prayer from **January 5-26, 2017** as directed by the General Overseer, Bishop Sam Clements. As it relates to the subject of stewardship, the COGOP continues to struggle economically as too many members continually ignore the biblical precepts regarding stewardship. Therefore, as we seek the Lord during this time of prayer, let us place this issue before him as we also repent from any act that dishonors the Lord in the area of stewardship.

I pray that as you celebrate the Christmas holiday, and look towards the New Year, the Spirit of God will release grace in your lives for each season. May God bless you until April 18-23 when we meet for our 75<sup>th</sup> National Convention - Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Yours in the Master's Service,

Winston A. Leith  
National Overseer

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National Overseer Winston A Leith | Administrative Assistants Enoch Cornwall, Hudston Taylor, Franklyn Beckford, Junior R. Headlam

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all”. 2 Cor. 13:14.