

Christmas is the most celebrated event in our world today. For Christians, like ourselves, the celebration is supposed to go beyond than just simple gift giving. We are reminded of the greatest gift God has given us – the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. But somehow, our celebration stops at the nativity story.

Every year, we follow the Nazareth story; Joseph and the pregnant Mary on the road to Jerusalem. Mary's time to give birth came, they knocked every door on their way, sought help but no one seemed to have a space left for them. They ended up on a manger.

As I look around us today, especially in Haiti, it saddens me think that the story of the holy family keeps on happening everyday. As we face a hungry child, the homeless families, malnourished and abandoned children, a neglected elderly and more, the uneducated child, a poor pregnant woman, a sick person, we shall be reminded of people's refusal to welcome Joseph, Mary and Jesus in their homes.

If I have the power to rewrite the nativity story, I will make it to the point that the very first door Joseph and Mary knocked be opened right away before them. As we continue to help the hungry children in Haiti, as we continue to help pregnant women during their pregnancies and child giving, as we take effort to educate a Haitian child, as battle to provide clean water to many Haitian households, as we struggle to meet the demand of health care in Haiti, as we dream to provide livelihood assistance to surviving mothers, we are changing the history of denying "a family" a small space in our lives. Jesus does not need to born in a manger again. There is a much better and prettier place for Jesus to be born this time. It is in our hearts.

Let this simple reflection be my way of thanking you and wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas. Thank you for your generosity and above all by opening your hearts to the knockings of the poor of Haiti. Together we can rewrite a new nativity story. May this Christmas bring us all a renewed hope and a steadfast faith.

Father Andrew (Haiti)