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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

RE: CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2020

Each Christmas celebration tells us that we are **valued**, that we are **wanted**, and that we are **loved**. At Christmas we celebrate God's gift to us of His Son, Jesus. Christmas reminds us that each one of us is precious, irreplaceable and made for greatness. The real Christmas happens in our hearts. It is the gift of love. God's love for each human person.

This might sound totally out of place from the Kumbo that I know, from the Kumbo that most people hear about. It is no longer news that this year 2020 Christmas will be celebrated still in the backdrop of gunshots, of terror brought about by those who continue to kidnap their own brothers and sisters and ask for huge ransoms. There is still violence, roadblocks, random killings, fear and insecurity. These are only a few of the terrible acts of cruelty we meet around Kumbo. We keep asking ourselves when will this senseless war be over. We ask "what will Christmas be like for the people in Mbiame, in Kikaikom, in Ngarbuh, in Wainamah, in Vekovi, in Bamkikai and in a Kumbo Palace without the Fon.

It is no accident that long ago, the followers of Jesus began to commemorate his birth when the world was covered in darkness, the darkness of sin and violence, when the world seemed darkest. It is no accident that we too commemorate his coming when the gunshots, the killings, the kidnappings, the closure of Schools are still the order of the day in our land. Yes Christmas has come and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem represents the victory of light over darkness, joy over sadness, love over hatred, peace over war, gratitude over misery, order over chaos and hope over despair. That is what this Christmas says to you and me. You matter so much, you are loved so much that God would become one of us – for your sake!

It is the good news Christians would never forget. The Christmas Baby speaks this message to every human being because he came for every human person even those who continue to hold guns of war and bloodshed and feed our people's minds with


hate language. Yes every human being matters. You truly matter. Even your enemy and traitor and the so called “enablers” matter. Yes an Anglophone and a Francophone matter.

This Christmas should give each one of us the courage to forge ahead and that is why I invite those who are in Kumbo, you who have run away from Kumbo, I invite you this Christmas and I say to you:

- “If you are sad – rejoice, Christmas is joy!
- If you have enemies – be reconciled. Christmas is peace!
- If you are in sin – repent. Christmas is grace!
- If you are in darkness – light your lamp. Christmas is light.
- If you are in error – reflect, Christmas is truth!
- If you harbour hatred – destroy it. Christmas is love!
- If you are in despair – turn to Christ, Christmas is hope!
- And if you are amidst the poor – help them, Christmas is gift”.

This Christmas presents us with a choice. Either you decide to join the new Herods of war and terror or to join the Angels, the Shepherds and the Kings at the crib singing, “Glory to God and praying for peace on earth. May our Christmas Lord lift up our hearts and inspire us to share this Good News this Christmas and in the New Year 2021 so that the people of God of Kumbo can once more live in peace and joy. Have a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,


+George Nkuo
Bishop of Kumbo

