



The Spirit of Advent

The Advent season in Christianity is a season that helps us to prepare for the birth of the Christ Child at Christmas by 'looking forward to' the celebration. It often comes and goes without much focus due to the busyness at the end of the year. Advent is the season for waiting and it is not something that most of us do easily. Our world is geared not to wait but rather to have what we want now. We have seen the advertising slogans "Why Wait?" and 'Buy Now' and tend to start celebrating Christmas well before 25th. What has happened to the 'waiting' season and 'looking forward' to Christmas? Many theologians would conclude that waiting is not something that can be learnt in a few sessions instead waiting is a frame of mind and not an activity.

To state that 2020 has been an incredulous one would be the greatest understatement for the year with the plans of millions of people around the world thrown into utter chaos. The coronavirus pandemic resulted in Governments around the globe putting a halt to the daily routines of billions of people as they tried to deal with the unknowns and waited for directions from their chief medical officers. Countries were shut down in waves which left thousands stranded and waiting. Citizens waited for directions from Governments with some countries acting decisively and others waiting to see the impact of the virus. The big dilemma was the health and well-being of citizens over economics while the brightest minds researched and tested for a vaccine. Borders were closed and then opened again. Towards the end of the year, the hope for a vaccine was gaining more and more potential. The world waited for the vaccine but in the meantime simple precautions were helping people to remain safe.

Mukuru Promotion Centre faced enormous challenges and our way of being became even more practical as the people we serve bore the economic brunt of the pandemic. The subsistence economy dried up very quickly and people were more worried about their next meal rather than the virus. While we waited for the situation to change, adjustments were made so people could receive the basic necessities for life.

During the year through the MPC newsletters and CoVid19 updates you were kept informed with all the happenings, both devastating and fortunate however, your generosity contributed to many inspirational success stories for 2020.

You, our partners and donors provided a lifeline to thousands at Mukuru and MPC is very thankful for your generosity when the residents could only live in the present and not the future. Clearly, the Advent Season for Mukuru residents commenced in March and has continued through to December. Now that several vaccines have been developed the future is brighter for 2021.

May we, during this Advent Season take time to embrace the stillness and stay in the present and deeply appreciate the active waiting that will bring new life, come Christmas Day.

Advent Chant

Phil Porter
(T Watts)

Twilight, then darkness, night falls and candles glow.
Gently surrounding us a new birth of hope.
Watching, waiting, awak'ning a new birth of hope.



A very Grace filled Christmas to you and your family.

May the experience of 2020 help us to live the in present and look forward to celebrating Christmas with all its hope for new life.

Mukuru Promotion Centre

Director and Staff

Thank you for 2020!

If you wish to make a donation, please go to the MPC website: www.mercymukuru.co.ke