

Where Has Christmas Really Gone? (Christmas 2007)

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You see all the lights and the decorations, but where has Christmas really gone? We sometimes forget the real reason for Christmas and just concentrate on the needs of our family and friends. Some of us go to Church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and complain on how crowded it is and some of us don't.

Christmas seems to be forever in danger of being lost by all the bustle and promotion of the season. We wonder have I spent enough on that person, are they going to like my gift? Kids ask us is that all? Come January we look at all the credit card statements and wonder where we are going to get the money to pay for it.

Ever wonder about an "Old Fashion Christmas"? Its all about family and friends getting together for the Holiday and celebrating life. The tree is real, because it was cut in the woods. The decorations are strung of popcorn and cranberries. All the gifts are special because they are home made and come from the heart. The meal is cooked and not catered. The desserts are baked and not bought. There is laughter and not fighting. It will be something to remember, but alas that also seems to be lost.

For me this is a very special time of the year. I love the songs of Christmas that come from the heart. I especially enjoy the ones by Country Artists that tell a story. One by Toby Keith ("*Jesus Gets Jealous of Santa Claus,*") and then I wonder.

I have spent many a Christmas away from home and I take this time of year and every day I think of our Troops and pray for them. I think of our Hero's and pray for them. I think of the less fortunate in the world and pray for them. I pray for Peace on Earth, but alas that also seems to be lost.

This year it is very hard for me. My son is off fighting this new war. I think of him all the time. I have been over there myself, but when he left I cried like a baby. I especially pray for him and everyone in his unit.

In 1982 during the Christmas Season God sent me an angel because I needed one and she is still with me. On more than one occasion I saw her wings spread out a shimmering white and pushed me through the hard times and laughed with me and cried with me. I thank her and God for that and always being with me.

Each year I only ask for one gift, do you wonder what it is?

I number of years ago my wife asked me what I wanted for Christmas and I said Peace on Earth. She knew that was impossible so she asked me to be more reasonable. Finally I said the gift that I want is to give to someone else and it all started. Each year we give presents and food to help the less fortunate. We pick

a family or just one child and make Christmas special for them. One year we got together with the Marines and I made a large donation to Toys for Tots. One year we provided Christmas Dinner and all the presents for a family that was barely making it. To me that is the best gift that I can get.

Take a few moments and think about the real meaning of Christmas and explain it to your children and grandchildren. I have two very special granddaughters to explain it to.

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Pray for our Troops*