

# HIS CHILDREN

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## From My Heart ...

Years come and years go and some understand the meaning of Christmas and others don't. As we consider the meaning of Christmas, that the Christ Child was born in a stable for all the world, may that cause us to comprehend, in a deeper way, the love of the Father for us.

*"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."* (John 15:13) As we consider this Child, that He would grow and become a Man with the purpose of laying down His life for the world, may we not miss His desire for us. *"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us ..."* (1 John 3:16)

I think of that song that states, "Christmas is a time, Christmas is a time, Christmas is a time to love." A time to share God's love with others. *"In this the*

*love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him."* (1 John 4:9)

Christmas is a time to love -- to love God and to love our neighbor. *"Beloved if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."* (1 John 4:11)

*"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! ..."* (1 John 3:1) *"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* (John 13:35)

Christmas is a time to love. Are there those around you, perhaps in your own family, that so desperately need to feel the love of God? What a great time to reach out, using your hands, and allow God to "touch" those in need.

May the Lord richly bless your Christmas!

## Scripture Corner

*For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His  
shoulder.*

*And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
(Isaiah 9:6)*



## CHILDREN

Some would gather money  
Along the path of life.  
Some would gather roses  
And rest from earthly strife.  
But I would gather children  
From among the thorns of sin;  
I would seek a golden curl  
And a freckled, toothless grin,  
For money cannot enter  
Into the land of endless day,  
And roses that are gathered  
Soon will wilt along the way.  
But oh, the laughing children,  
As I cross the sunset sea,  
And the gates swing wide to Heaven  
I can take them in with me.  
-Selected



## CM Announcements and Volunteer Needs ...

Dec. 24	<p><b><u>Volunteers for Christmas Eve Service</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you would like to minister to the children during either of the two Christmas Eve services, please sign up in the Children's Ministry office.</li> </ul>
Dec. 31	<p><b><u>Volunteers for New Years' Eve Service</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you would like to minister to the children during the New Year's Eve service, please see Pastor Larry.</li> </ul>
Jan. 14	<p><b><u>Children's Ministry Training</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The beginning of a new six week training session for those desiring to serve in the Children's Ministry. From 7-9 PM on Tuesdays.</li> <li>Practical study and application in areas of lesson preparation, creative story-telling, discipline, effective use of the curriculum, and many other topics of interest!</li> <li>Current Children's Ministers are <u>always</u> welcome to attend for "refresher" training!!</li> </ul>
Weekdays	<p><b><u>Seeking Volunteers in CM Office</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have time during the day and would like to help in the office, please see Pastor Larry.</li> </ul>

## ANECDOTES ...

### ***A Bead Of Glue, A Sprinkle Of Glitter ...***

As I awoke leisurely on this Saturday morning, I listened to some of the Saturday Morning Kid's program with the children and started my weekend chores. As I passed the calendar, panic suddenly set in. It was December 7th and in large letters I had written the notation: "Christmas Craft Seminar"!! I had been looking forward to this event!

I remembered how my own children were so proud of the crafts they brought home and how that collage of papers stuck on the refrigerator door often triggered their remembrance of a spiritual truth that they had learned from one of their lessons! After previous experiences with crafts using glue and glitter, I was persuaded that these items were best handled by kids 18 years and older!! This day, however, the Lord was going to stretch me! Still, there was that deep fear that my family leader would find me one day in the corner of my

classroom stuck in a ball of yarn, glitter, and glue!!

As I looked around the room at the various craft stations, however, I noticed that glue, glitter, and yarn was being used but everything was orderly. One of the craft instructors reminded us that "a bead, not a river, of glue goes a long way"! (How true!) Confining the sprinkling of the glitter to the plastic tub also made clean-up *so easy*!

As we were making the crafts, we exchanged ideas on different variations that a particular craft could take and how one could simplify it for younger children or add accents for the older ones! We also learned how to do backgrounds very quickly using a small sponge that had been wiped against a marker!

With beads, floor tiles, toilet tissue tubes, macaroni, confetti, a "bead of glue", and a "sprinkle of glitter", there were no limits to the choices of cards, angels, tree decorations, and ornaments that the children can make! I couldn't believe that crafts such

as a clothespin donkey, a bow-tie macaroni angel, a tissue tube candle, and a paper plate plaque could be so elegant, yet easy to make and would be such a complement to the Bible lesson! The fellowship and the hands-on craft-making time was so much fun that the three hours flew by! I look forward to using some these crafts in our classroom and I thank the Lord for the wonderful servants who gave so much of their time and energy in blessing us with so many super examples and ideas!!

[**Note:** Craft examples from this seminar are among many displayed in the Children's Ministry Office. Ideas contained in this newsletter along with other Christmas craft patterns and their associated assembly instructions are available in a three-ring binder in the CM Office next to the curriculum.]



## Getting To Know HIM ...

Just as Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, may we also take the time this Christmas season to sit at His feet and “*know the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings*” (Philippians 3:10) Let us call upon Him and have that communion with Him in prayer. “*The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.*” (Psalm 145:18)

Jesus also tells us that He will manifest (i.e., reveal) Himself to us as we keep His commandments (John 14:21) So as we continue to abide in Him, He abides in us and reveals more of His nature to us.

The Scriptures provide so much insight into the nature of our Lord especially as we study the many names and titles for Him. Isaiah tells us that “... His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6) The angel Gabriel tells both Mary and Joseph that they should name the Child Jesus for He would save His people of their sins. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End (Revelation 1:8), Immanuel, God with us, (Matthew 1:23), the I AM (John 8:58), the Bread of Life (John 6:48), the Way, the Truth, and the Life

(John 14:6), the Door of the Sheep (John 10), the Lamb of God (Revelation 5:6), the Light of the World (John 8:12), the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25), the Good Shepherd (John 10:11).

James states it very succinctly: “Draw near to God and he will draw near to you ...” (James 4:8)



## More ANECDOTES ...

### Christmas Fellowship And Pot-Faith

[To be sung to the tune of “The Twelve Days Of Christmas”.]

At the beginning of the fellowship, there was so much to see ...

- 12 assorted desserts
- 11 table displays
- 10 men for seconds
- 9 platters of spaghetti
- 8 o'clock Bible study
- 7 back for thirds
- 6 Christmas carols
- 5 Childcare teachers
- 4 Russian children

- 3 left over dishes
- 2 Honey-baked hams
- and -

A Child born to set the world free.

[Here is a holiday challenge for all of you: rewrite the Twelve Days Of Christmas listing the wondrous things that Jesus does in your life.]

We had great food and a wonderful time of fellowship!! As we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, let us sit at His feet and meditate on His purpose in coming to this world. “*For even the Son of Man did*

*not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*” (Mark 10:45) Celebrate the birth of Jesus in your hearts and in your home as you read that timeless account in Scripture about Jesus’ wondrous birth and ministry.





## THE CANDY CANE

*The shepherd's staff was at the first worshiping of Christ. Its counterpart is our candy cane; so old is this symbol that we have almost forgotten its origin.*

*We are immediately attracted to its colors: white for purity and red for sacrifice. The body of the cane is white, representing the life that is pure. The broad stripe is symbolic of our Lord's sacrifice for us. The smaller stripes represent our lives as Christians as they are intertwined with and guided by our Savior. The form of a staff suggests service: the Good Shepherd seeking to serve and even to give His own life so we might be saved.*

*The color and form give way to the aroma of peppermint, akin to the aromatic herb hyssop, and its pungent taste. Old Testament scholars say that hyssop was used not only for its delightful taste, but also for medicinal purposes so that a healing quality is suggested. This reminds us of the healing ministry of our Lord not only while He was on this earth but today as well.*

*At Christmas we celebrate the birth of the Christ child but we must also be mindful of the man, Jesus, who has had the greatest impact of anyone in the history of the world! Christmas always brings back us to the cross at Calvary. As Jesus' body was broken at Calvary to show His supreme love, we are commanded to share that love to the world. The candy cane is a candy to be shared -- broken into pieces for all, drawing us deeper into His fellowship of love and sharing.*

*May the Christ of Christmas live in our hearts today and all year long!!*

**'Twas the night before  
Jesus came**

**'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house  
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.  
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care  
in hopes that Jesus would not come there.**

**The children were dressing to crawl into bed,  
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head,  
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap  
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.**

**When out of the East there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!**

**When what to my wondering eyes should appear  
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.  
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray  
I knew in a moment this must be The Day!**

**The light of His face made me cover my head  
It was Jesus! returning just like He had said,  
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,  
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.**

**In the Book of Life which He held in His hand  
Was written the name of every saved man.  
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;  
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.**

**The people whose names had been written with love  
He gathered to take to His Father above.  
With those who were ready He rose without a sound  
While all the rest were left standing around.**

**I fell to my knees, but it was too late;  
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.  
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;  
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.**

**In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;  
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.  
There's only one life and when comes the last call  
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!**

**c 1993 Bethany Farms, Carrollton, IL**