

7:00 pm December 20, 2014 - **THREE REASONS OF CHRISTMAS**

WE HAVE GATHERED THIS EVENING FOR WHAT EXACTLY? CAN YOU GIVE A REASON WHY YOU ARE HERE? IT MAY BE OUT OF TRADITION, A HABIT; MAYBE YOU WERE HERE AT EASTER AND WANT TO COMPLETE THE YEARLY CYCLE? TO TELL THE TRUTH, WHATEVER THE REASON, GOD IS SMILING TONIGHT BECAUSE YOU **ARE** JOINING IN THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST. THE SONGS AND THEIR WORDS, THE MUSIC, THE SCRIPTURE IT IS ALL PART OF THE CELEBRATION, AND YOU ARE HERE IN THE MIDST OF IT - WELCOMED BY EACH OTHER AND GOD HIMSELF.

PEOPLE ATTEND VARIOUS CELEBRATIONS FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, AND SOME WOULD RATHER NOT BE THERE, BUT IT IS EXPECTED OF THEM. THIS CELEBRATION, HERE THIS EVENING, IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER AND THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO IT THAN JUST THIS EVENING. CHRISTMAS, THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, IS ONLY A BEGINNING, A JOURNEY FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT, FROM SADNESS INTO JOY, A BEGINNING STEP TO HEALING OF THE BROKENHEARTED, AND SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE ON MATTER WHAT TYPE OF PRISON THEY ARE IN! I WOULD SAY THAT COVERS QUITE A LOT OF GROUND.

CHRISTMAS IS SO MUCH MORE...THAN SHOPPING FOR GIFTS, THE WARM FEELINGS WHEN WE HEAR A CHRISTMAS SONG, PREPARING MEALS, DECORATING THE HOUSE, BAKING THE COOKIES OR EVEN THE MANY GATHERINGS WE WILL ATTEND, THOUGH THE GATHERING OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS IS VERY IMPORTANT.

WHAT ALL THESE EVENTS HAVE IN COMMON IS WHEN THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER SO ARE THE EVENTS AND WE TURN BACK TO EVERYDAY LIFE AND LIVING. MY DESIRE FOR ALL OF US HERE THIS EVENING IS TO REALIZE CHRISTMAS IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THE GLITTER AND THE GIFTS. THE REALITY IS THE MANY DAYS BETWEEN THESE CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE!!!!

THE REALITY IS THAT OVER TWO BILLION PEOPLE, CHRISTIANS, CELEBRATE **CHRISTMAS** OR ABOUT ONE IN THREE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. MORE PEOPLE THAT THE NUMBERS I HAVE GIVEN CELEBRATE A HOLIDAY, BUT FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. I ASKED EARLIER IF YOU COULD GIVE A REASON FOR WHY YOU ARE HERE THIS EVENING, BUT THE REAL QUESTION IS "WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR CHRISTMAS FOR YOU?" PEOPLE WILL GIVE QUICK ANSWERS LIKE "IT IS THE BIRTH OF JESUS". TRUE, BUT IF WE JUST SLOW DOWN, PAUSE A MOMENT TO GATHER OUR THOUGHTS OTHER MEANINGS MAY COME TO MIND. REASONS THAT WILL LAST THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR CHRISTMAS, BUT MY DESIRE IS TO RECALL A FEW AND LET YOU THINK OF MORE AS YOU TAKE MOMENTS TO REFLECT IN THIS SEASON.

CHRISTMAS IS SO MUCH MORE...THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IS TO REMIND US OF GIVING AND HOPE. TONIGHT JESUS IS BORN, COMING TO US IN THE FLESH AND DWELLING AMONG US. NO LONGER DO WE DOUBT AND THINK OF GOD AS DISTANT AND REMOTE, UNCONCERNED ABOUT OUR DAILY LIVES. HERE IS JESUS TO WALK AMONG US AND GIVE US HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. WITH HIS BIRTH, THE WORDS OF PROMISE AND PROPHECY AROSE FROM THE PAGES OF GOD'S WORD AND WERE ALIVE! JESUS BECAME THE LIVING WORD. TODAY WE CAN REJOICE NOT ONLY THIS EVENING, BUT EVERY DAY IN HIS BIRTH AND THE HOPE THAT WE CAN LIVE IN BY FAITH! GOD CONTINUES TO COME TO US TODAY IN NEW WAYS, IF WE CHOSE TO LET HIM IN OUR LIVES. JESUS' BIRTH MEANT THERE WAS NOW A NEW WAY, FULL OF MERCY AND GRACE INITIATED BY GOD FOR US TO COME TO HIM IN A RELATIONSHIP, NO LONGER TO LIVE IN DARKNESS AND WITHOUT HOPE. WITH THE BIRTH OF HIS SON GOD GAVE US A MOST PRECIOUS GIFT. IT IS MEANT FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US HERE TONIGHT AND FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OUT THERE TOO. HOPE IS A RARE COMMODITY FOR MANY IN THE WORLD.

CHRISTMAS IS A REMINDER THAT WE TOO SHOULD GIVE THAT WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN US FIRST BY GOD, AND CONTINUES TO BE GIVEN TO US BY GOD EVERY DAY OF OUR LIVES! WHEN WE ARE **TRULY** GIVING PEOPLE, WE GIVE OF OURSELVES THAT IS THE VERY REASON OF CHRISTMAS – GIVING ONES' SELF FOR AND TO OTHERS. WHEN WE DO, HOPE IS RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT AND LIGHT SHINES THROUGH AND ERASES THE DARKNESS OF HOPELESSNESS.

CHRISTMAS IS SO MUCH MORE...CHRISTMAS IS LOVE AND JOY. TONIGHT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE "GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING". WHAT A JOY! A FAMILIAR PASSAGE FOUND IN JOHN 3:16 – "*GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE US HIS ONLY SON...*" MANY OF THE CHRISTMAS SONGS WE SING THIS EVENING SPEAK OF THE LOVE GOD SHOWED TO US THROUGH THE BIRTH OF JESUS. IN SILENT NIGHT THE WORDS ARE "*SON OF GOD, LOVE'S PURE LIGHT*". IN JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US. IN THE SONG "LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS" LOOK OVER THE WORDS AND PONDER THE THOUGHT OF GOD, HIS LOVE, JESUS, AND WHAT TONIGHT MEANS FOR ALL OF US.

DID YOU EVER ASK YOURSELF WHAT IT IS IN CHRISTMAS SONGS THAT WE FIND TOUCHES OUR SPIRIT LIKE NONE OTHER? I BELIEVE IT IS THE MESSAGE CONTAINED WITHIN THE SONGS. THE MESSAGE IS OF HOPE AND PEACE FOR THE WORLD AND THE LOVE AND JOY THAT COMES FROM BOTH. WE HERE THIS EVENING ARE AWARE THAT ALL THESE COME FROM AND ARE BECAUSE OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAPPINESS AND JOY – JOY IS SOMETHING DEEP INSIDE THAT DOES NOT DEPEND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES. JOY CARRIES THE DAYS BETWEEN OUR CELEBRATIONS WHILE JOY APPRECIATES THE DAYS OF CELEBRATION.

A REASON OF CHRISTMAS IS AS WE GATHER, HERE THIS EVENING AND AT OTHER TIMES, THAT LOVE IS SHARED WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS JUST AS GOD HAS SHARED HIS LOVE FOR US WITH THE BIRTH OF HIS SON. JUST AS WE ARE TOLD MARY PONDERED ALL THESE THINGS IN HER HEART AND SURELY FELT JOY WITHIN, WE TOO EXPERIENCE JOY, EVER SO QUIETLY IN THE EXPERIENCES OF CHRISTMAS.

LASTLY, **CHRISTMAS IS SO MUCH MORE...CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT YOU AND I.** GOD DID IT FOR ALL OF US. GOD'S DESIRE IS FOR A RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH ONE OF US. HE WANTS US TO NOT HAVE JUST A GOOD LIFE, BUT THE BEST ONE! IT STATES IN SCRIPTURE THAT GOD DESIRES ALL, AND THAT INCLUDES YOU AND ME, TO KNOW HIM AND LIVE LIFE MORE FULLY. WE DON'T HAVE TO JUST SURVIVE UNTIL THE DAY OF CELEBRATION OR 'TIL NEXT CHRISTMAS.

CHRISTMAS REALLY IS ABOUT HOPE, PEACE, LOVE AND JOY, AND WHEN WE HAVE THESE THEN WE HAVE A LIFE. GOD GIVES US THAT OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS AND THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

IN CLOSING THERE IS A STORY WITH AN IMPORTANT POINT ABOUT THE REASON FOR CHRISTMAS... *IN THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE, AMIDST THE TRAPPINGS AND THE WRAPPINGS, IT'S GOOD TO PAUSE AND REFLECT ON THE REASON FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. AS WE RUSH TO BUY OUR GIFTS, LET'S REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS. THE TRAPPINGS WERE A STABLE IN BETHLEHEM, AND THE WRAPPINGS WERE SWADDLING CLOTHES THAT BECAME THE ROYAL GARMENTS OF THE INFANT KING. THE GIFT JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, MADE FLESH."*

BY THE SAME TOKEN, DO WE NOT SEARCH FAR AND WIDE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS, WHEN IT IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR VERY EYES. IN FACT, ONE NEED NOT GO ANY FURTHER THAN THIS CHRISTMAS-RELATED SCRIPTURE PORTION *"AND SHE WILL HAVE A SON, AND YOU ARE TO NAME HIM JESUS, FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS"* (MATT 1:21).

JESUS MEANS THE SAVIOR. *PURE AND SIMPLE.* THE MESSAGE IS REALLY ALL IN THE NAME. TO ATTRIBUTE JESUS' BIRTH TO ANY OTHER REASON OTHER THAN THE CLEARLY STATED BIBLICAL REASON WOULD BE DILUTING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS. NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS!!!

MY PRAYER IS THAT ALL OF US CAN ANSWER THE REASON WHY WE CAME THIS EVENING - TO CELEBRATE NOT ONLY TONIGHT, BUT ALL THROUGH THE YEAR THE BIRTH OF JESUS AND HAVE HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, AND JOY TO SHARE WITH OTHERS. AMEN.

The 11 pm "Merry Christmas" sermon follows on the next page

11:00 pm December 24, 2014 Service --- *MERRY CHRISTMAS*

WE ALL HEARD OR USED THAT PHRASE THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. IN OUR DAY IT HAS BECOME CONTROVERSIAL TO A POINT WHERE PEOPLE OR BUSINESSES DON'T USE IT.

WHAT ARE WE SAYING WHEN WE USE THE GREETING? WHAT IS THE MEANING BEHIND THIS GREETING OF THE SEASON? THESE DAYS, IT'S COMMON PRACTICE TO WISH "MERRY CHRISTMAS" TO ONE ANOTHER AROUND THE 25TH OF DECEMBER, THE DAY OF CHRISTMAS. THE ORIGIN OF THIS PRACTICE IS A LITTLE OBSCURE. HOWEVER, IT'S BELIEVED THAT AN ENGLISH ADMIRAL FIRST USED THE TERM "MERRY CHRISTMAS" IN AN INFORMAL LETTER, WAY BACK IN 1699. IN 1843, CHARLES DICKENS USED THE SAME PHRASE IN "A CHRISTMAS CAROL."

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" HAS BECOME A SORT OF UNIVERSAL TERM TO COMMUNICATE JOY AND GOOD WISHES. IT REFLECTS THAT MESSAGES OF LOVE, JOY AND WELL WISHES CAN BE COMMUNICATED IRRESPECTIVE OF BELIEF SYSTEMS. IT'S A GREETING THAT MAKES TOTAL STRANGERS MAKE AN INSTANT CONNECTION. IT'S A MESSAGE THAT DISSOLVES ANGER. IT'S A MESSAGE THAT EVAPORATES MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LOVED ONES AND CREATES A BRIDGE TO THE BEGINNING OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP. IT'S AMAZING THAT THESE TWO SIMPLE WORDS "MERRY CHRISTMAS" CAN HAVE THIS PROFOUND EFFECT.

IN SOME PLACES, PEOPLE USE A SLIGHT VARIATION OF THE TERM "MERRY CHRISTMAS." IN IRELAND AND GREAT

BRITAIN, SOME PEOPLE PREFER USING "HAPPY CHRISTMAS" INSTEAD. HOWEVER, THE POWER AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PHRASE IS NOT DIMINISHED AT ALL BECAUSE THE INTENT OF LOVE AND WELL BEING REMAINS THE SAME, NO MATTER WHICH PHRASE IS USED.

THERE ARE MANY HOLIDAY GREETING TERMS USED ACROSS THE WORLD. BUT "MERRY CHRISTMAS" REMAINS A VERY POPULAR TERM IN COUNTRIES WITH LARGE CHRISTIAN POPULATION, LIKE THE UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA. OTHER TERMS THAT ARE USED AROUND THE SAME TIME OF THE YEAR AS A MEANS OF GREETING ARE "HAPPY HOLIDAYS", "SEASONS GREETINGS" AND, OF COURSE, "HAPPY CHRISTMAS." WHEN WE ARE USING SOMETHING LIKE "MERRY CHRISTMAS", IS THERE ANY DOUBT ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS?

HOWEVER, IT STILL BEGS THE QUESTION FOR US AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, "WHY IS IT A MERRY CHRISTMAS?" "WHAT MAKES YOUR CHRISTMAS MERRY?"

THERE ARE THINGS THAT WILL NOT MAKE FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS. ONE IS NOT LETTING MATERIALISM RULE US. A DEFINITION OF MATERIALISM IS "THAT PHYSICAL WELL-BEING AND WORLDLY POSSESSIONS CONSTITUTE THE GREATEST GOOD AND HIGHEST VALUE IN LIFE". YOU MIGHT SAY, "I DON'T DO THAT!" THEN LET ME ASK YOU

THIS – “HOW COME SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE TO GET THIS GIFT OR THAT ONE OR CHRISTMAS WILL BE RUINED? IT

SEEMS NOT SO LONG AGO WHEN MY GIRLS WERE GROWING UP THERE WERE THE CABBAGE PATCH KIDS AND I AM SURE EACH OF US CAN RECALL A GIFT THAT JUST HAD TO BE BOUGHT TO MAKE IT A “MERRY CHRISTMAS”. THERE EVEN WAS HUMOROUS MOVIE REGARDING SUCH A BATTLE BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE HAVING TO GET THIS CERTAIN TOY FOR THEIR KID. IS THAT REALLY WHAT MAKES A CHRISTMAS MERRY? IF THAT IS, THEN WE ARE HEADING DOWN THE WRONG PATH, OURSELVES, AND FOR THE KIDS.

MATERIALISM IS AN ATTITUDE THAT TEMPORAL THINGS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THINGS THAT LAST OR ARE EVEN ETERNAL. THINK ABOUT IT, BY NEXT TIME THIS YEAR THOSE BRIGHT SHINY, DO-EVERYTHING GIFTS ARE BROKE OR WORST SIT IN THE CORNER REPLACED BY SOMETHING NEWER, FASTER, OR BIGGER! MATERIAL THINGS JUST DON'T LAST. WE ARE EVEN WARNED BY JESUS HIMSELF NOT TO “INVEST” IN SUCH THINGS THAT WILL RUST, BE STOLEN OR DETERIORATE.

ON THE OTHER HAND WE HAVE THE PROMISE THAT THE LORD WILL BLESS US. IN MALACHI 3 *“I WILL OPEN THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN FOR YOU. I WILL POUR OUT A BLESSING SO GREAT YOU WON'T HAVE ENOUGH ROOM TO TAKE IT IN!”* ONE THING TO REMEMBER ABOUT SUCH A PROMISE IS THAT IT MIGHT NOT ALWAYS BE A MATERIALISTIC BLESSING BUT A BLESSING OF THOSE THINGS THAT WILL LAST AND BE REALLY BENEFICIAL TO OUR SPIRITUAL WALK.

BEING MATERIALISTIC CAN MAKE YOU A SLAVE. NO WAY? OH YES, TO GET THE THINGS YOU DESIRE, YOU WORK MORE AND MORE SPENDING LESS AND LESS TIME WITH FAMILY OR PEOPLE WHO MATTER, BUT TO WHAT END? DO THOSE THINGS REALLY MATTER OR IS IT FAMILY, FRIENDS AND GOD?

IN MATTHEW 6 IT TALKS ABOUT THIS VERY THING ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO SERVE TWO MASTERS – GOD AND MONEY, WHICH REALLY MEANS BEING MATERIALISTIC. IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST DECEPTIONS TODAY IN OUR WORLD, BECAUSE THE MORE YOU HAVE THE MORE YOU WANT. WE READ STORIES DAY AFTER DAY OF PEOPLE “WHO HAVE IT ALL” AND YET HAVE NOTHING, AND A LIFE FILLED WITH ANXIETY, WORRIED ABOUT THIS, WORRIED ABOUT THAT. THERE IS A REALLY APPROPRIATE VERSE IN I TIMOTHY 6 *“FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS A ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF EVIL, AND BY CRAVING IT, SOME HAVE WANDERED AWAY FROM THE FAITH AND PIERCED THEMSELVES WITH MANY PAINS”*. NOW WE ARE NOT SAYING HERE THAT THERE IS ANYTHING AGAINST MAKING A LIVING, BUT EVERYTHING IN MODERATION AND KEEPING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE. IN 1st CORINTHIANS 7 *“AND THOSE WHO USE THE THINGS IN THE WORLD AS THOUGH THEY WERE NOT DEPENDENT ON THEM”* -- MATERIALISM CAN ROB US OF A MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL YEAR LONG!

ALONG WITH MATERIALISM WE THEN CAN LOSE FOCUS ON THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS AND WHAT IT IS REALLY ABOUT – THE BIRTH OF CHRIST, HIS DEATH AND HIS RESURRECTION. THERE ARE DEFINITELY COMPETING

INTERESTS IN THE WORLD THAT TEND TO PULL US AWAY FROM OUR FOCUS AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS. PEOPLE DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE MISERABLE BY THEMSELVES, THEY WANT COMPANY. HOWEVER, WE HOLD THE TRUTH AND MUST SHARE IT WITH OTHERS.

THOSE ARE ONLY A FEW THINGS THAT CAN ROB US OF A MERRY CHRISTMAS IF WE CHOSE TO, BUT WHAT CAN MAKE FOR US A MERRY CHRISTMAS?

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS SHOULD NOT BE A STRUGGLE, BUT SOMETHING WE DO ALL YEAR LONG NATURALLY. FIRST THOUGH, WE HAVE TO KNOW WHAT WE ARE CELEBRATING AND ARE SO MERRY ABOUT.

REMEMBER WHEN YOU BROUGHT SOMETHING IN THE STORE THAT SAID "ASSEMBLY REQUIRED"? A MERRY CHRISTMAS IS LIKE THAT. FIRST THING IN ASSEMBLING IS TO READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM. OUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE FOUND IN THE BIBLE. JUST LIKE SOME PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLE TO PUT TOGETHER A LAWN MOWER OR A READY-TO-ASSEMBLE PROJECT BECAUSE THEY DON'T READ THE DIRECTIONS. SO TOO, IT IS WITH OUR LIFE BY NOT READING GOD'S "ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS" LIFE CAN BE A STRUGGLE OF EFFORT AND TIME. WE WILL INDEED HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS WHEN WE KNOW THE LOVE GOD HAS FOR US IN SENDING HIS SON TO US. GOD CARES ABOUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US HERE TONIGHT. THAT IS THE STORY AND GOD IS STICKING TO IT!!!

HAVING A MERRY CHRISTMAS IS AS EASY AS CELEBRATING IT WITH OTHERS, JUST AS WE ARE DOING TONIGHT. REMEMBER WHEN THE SHEPHERDS HEARD THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS' BIRTH THEY WENT OUT AND SHARED IT. WHAT HAPPENED? IN LUKE IT TELLS US THE SHEPHERDS JOY INCREASED!! WHEN YOU AND I SHARE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS IN SONG AND FELLOWSHIP, JOY WILL BE INCREASED IN YOU AND THOSE AROUND YOU. NOTICE THOSE SITTING AROUND YOU WHETHER FAMILY OR FRIENDS, THEY ARE ENJOYING YOU, YOU ARE MAKING THEIR CHRISTMAS MERRY. AFTER ALL, MERRY MEANS JOY AND REJOICING. THERE IS NO LESS OF A REASON TO REJOICE THIS NIGHT THAN THE SHEPHERDS DID ALMOST 2000 YEARS AGO. JESUS WAS BORN THIS NIGHT AND THE WORLD HAS NEVER BEEN THE SAME.

IN CLOSING THE STORY GOES...SOME MAKE IT A PRACTICE TO SET ASIDE ONE EVENING OF ADVENT A YEAR TO CRUISE THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF THE CITY OR TOWN THEY LIVE IN AND ADMIRE THE UNIQUE DISPLAY OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. ONE CAN BE OVERWHELMED BY ALL THE WORK AND MONEY THAT GOES INTO SOME OF THOSE ELABORATE OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS. IT MAKES ONE SOMETIMES WONDER HOW MANY OF THE OCCUPANTS LIVING IN THOSE HOUSES, DECORATED WITH HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF LIGHTS, HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN THE INSIDE OF A CHURCH AT LEAST ONCE

IN THE PAST YEAR. ARE THEIR EFFORTS ALL JUST FOR SHOW OR ARE THEY REALLY AND TRULY EXPRESSING THEIR LOVE FOR CHRIST IN THEIR OWN PARTICULAR WAY THROUGH THIS MEDIUM?

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT FOR MANY PEOPLE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT IS MISSING FROM THEIR CELEBRATION. PEOPLE HAVE BECOME SO CAUGHT UP IN THE MATERIALISTIC ASPECT OF THE SEASON THAT THEY LEAVE OUT THE REAL REASON FOR THE SEASON – JESUS CHRIST!

MAY YOU HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE REAL REASON FOR THIS CHRISTMAS – REJOICE AND BE GLAD. AMEN.