



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

The True Reason for Christmas

One year for Christmas, my son played Joseph, daughter-in law played Mary and my granddaughter played baby Jesus. We were all very excited and proud. A star was born!

Words cannot describe the joy and feelings that Mary and Joseph must have had with not just the birth of a child but the birth of the Son of God. Just think of the excitement, the shepherds had when they saw and heard the angels. Even the wise men followed the star with great anticipation to find the Christ child. This birth was foretold thousands of years before and still retold and acted out thousands of years later.

The Son of God left His beautiful perfect heavenly home, laid down His almighty power and Lordship, set aside His glorified form and humbled Himself to become a helpless new born baby - to ordinary parents, in a dirty stable. But His birth was the start of a new beginning, a New Testament, the first chapter of a new book in History. His birth was the greatest love gift God could give. Without His birth, there would be no new way of living. Without His birth, there would be no death on the cross. Without His birth, there would be no eternal life for us.

But somehow we have lost the true reason for Christmas. We will spend hours setting up and tearing down decorations that only a few enjoy. We run here and there to concerts, programs, and gatherings. We get stressed out buying gifts and trying to visit everyone. We worry more about the tree and the big dinner than the simple enjoyment of the season. Unconsciously, in our busyness, we as Christians are helping with the push by society to remove the reason from the season.

We need to take steps to return the Christmas season back to a celebration of Christ and slow down with all the seasonal fluff that gives only temporary excitement. Take the time to thank God for the giving of His Son, reflect on what the birth of Christ really means. Give Jesus a present by rededicating our lives to serving and sharing Him, and let the Holy Spirit renew that excitement and joy of Christ's birth and what it truly means for all of us.

Let every day be a Christmas celebration of what God did for us on that special day.

"For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given..."

Isaiah 9:6

"For God so loved the world
that He **gave** .."
John 3:16

2007 Loralie
Stambaugh
at 3 months old



"And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory. The glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth" John 1:14

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"It is not 'Happy Holidays' but 'Merry Christmas'. This is like being at your birthday celebration, but your name is not mentioned nor are you honored."

"Jesus is the reason not just for the season but for every day."

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