



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“It can only be a wonderful life when you surrender your life to Christ.”

It's A Wonderful Life

During this past Christmas season, there were a number of classic Christmas movies on TV. The 1954 film [“White Christmas”](#) starred Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera-Ellen. It had 17 songs including “White Christmas”, all written by Irving Berlin. The movie grossed \$30 million. My hometown local theater showed it this year.

From 1983, there is the classic [“A Christmas Story”](#). Ralphie wanted only one thing for that Christmas: a Red Ryder Carbine Action 200-shot Range Model air rifle. Ralphie's desire was rejected by his mother, his teacher Miss Shields, and even a Santa Claus, all giving him the same warning: “You'll shoot your eye out.” Gross earnings were just over \$19.2 million.

You cannot forget the 1990 [“Home Alone.”](#) The former New Trier Township High School located in Winnetka, Illinois was converted into the film's studio. Most of the indoor scenes were created in the school's gym. The film's budget grew to \$14.7 million, past the limit of \$13.5 million Warner Brothers had imposed. Warner Brothers said no more and was shutting down the production. However, within the same hour, Fox Studios picked it up. The movie was filmed in just a few months. None of the special effects were computer generated. In its first weekend in the theaters, it grossed \$17 million. It then continued to be number one at the box office for 12 straight weeks. It made a worldwide total of \$476.7 million. It is listed as the third highest grossing film. Warner Brothers were the losers on this one.

My favorite Christmas movie is the 1946 [“It's A Wonderful Life”](#). It was on a cable channel for 24 hours this past Christmas. I watched it that evening. It was produced and directed by Frank Capra, based on the short story “The Greatest Gift” written by Philip Van Doren Stern in 1939. RKO Pictures bought the rights to the story for \$10,000, hoping to turn it into a vehicle for an actor, who was just starting, Cary Grant. But Cary Grant went with another producer and RKO Pictures sold the story to Frank Capra Liberty Films. It did not do well in the theaters the year it came out grossing less than \$3.3 million with a recorded a loss of \$525,000 (which is \$6 million today). The film's elevation to the status of a beloved classic came three decades after its initial release, when it became a television staple during the Christmas season, in 1976. It is now on the list of the American Film Institute [100 years of America's Most Inspiring Movies](#) as number one.

“The film stars James Stewart as George Bailey, a man who has given up his dreams in order to help others, and whose imminent suicide on Christmas Eve brings about the intervention of his guardian angel, Clarence Odbody (Henry Travers). Clarence shows George all the lives he has touched, and how different life would be for his wife Mary and his community of Bedford Falls if he had never been born.”¹

Many of us may have also said or thought, “I wish I was never born.” The cause of this is because we focus on a recent situation or event that seems hopeless. We lose sight of all our past blessings and good works. We see no solution for the future. But, in reality, this is the best time that God can work through us. “And God said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” II Cor 12:9 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Phil 4:13

Repent, surrender, ask, believe and obey so that God can perform a miracle through you.

Charles L Stambaugh

“There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” Luke 15:10

It is a wonderful life with Christ in control.



¹en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It%27s_a_Wonderful_Life

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