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# hristmas Memories

*Jon Boyum*

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, MY PARENTS WOULD LOAD THE FOUR OF US KIDS IN THE FAMILY STATION WAGON AND DRIVE NORTH TO INTERNATIONAL FALLS TO SPEND THE HOLIDAYS WITH MY GRANDPARENTS. RECENTLY, I HAVE FOUND MYSELF TRAVELING THROUGHOUT A FOUR STATE AREA. LAST YEAR, CARRIE AND I MADE THESE TRIPS WHEN CHRISTINA WAS STILL THREE MONTHS FROM BIRTH. THE FACT THAT CARRIE AND I, A YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE, WERE TRAVELING RATHER EXTENSIVELY, AND THAT CARRIE WAS PREGNANT WITH OUR FIRST CHILD, GAVE ME PAUSE. IT BROUGHT ME TO CONSIDER THE REALITY OF THE EVENTS PRIOR TO THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

TODAY, WE TRAVEL TO VISIT FAMILY. THESE TRIPS ARE MOTIVATED FROM A DESIRE TO BE WITH THE PEOPLE WE LOVE AT THIS SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR. ASIDE FROM A SORE BACK AND BAD WEATHER, OUR TRIPS ARE RELATIVELY PLEASANT. MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THEIR RELATIVELY UNPLEASANT TRIP AT THE ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCOMMODATE THE REQUIREMENTS OF A CENSUS, AND TO FULFILL PROPHECY. IMAGINE THEIR THOUGHTS; THEY KNEW THAT THIS CHILD MARY WAS CARRYING WAS SPECIAL. I WONDER IF THEY WERE AWARE THAT THIS TRIP WAS FORETOLD BY THE PROPHETS LONG AGO. I WONDER HOW IT WAS PREPARING FOR THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR. THIS YEAR AS CARRIE, CHRISTINA AND I TRAVEL ALL THOSE MILES, THE BIRTH OF CHRIST WILL BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF MY THOUGHTS.

## *Johanna Holliday*

## A BLAZE OF GLORY



EVERY CHRISTMAS EVE, MY FAMILY WOULD GATHER AT MY GRANDPARENTS FARMHOUSE FOR THE TRADITIONAL LUTEFISK MEAL WITH MUSTARD SAUCE. THOSE OF US WHO WERE NOT CULTURED ENOUGH, GOT TUNA FISH CASSEROLE. PART OF THIS TRADITION INCLUDED DECORATING GRAMMA'S SCRAWNY TREE. SHE HAD LITTLE RED CANDLES THAT CLIPPED ON EVERY BRANCH. AS A YOUNG TEENAGER, I HAPPILY VOLUNTEERED TO LIGHT EACH CANDLE. AS THE LIGHTED CANDLE I WAS HOLDING TIPPED TOWARD ME, THE HAIRSPRAY IN MY HAIR IGNITED IN A BLAZE OF GLORY. THANKFULLY, MY MOM SMOTHERED IT OUT AND I WASN'T HURT EXCEPT FOR MY EGO. MORE RECENTLY, OUR FAMILY HAS BEGUN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL JULETTA SERVICE CHRISTMAS MORNING, WHICH IS HELD AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH. THIS SWEDISH TRADITION OF A 6:00 AM SERVICE OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP CONCLUDES WITH BREAKFAST. IT IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH THAT MORNING INSTEAD OF TEARING OPEN PRESENTS.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**WHEN:** DECEMBER 24TH  
5:30 PM

**WHERE:** FEFC 5150 CHICAGO  
AVE SO. MPLS.

**WHO:** OPEN FOR ANYONE

### **AGAPE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

**What:** Annual Watertown Madrigal Dinner  
**When:** Saturday, December 4, at 7 pm.  
**What:** Dinner, drama and a Madrigal Singers concert.

**Transportation:** For those wanting to car pool, meet at FEFC at 5:45 pm.  
**Cost:** \$17.50 per person.

Dinner reservations / carpool arrangements  
Sign up in the ABF hour or contact  
Mary Anderson (612) 824-5573  
Barb Hugo (612) 869-4165

### **SOJOURNERS CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

**WHEN:** DECEMBER 11 AT 7 PM

**WHERE:** THE SUTTON HOME  
4817 10TH AVE S.  
MPLS, MN 55417

**WHO:** SOJOURNERS CLASS

# Christmas Card Offering

GRACE VANDERVORT



IT IS NICE TO GET LOTS OF CHRISTMAS CARDS AND LETTERS, WE ALL AGREE. HERE AT FIRST FREE, WE ARE USED TO SPENDING LOTS OF MONEY AND POSTAGE SENDING CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THOSE WE SEE HERE, BUT NOW WE HAVE A UNIQUE "TRADITION".

WE ALL SIGN A LARGE CARD IN THE FOYER, AND PUT THE MONEY WE WOULD SPEND ON CARDS AND POSTAGE (SENDING CARDS TO EACH OTHER) INTO A CHRISTMAS CARD OFFERING. THIS CAN BE PLACED EITHER IN A BOX NEAR THE LARGE CARD OR IN THE OFFERING PLATE.

THIS YEAR, THE CHRISTMAS CARD OFFERING IS BEING GIVEN TO "PEDAL ENTERPRISE DJIBOUTI"-HELPING PROVIDE PUMPS FOR PEOPLE WHO TRY TO RAISE THEIR FAMILIES AND CROPS IN AN AREA WHERE WATER ONLY FLOWS UNDERGROUND. DIESEL PUMPS NEED DIESEL AND MAINTENANCE, WHICH IS UNAVAILABLE TO THESE POOR FARMERS. PEDAL PUMPS ONLY NEED TO BE PUMPED BY FOOT! COLLEAGUES OF GRACE VANDERVORT ARE THE INITIATORS OF THIS PROJECT. A FEW PUMPS HAVE BEEN IN ACTION FOR A YEAR OR TWO AND ARE VERY SUCCESSFUL. THE PUMPS ARE MADE IN THE TEAM'S WORKSHOP IN DJIBOUTI TOWN USING LOCALLY AVAILABLE MATERIALS. THEN THESE PUMPS ARE TAKEN OUT TO THE COUNTRYSIDE WITH THE HOPES OF INSTALLATING A NEW PUMP EVERY MONTH OR TWO. EACH MEMBER OF THE TEAM'S WORKSHOP IS BRINGING "LIVING WATER" AS THEY TRANSPORT THE PUMPS OVER. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SHARING IN THIS WONDERFUL MINISTRY.

## Salem Kids Christmas Tree



DO YOU WANT TO ENCOURAGE A CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS? YOU CAN ENCOURAGE THE CHILDREN WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FALL PROGRAM ON TUESDAY NIGHTS AT SALEM CHURCH.

FIND THE TREE IN THE FOYER WITH NAMES OF THE CHILDREN FROM THE SALEM KID'S CLUB. WE WILL SEND 1 GIFT PER CHILD COSTING FROM \$10-20 DOLLARS. FOCUS ON GIVING EDUCATIONAL GIFTS LIKE CHRISTIAN BOOKS, CRAYONS, PAPER ETC. AVOID TAPES AND VIDEOS. MOST OF THE KIDS DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO PLAY THEM ON. ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR PEOPLE TO DELIVER GIFTS TO A FAMILY, OR SPEND TIME WITH THEM. BRING THE GIFTS WRAPPED. WE ALSO ASK THAT THE GIVER'S NAME BE ON THE PRESENT SO THAT THE KIDS CAN RESPOND WITH THANK YOU NOTES.

### CHAIM CHRISTMAS PARTY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
THE CHAIM CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DEC 18TH AT 5:30 PM WILL TAKE PLACE AT ERIC AND SUSAN STABNOW'S HOME. MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE POTLUCK FOR THE EVENT.

### FIRE NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

WHERE: FEFC  
WHEN: DEC 31ST-JAN 1ST  
WHO: JR. & SR. HIGH  
COST: \$10.00  
BRING: FRIENDS!

### SR. ABF CHRISTMAS DINNER

WHERE: FEFC  
WHEN: DEC 3RD (5:30 PM)  
WHO: SENIORS  
COST: \$15.00  
WHAT: COME AND ENJOY A FAMILY CHRISTMAS!