

December Edition: America Needs Christmas



Merry Christmas!

"This Christmas, join us as we unite the USA to pray! Unlike the Bethlehem innkeeper, we must make room for our loving Lord Jesus in our hearts, in our homes, and in our country."

- Stacie & Carrie of UnitetheUSA.org

A Christmas Message from Stacie and Carrie

Today, America faces many new and ongoing challenges and struggles to thrive. Christmas remains especially important to our country this year. Why? Because America needs real hope. And it begins with each one of us -in our hearts.



For the Christmas of 1982, President Ronald Reagan said it well: "In this holiday season, we celebrate the birthday of One Who, for almost 2,000 years, has been a greater influence on humankind than all the rulers, all the scholars, all the armies and all the navies that ever marched or sailed, all put together. He brought to the world the simple message of peace on Earth, good will to all mankind. Some celebrate the day as marking the birth of a great and good man, a wise teacher and prophet, and they do so sincerely. But for many of us it's also a holy day, the birthday of the Prince of Peace, a day when 'God so loved the world' that He sent us His only begotten Son to assure forgiveness of our sins."

The first Christmas happened quietly just over 2,000 years ago. May each one of us hold the meaning of that night close to our hearts. Sadly, all too often Baby Jesus is not placed at the forefront of many Christmas celebrations. But we can change that...

Operation Military Christmas



At Christmas, we must help bring back the true meaning to our troops, veterans, and their families. Many families will not have loved ones -either because of serving abroad or the ultimate sacrifice of a loved one dying for our country.

So, let's all do our part for veterans, troops, and military families to feel loved this Christmas. [Click here](#) to learn how you can help!

This Month's Bible Verse



Make an effort to put aside some of the busyness and chaos that often accompany Christmas. Focus on the real meaning of the season: Jesus. Reflect on His love for you and the tremendous meaning of His birth for you for us all. For starters, we recommend reading [Luke 2](#) and reading the newsletter's featured Christmas message by Zig Ziglar. (Scroll on to read it. You won't regret it!)

Friends, we ask God to bless you as you celebrate Christ throughout Christmas. Merry Christmas!

Carrie and Stacie Stoelting
Sisters and Founders of Unite the USA

www.unitetheusa.org

Why I Believe In Christmas



By Zig Ziglar
www.ziglar.com

It's the first Christmas I can remember. It arrived just seven weeks after the deaths of my father and baby sister. To make matters worse, it was in the heart of the Great Depression. Things were tough. All of us children who were older made what income contributions we could, but the truth was my mother had eight of her eleven remaining children still living at home, and six were too young to work. Understandably, the Ziglar kids were concerned about what kind of Christmas it would be!

The good news is that though our grief was fresh, we still celebrated Christmas. We received no toys that year, but much to my delight in my gift box I found three English walnuts and something I had never tasted before-raisins! They were absolutely delicious. Mama prepared her wonderful molasses

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." **Isaiah 7:14**

Featured Quote



"Through Jesus Christ the world will yet be a better and a fairer place. This faith sustains us today as it has sustained mankind for centuries past. This is why the Christmas story, with the bright stars shining and the angels singing, moves us to wonder and stirs our hearts to praise. Now, my fellow countrymen, I wish for all of you a Christmas filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and many years of future happiness with the peace of God reigning upon this earth." -**President Harry S. Truman**

(December 24th, 1952)

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Thank you and God bless you!

Stacie and Carrie

candy and we had a small cedar tree. And my mother read the Christmas story, like she always did.

My sixth Christmas will always have great meaning to me. We celebrated the birth of Christ even in hard times because we believed in Christmas.

A Chance In Celebrating the Season

Unfortunately, over the years things have changed. The cheerful "Merry Christmas" of yesteryear has been replaced by the politically correct "Happy Holidays!" In the minds of many people we celebrate "holidays." Not only is Christ not at the center of the celebration, he isn't even considered to be the reason for the season!

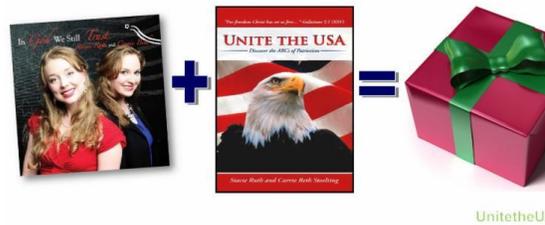
If I seem upset about the changes that I see taking place in regard to Christmas, it is because I am! It's not because an old tradition is being changed. No, I'm upset that the event that made it possible for me to have a life I could never have imagined is being hidden from view with decorations, wrapping paper, parties and political correctness!

Christmas! A Reason To Celebrate

You see, I believe it's worth celebrating that Jesus came to earth-His birth signaled hope for all mankind. I believe that as he lived out a perfect life before God and mankind, he showed that he truly was God's Son. And I believe that by giving his life up on a cross, he completely paid the penalty that my sins-and yours-deserve before a holy God. And it was made possible because of that first Christmas.

How could I not believe in Christmas? Because Christ was born as a baby in a manger, that's more than enough reason to celebrate Christmas for what it is-a joyful occasion. I've experienced forgiveness of my sins and have the assurance of eternity in Heaven!

If you don't know Jesus Christ, let me say that He tells us in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." How do you do that? First, understand that I'm talking about a relationship, not a religion. All the world's major religions emphasize that you qualify for heaven by your good works-the things that you do. Such "religion" is spelled "d-o." Christianity is spelled "d-o-n-e." Christ already paid



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In God We Still Trust Video

Our country needs to turn to Jesus. Listen to "In God We Still Trust" for inspiration to keep "fighting the good fight". For hope and encouragement, listen to Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth sing "In God We Still Trust".



for our sins when He died on the cross. "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). And he rose from the grave proving that the punishment for our sins was fully paid.

Nothing we could ever "do" could qualify us for God's forgiveness and reserve our place in heaven. That's why Christ himself said, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him who he has sent" (John 6:29).

Celebrate Like Never Before!

God forgives us, saves us from our sins, and gives us eternal life based on our belief in what Jesus did for us. Why? Because God is gracious beyond measure! The Bible says that it is "...by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works..." (Ephesians 2:8-9). Though "the wages of sin is death" [eternal separation from God], the greatest Christmas gift we could ever have is "the free gift of God...eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). With gift-giving like that from God, I don't want to lose the significance of Christmas. I believe in Christmas!

I urge you to accept the greatest "Christmas gift" you'll ever receive: If you're convinced that God's way is the only way to meaningful life now and eternal life in heaven, you can tell him in words like these: "Dear God, I do believe Jesus died for me, and took the punishment my sins deserved. I want to receive your free gift of salvation and eternal life. Thank you for making this possible!"

Then join me this year in celebrating Christmas like you've never celebrated it before!

Merry Christmas,
Zig

