



*The wonder of
Christmas is God's gift
of a Saviour
for all our deepest needs-
strength for the weak,
healing for the hurting,
peace for the anxious,
comfort for the suffering,
shelter for the storm-
tossed,
freedom for the captive,
rest for the weary,
and in all things...*

Love



PERFECT PERSPECTIVE FOR CHRISTMAS



"What are you doing for Christmas?" — "Dunno. Not sure if we can even afford it." — "What will you say to your kids?" — "Sorry, kids. Santa won't be coming this year. And forget the turkey and trimmings." — "That's tough.

The third year in a row with a not-so-merry Christmas." — "Yeah, Covid, the war, the economy. What next?"

"What next?" was the same reaction of friends facing a difficult and financially tight Christmas season. They had borrowed heavily to purchase land to build a number of houses. While they had managed to build the houses, they were unable to sell them at a price that would clear the related debts. Now, every month they were only just managing to make their mortgage payments. As they thought about Christmas for their family and friends, their hearts sank. How would they be able to make it special?

Thankfully, they just finished watching their favourite DVD with their children. It was about recreating the Christmas spirit by building a manger and making a soft bed for baby Jesus. This was done by adding straw any time someone secretly did something nice for another family member. That gave the parents a brilliant idea. They would recreate the Christmas they had just watched!

Rather than dreading the approach of Christmas, they were filled with excitement and joy. They decided to focus not on what they lacked, but on what they did have: a home, a family, great friends and creativity! Giving creatively during this tighter financial season brought them the kind of joy they had missed in previous Christmas seasons.

They had discovered that beautiful gifts can be given without breaking the bank, and that a thoughtful gift given from the heart is more valuable.

So, if you're having financial hardships and struggling to make ends meet, think of unique ways you can bless others. The gift might be time or service. Even in hard financial times, giving from the heart with the resources already available frees you to remember what Christmas is all about. In so doing you get to partake in God's enormous generosity, who showers you with blessings in return for every good deed you do for other people.

God is a God of surprises. He loves doing good things for us. What better time to find out than at Christmas?

Rejoice every day like a child looking forward to Christmas. The heavenly Father has lovingly prepared wonderful surprises for you. His greatest gift — the sending of His Son. As a true and loving Father, He has planned only good things for this day and for your whole life. Full of expectation, keep your eyes open for them. Then you will see them. You will be thankful and happy and richly blessed by God's love. A servant needs to take care that he receives his due from his master — but not a child. A child naturally has a right to everything in his father's house. In all his troubles, whether of body or soul, he can go to the father. He shares everything that the father has. And if his father is well off, he is well provided for. But who is as rich as our Father in heaven, who makes us sinners His children through Jesus Christ? Let us take care to be true children of God the Father by loving Him, trusting Him, obeying Him, and depending upon Him. Then we will share in the riches of God and our every need will be supplied. Adapted from Father of Comfort by M. Basilea Schlink



Thanks be to
God for His
incredible
gift!

Have a safe and wonderful Christmas.
We will be praying that wherever you are
you will experience a special Christmas as never before!

The Evangelical Sisters of Mary