



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH • HELP • HEALING • HOPE

Dear Ministry Partners,

White Christmas

Each holiday season I look forward to watching all the holiday movies. I do have a favorite that I try to watch each season. It's about a successful song-and-dance team that become involved with a sister act and team up to save a failing Vermont Inn of their former commanding general. In 1954, White Christmas was released in movie theatres and it soon became a classic. There are so many wonderful songs sung by legendary actors and singers throughout the film but none compare (in my opinion) to Bing Crosby singing, "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas."

In the last scene of the movie the curtains open and at the center of the stage is a Christmas tree beautifully decorated. As the actors fill the stage they are dressed in red velvet Christmas costumes. Children dance across the stage and the song begins....it's quite magical. Never mind the song and lyrics were originally from the 1942 movie, Holiday Inn. But it really captured our hearts when Crosby sang it in White Christmas.

At one point near the end of the movie, the stage backdrop opens up to a make believe snow falling Vermont countryside and everyone joins in singing the song.

Every year when I hear this song and watch this movie I feel like all is good in the world. Maybe its melancholy, wishful thinking or I'm just being idealistic. But just give me a moment to 'feel' like all is good in the world. I think we all need those moments to 'feel' that especially in this horrific COVID-19 year.

God gives us His own version to 'feel' like all is good in the world. Each holiday season we read about the birth of Jesus Christ. The story doesn't change; it's the same, year in and year out. It is the same familiarity, comfort, and the same Truth. It's something we can hold onto when things aren't so idealistic. In the Gospel of Luke (chapter 2) we read about the shepherds in the field, guarding their sheep when the night sky

shattered with light. Simple shepherds roused from their sleep by a choir of angels singing: “Glory to God in the Highest!” The sky backdrop had opened and revealed the Lord’s glory.

It wasn’t the announcement that snow had finally arrived in Vermont. It was so much more. It was the announcement that God came into our world to save us; **The Word became flesh**, as a tiny baby in the small town of Bethlehem. He came, not as a flash of light or as an unapproachable conqueror or king. No beautifully decorated Christmas tree, no Christmas costumes or children dancing across the stage and no choreographed stage numbers. No hype, no party, no hoopla. Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of a dirty stable. Divinity entering our world. God didn’t give us a song and dance number. He gave us Himself. Stepping away from His heavenly throne, he removed his robe of light, and wrapped himself in human skin of a tiny defenseless baby.

So each holiday season I look forward to reading and listening to God’s story and I ‘feel’ like all is good in the world. Through God’s story we are reminded when He came into the world He placed His hand on the shoulder of humanity and said, “**You are something special.**” And that’s something to ‘feel’ good about.

The beautiful message of the Christmas story is that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Have a joyous celebration of His birth,

Rev. Amanda L. Nickles

Thank you for your wonderful support of Grace Mission.

Please help us to give someone the opportunity to ‘feel’ like all is good in the world.

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