



A Christmas To Remember

by Beth Kenyon

Christmas brings to mind a host of memories.... I remember decorating for Christmas with my mom; she loved to touch every room in the house. When I was only three, she let me help paint the front windows of our house with many symbols of Advent. I remember making candles, cutting greenery, and creating center pieces for our table. I remember getting to eat one piece of candy each day to count down the days until Christmas. I remember getting a blue Barbie car when I was five. I remember being so excited that I threw up every Christmas morning for 12 years. I remember my sister and I whispering to each other what we were going to be getting, while promising to act surprised. I remember getting married five days after Christmas 31 years ago. But the Christmas that brings back the most memories was 27 years ago.

It was the first Christmas after our son, Joshua, was born. That Christmas the amazing mystery of Christmas came alive to me. For the first time in my life I began imagining how Mary might have felt touching her new born son's feet, stroking his silky smooth cheeks and watching his small hands grasp hold of hers. I tried to understand how it must of have felt to give birth in a barn. I began to consider how much love it took our Heavenly Father to give His one and only Son as the tears streamed down my face. For the first time I began to understand what God's gift to the world cost Him. This new realization of God's love and mercy transformed my love for Christmas.

Even though I had grown up with the stories and songs of Christmas, the nativity and sharing joy, peace and love with my family, nothing had prepared me for what I would feel as a mom. The memories of that Christmas 27 ago revealed to me the great mystery of God's love and mercy.

This Christmas brings a new sense of wonder to Christmas as we watch Joshua and his wife anticipate the arrival of their first child. The story of Christmas continues to amaze me as the mystery of God's love is told again and again. This year as I let the story of Christmas come alive, I will remember anew how God so loved the world, He gave to us His Son, Jesus.

John 3:16 (The Message)

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed: by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life."

Reflect and Respond

- 1) What is your first Christmas memory?
- 2) What memories of Christmas are hard to recall?
- 3) Take 10 minutes this week and ask God to overwhelm you again with the mystery and wonder of what He did for us.



Beth and her husband Tim have lived in Bentonville for 30 years. They have 3 children, 2 daughter-in laws- and a grandbaby due in May. Beth loves to take pictures, read, and find humor in almost every situation. She can be reached at bekenyon@fellowshipnwa.org.