

# What Does Christmas Mean to You? "So Long, Not Goodby" Mayor's Parting Words

William J. Cumpsty

We see signs all over the towns and cities stating "LET'S KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS". Do you know that Christmas almost did not happen. Among the scattered believers during the first 3 centuries of church history, the tremendous themes of the cross, the resurrection overshadowed that of the BIRTH OF CHRIST and even TODAY there are people who would like to destroy Christmas if they could. In some countries of the world, brutal force and fear has throttled the carols and pinched out the candles, but the spark of Christmas has never been, nor ever shall be put out. CHRISTMAS IS A LIVING, SHINING THING cherished by many people in these dark countries. Long after these men who tried to stop Christmas have vanished from the face of the earth, the MESSAGE OF CHRIST WILL WARM AND INSPIRE THE HEARTS OF MANKIND. Everything changes, so they tell me. Many institutions and customs that we once thought as permanent have gone by the wayside. YET there are a few that still remain, defying time and change. The old message "FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID, A SAVIOUR — WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD" is still the HEART OF CHRISTMAS. . . . IT CAN BE NOTHING ELSE, and this message can neither be changed, nor forgotten. Although there are many things that tend to make us forget. The idea of Santa Claus coming in a helicopter does not ring true. I like the old method of travel by sleigh and reindeer. These modernistic Christmas cards leave me cold. I cannot appreciate the dogs, cats, the ships in full sail, or any of the cute designs that leave out the traditional symbols of the STAR — THE MANGER — THE THREE WISE MEN on their camels, and of course the ANGELS.

There is no need to search for stories new and different. THERE IS ONLY ONE, and no modern author can improve it. "There were the same old country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night, and Lo the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round them, and they were sore afraid." "And the angel said unto them, fear not, for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to ALL the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a SAVIOUR, which is CHRIST THE LORD. We all feel the pressure of approaching Christmas. The traffic is terrible, you never can find a place to park. The stores are so crowded, many people make shopping a nightmare. You are thinking about presents, wondering what you can buy for so and so. You think of friends and loved ones who are so hard to shop for. You cannot think of a thing they need (which is rather strange when you take time to think about it). Maybe there is nothing in the store they need, BUT what about some token of LOVE? What about LOVE itself and FRIENDSHIP? UNLESS you STAND BY CONSIDERATION, a SMILE, a PRAYER and a HELPFUL HAND. You need no money for these things. You cannot buy them in a store, and these are the things people need most. We ALL need

them. Let's not permit the crowds and the rush, to crowd Christmas out of our hearts. For that is where it belongs. Christmas is not in the stores, but in the hearts of the people. This Christmas why not find someone in need? Share with him that which God has given you. There are people in your neighbourhood who are sick. A visit from you would cheer them up. There are those that are lonely. Invite them over to your home. There are people around you who are discouraged, dependent, neglected and forgotten. A cheery word, a bright smile, a firm handclasp, might change their entire outlook.

Let's stop saying "Christmas has been commercialized." It never will be, unless YOU let it. Christmas does not just belong to the children. If you think so, then you have never understood Christmas at all. For the older you get, the more it means. Have you been saying "I just cannot seem to feel the Christmas spirit." That's too bad, it is the lack of FAITH. You are saying that you feel no JOY that Jesus came into the world. You are confessing that his presence in the world is not a reality to you. Maybe you should read the Christmas story, over and over again, and then think about it. I think God for Christmas and wish it would last all year round. For on Christmas day, all the world is a better place. When Christmas does not make your heart swell and fills your eyes with tears, and makes you all soft and warm inside, you have lost the feeling of Christmas. We hope for snow for Christmas. Why? It is not really important, but it is nice, new and yet old fashioned. It is wonderful to think that nothing can really harm Christmas and take the joy out of it. Your tree decorations will include many new gadgets, it is the old decorations that mean the most. The ones you put away so carefully last year, and that crooked old star at the top of the tree makes you feel good, even if it is only a small room, or a large house. When you come to your house, it seems to bring the feeling of Christmas into the place.

Walnuts, pecans or other nuts from a Christmas basket can be put to use as well. Let children wrap them in aluminum foil or scraps of colored foil to make tinsel balls.

Small drinking cups (not the wax-coated variety, of course) can be coloured with crayons or poster paint to make Christmas bells.

Pine cones are an old favorite. Painted or sprayed, they add color wherever used as decorations.

Then there will be the dinner, the smell of all those good things to eat, the fragrance of the cookies, baking, spices and the fruit cake. When I think of these things, I pray to God that no one is left out. If you know someone who will be alone this Christmas, invite them to your home and wish them a merry Christmas. No one is ever all alone if they give of themselves. We will listen to all the wonderful Christmas music, on the radio, on TV at the church. Some of the songs will be new and modern, good enough music perhaps, BUT it will be the old carols that will mean the most, and when we hang the stockings by the fireplace and with our fingers to our lips, we will be in bed and finally Christmas morning will come. Do not worry you will be ready for it. You will catch the Spirit, all right, or which is better still, it will catch you, and then you will know what Christmas really means. A chance for the PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN". This

was not a pronouncement upon the state of the world then, nor now, but a PROMISE, a PROMISE from GOD. The years that have passed, the ways of men have led nowhere, and have crumbled into dust. There remains only ONE way, the WAY, tried, tested, the way to him who was born a babe in Bethlehem.

In a world that seems to be changing, even trying to destroy itself, there are millions of people who want to keep Christmas the same — With the same old greeting Merry Christmas and no other. We long for the abiding love among all men of good-will which the season brings, believing in this ancient miracle of Christmas with softening, sweeter, influence to tug at our heart strings once again. We need to hold to some of the old customs and traditions because they strengthen our family ties — band us to our friends — makes us one with all mankind, for whom the child was born and brings us back to God.

So we will not SPEND Christmas. We will KEEP it. Keep it as it is, as it will be always. In all the loveliness of its ancient traditions, May we keep it in our hearts for ever.

"Rather than say goodbye, I will say so long, and I'll see you shortly," were Mayor Hyde's words of farewell to council at the last meeting of the year Wednesday night. "It's possible that I'll come down on Monday nights, and receive the same pay as you," he quipped in a sly reference to the mayor-elect's suggestion that the councilors refuse their pay.

"We have made tremendous strides, this year, and have created more harmony than the last ten years put together," he concluded.

Reeve Elliott, speaking for council, said it was the second time he had said goodbye to both the Mayor and Councilor Gray. "You will be missed," he said to both, "you have contributed much to Council". Councilor Gray's final words were: "I hope you have a good year, and spend as little as possible."

Idle and neglected farms continue to be the source of serious weed problems in the county, and the proportion of these farms is growing in the two northern townships (Esqueving and Nassagaweya) resulting in the increase in spread of noxious weeds.

This statement was contained in a report issued by the county weed inspector for Halton. He pointed out that, generally active farms are in fairly good condition. He attributed this to the owners' use of herbicides in crop production and the substantial number of new weed sprayers that have been used. He said the acreage treated with the new sprays is almost double that in 1962.

On public properties, he said, hydro and telephone properties are kept in good condition. Municipal parks and conservation areas are in satisfactory condition. Railways have made improvements in a few locations — while there are still many miles of right-of-way heavily infested with noxious weeds. "There is still plenty of room for improvement in weed control on railway properties," he pointed out.

A look through the merchandise mart suggests Christmas this year will be traditional with lots of green, gold and bright berry red. Holly wreaths and small decorative trees are shiny green trimmed with velvet bows, garlands of della robia fruits, bright red cherries, strawberries and just for fun polka dot mushrooms.

Tinsel string, fluffy foliage fringe and gold paper garlands offer trimming possibilities artfully festive and fascinating. Small mirrors on an invisible nylon thread, or multi-faceted glistening ornaments reflect a and dancing lights in a room.

Over-size ornaments, much too big for the tree hang in clusters and carry Christmas into every corner of the house. Some resemble frosty decorated icicles, others use velvet, jewels and glitter for fancy, festive touches.

No cranberry strings or popcorn strings in the stores, but there's more than a hint, and 41 of these received second Christmas.

Idle Esqueving Farms can Be Source, Weed Troubles

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Here comes Santa bringing our Best Wishes for a Merry, Merry Christmas!

**SHOPRITE STORES**  
MANAGEMENT AND STAFF



**A Christmas Wish**

We wish our friends and patrons the merriest Christmas ever and a holiday season filled with good cheer. Our grateful thanks to all.

**W. B. HAMILTON**  
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED  
BILL HAMILTON  
8 Reid Court — "Every Building Need" — TR. 7-3480



At this Holy Season it is a privilege to send Christmas Greetings to our many friends.

**DON HOUSTON**  
PLUMBING AND HEATING  
24 Chapel Street East TR. 7-2506



To All Our Friends: May Every Special Joy Abide Within Your Home This Christmastide

**BUCK'S FINE FOODS**  
MILL STREET

Warm Christmas Wishes

Hope Santa fills your Christmas stocking with everything your heart desires!



**FRANK KING CLEANERS**  
ETHEL and FRANK  
MILL STREET

May holiday happiness shine brightly in your heart.

Our best wishes for a Christmas glowing with cheer.



**Greetings G S TELEVISION**  
DELREX MARKET CENTRE  
TR. 7-9541 GEORGETOWN



MAY YOU HAVE A VERY BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY!

**W. H. KENTNER & SON**  
BLUE COAL FUEL OIL  
45 Queen St. TR. 7-2851

**NATIONAL TREE**

In 1926, the U.S. Department of the Interior officially designated a "National Christmas Tree" — a giant Sequoia located in King's Canyon National Park, California.

A coniferous evergreen, the redwood trunk of the Sequoia rises 267 feet. It is estimated to be 4,000 years old, which means it was growing 2,000 years before the birth of Christ in Bethlehem.



**Best Wishes for Christmas**

**Credit Valley**  
BOTTLING WORKS  
85 Mountainview Rd.

**PRESTON & SON**  
GROCERS  
Glen Williams



NOW SEE HERE . . . Santa Claus, togged in his Christmas day dress, captures full attention of the younger set. They listen, patiently for each wants his or her turn to tell Santa about the things most wanted under the Christmas tree.



SEASONAL . . . Every home becomes a brightly-lit castle at Christmas when outdoor decorations reflect the joy of the season. In many communities throughout the land, an award is made each year for the best outdoor theme and decorations.



**Merry Christmas!**

Have a Gay Holiday!

FROM ALL OF US AT  
**JOE'S TUCK SHOP**



**HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

We wish you your merriest Christmas, and a holiday season filled with cheer.

**PRESTON & SON**  
GROCERS  
Glen Williams