

## **“CHRISTMAS GREETINGS” DECEMBER 2006**

Christmas is getting nearer and nearer. The annual countdown to December 25<sup>th</sup> has begun in earnest. As we think of our growing “To Do” list, it seems that 24 hours just isn’t enough time in a day. There are special family get-togethers to plan. There are presents to buy and wrap. Oh yes, we can’t forget to send out Christmas cards to all of our family and friends. It’s time to find the address list, buy extra stamps, and find cards with just the right message.

As technology advances, we are finding more and more ways to share Christmas greetings with loved ones. If you don’t want to mail cards at the local post office, you can send “e-cards” by way of the internet. Sending “e-cards” gets you out of the task of licking all of those envelopes. You can also send Christmas greetings in the form of a “text message” to other cell phones. Your friends can read your “text message” on their cell phone in between calls.

The way that we send Christmas greetings may change, but what about the content of those greetings? There is something special and unique about Christmas. The story of the birth of Jesus continues to lie at the heart of the season. The words of the angel to the shepherds give us a clue as to the core of the Christmas message. In the poetic language of the King James Bible, we read:

*“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of  
great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto  
you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,  
which is Christ the Lord.”  
(Luke 2:10-11)*

That’s the heart of the matter. In the words of the angel, we have the central core of the Christmas message. Technology might change, but the content of the Christmas story remains constant. The focus is on the coming of the Christ Child whether we use the post office, the internet or a cell phone.

Yes, Christmas is getting nearer and nearer. As the pace of our activity increases, let’s not forget to share a hearty and joyful Christmas greeting with our neighbors, family, and friends. May our words echo the joyful message that the angel shared with the shepherds on that first Christmas.

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