

A Different Christmas

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:6-7

This has been a very different Christmas for me. No cards went out. My tree is a wall hanging. No shopping excursions for Black Friday sales. No cookies got baked and the traditional mince pie will be replaced with something store bought.

Instead of last minute shopping and preparations, I am sitting in a chemotherapy room being infused with drugs that are obliterating the cancer that had tried to steal me away from my family altogether.

And, you know what? The earth didn't stop turning. Instead, I have learned that Christmas, isn't about all of the other stuff.

This year, I am thankful to God for just being alive. Complications stemming from the chemotherapy have left me weak and somewhat in pain. That's OK. No matter what my situation, God is with me.

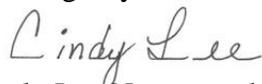
More importantly, Christmas is to celebrate the birth of our Savior. To remember that the babe in a manger, who grew to a man, was born so that we may all be reborn in His name. Without the birth of Christ, there would have been no crucifixion, no resurrection and NO salvation.

Forget the gifts and trees, turn off the TV, put down that phone and leave the mall. Sit for a few minutes in the dark and quiet. Close your eyes and picture a time long ago when a young woman, scared I am sure, gave birth in a stable. Can you imagine giving birth under those circumstances?

Truly, Jesus' birth is the reason for the season. Strip away all of our modern notions of what Christmas should be and focus on the true cause for celebration.

My wish this day is that you would take just a minute or two to sing praises to our God for the miraculous birth and the salvation brought to all mankind because of it.

Blessing to you this Christmas and in the coming year,



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