

I just love that phrase. I love the way it sounds, the way it makes me feel and the smile I get when I say it to someone I just met in the store!

I love Christmas. I love the gift giving that reminds us of the first gift that first Christmas.

God gave us the gift we didn't know we needed, to provide a way for us to build a relationship we didn't know we could have with Him, because He missed us!

The whole Old Testament points to the desire God has for a close relationship with you and me. How God continued to work through the law and the prophets to set the stage for the birth of Jesus.

Throughout history the date of Christmas has been adjusted to agree with the calendar and has been used by others in order to use the celebration for their own means.

Yesterday at the store the cashier was muslim and I got tongue tied as I was leaving over what to say. Political correctness won out and I said "have a good day".

That encounter has weighed heavily on my mind.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus – and Jesus brought the Good News to the <u>whole world</u> that <u>eternal life is possible through Him</u>.

Yesterday I missed an opportunity to introduce Jesus to that cashier.

For the rest of this season I will say to every person I see something about the birth of Jesus because Jesus is the reason for the season!

In His grip, John

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Answered Prayer 2017

Sheryl and I appreciate your prayers and His answers to those prayers.

These are some of the important prayers from this past year we have seen answered.

- · Our health
- Travel around the United States and to England
- The S.A.Y. Yes! Center that started in Dallas
- The Life Is Full Of Choices trainings we led in England and around Dallas
- For Sally's surgery and her recovery
- The prayers for us during the recovery from the loss of John's brother
- Ministry finances
- Prayers during our family crisis
- The ministry contacts we have made

Thank you for your effective and fervent prayers!