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Merry Christmas

by
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Isn't this a great time of year? Regardless of where one lives the Christmas season tends to bring thoughts of friendship, good will and forgiveness into the hearts of those who allow it. We know that Christmas is uniquely Christian since it is, symbolically, the time of year we choose to honor the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, but it seems to permeate hearts all across the religious spectrum. That spiritual aspect of the holiday tugs at our hearts to yield to that "better person" within each of us and allow he or she to smile a little larger and to speak a little softer when confronted with situations and challenges that would normally push us to the edge of frustration and anger. And folks, that's a good thing. Too bad we can't allow that feeling to remain in our bosoms the remainder of the year.

How many of you refuse to let the spirit of Christmas take control of your attitudes for a few weeks and would rather persist in being your own worst enemy and allow your temper and bah-humbug attitude to chase well wishers away? It's amazing, to be out and about and run into people who wouldn't know a smile if they tripped over it and insist on dwelling only on those things in life which are ugly, drab, and depressive. Kinda makes you want to go up and smack them in the head with a five iron doesn't it? Oooops... can't do that now can we? My momma always taught me that if I ever ran into someone like that to just kill them with kindness and let that work on their hearts awhile. Hard to do, but it does bring results.

Thankfully, with rare exception, the clerks behind the counters in the shops all have a smile on their face as we dutifully perform our shopping this season. I'm also hearing the phrase, "Merry Christmas" more than I've heard in the past and lifts my spirits just a little more. Maybe they're saying it more because of all the controversy out there in "dumb-dumb land" but I like it and hope it continues. It helps me to remember just what this holiday's all about, doesn't it you?

Speaking of Christmas gifts, do you find it harder and harder to buy the right gift for that special person in your life? One would think with all the technological advances in the world the choice would be getting easier but it's not working for me. I guess I'm just too old fashioned to go high tech, 'cause I always find myself roaming through the jewelry and clothing sections in a store. Then again, if you buy a sweater where will she hang it with all the others that are currently hanging there? The same goes for jewelry... I mean a girl can just wear so many rings on her hands without weighing them down to the point her knuckles are dragging the floor as she walks.

However, let me say right up front folks, I am in no way implying that my wife has too many sweaters or too much jewelry. No, no, no... I'm just speaking hypothetically here. In fact, Judy probably doesn't have nearly as much clothes and jewelry as a lot of women out there... and, now that I think about it, it would be safe to say that she probably could use several more sweaters and has hardly any jewelry at all. One thing for sure... you can't give too much of a good thing, especially at the time of year when you are trying to express your feelings for your one true love...right? I think one should buy for that person something that one knows they will enjoy and to heck with how much it costs.

Moving right along... for those who are spending their first Christmas in Florida where the temperature ranges anywhere from 30 to 60 degrees warmer than that up North you might have a little difficulty in getting the Christmas spirit...with no snow all over the ground. If you're not associated with any local church yet, that would be a great way to get yourself in the right mood for Christmas. I would suggest, also, that you avail yourself of all the fantastic Christmas programs you can find advertised in the Daily Sun. In The Villages there are choral concerts, band concerts, plays, tree lighting ceremonies, movies, etc, etc, etc. There is never a want for anything to do if you just look for it.

The best thing I could suggest, however, is to surround yourself with all those other newcomers who just moved in by throwing several parties and get-togethers and talking about the cold weather and snow you left behind. I promise you will get the Christmas spirit real fast with friends to support and inspire you. That's what the spirit of Christmas is anyway, remembering that special Gift God gave each of us and sharing that Gift with friends. In The Villages if you don't have your old friends here with which to share, just open the door and look across the street... you'll find there's a new friend looking out their door at you, just waiting to get to know you better.

When you read this article Christmas will be five days away so enjoy them to the fullest, and to those who say there must be snow on the ground to feel like it's Christmas just remember... It's not what's on the ground, but what's in your heart.

Judy and I wish all of you the merriest of Christmases and may God bless you tremendously as we enter into the New Year.

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