

Chaplain's Corner

Is There Room in Your Inn for Jesus?

“And she brought forth her firstborn son, Jesus, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room in the Inn.”
(Luke 2:7)

The inn keeper was unaware who he was turning aside. We humans have a way of missing some of the most obvious things. But, this man knew all of his rooms were full, it made logical sense to him to send these people, who had nothing to offer him; away. Though we are far from those that we love, please let me illustrate a greater significance to the Christmas holiday; Jesus is the Reason for this Season.

Halfway through December, a beautiful ceramic lamb was left on our front porch. The next night we found a matching shepherd. We concluded these were the characters of the nativity scene of Jesus' birth. Each night another piece showed up. The manger scene began to take shape. On Christmas Eve, all the pieces were in place, except the baby Jesus. Before the kids went to bed we all checked the front step--No Baby Jesus! On Christmas Day, even before we opened our stockings, we checked to see if perhaps the baby Jesus had come--- No Baby Jesus. **Without the Baby Jesus there was a feeling that things were not complete.** We opened all our presents, then found one we had overlooked partially hidden under the tree skirt. It was a small package from a former teacher's aide. I remember she didn't have much money, so she and her husband focused exclusively on getting gifts for the children. I was the only exception, as she had bought a little gift for me every year since. As I took the paper off the gift, I began to tremble and cry. There in the small brown box was the baby Jesus. He had come!

I realized on that Christmas Day that Christ comes into our lives in ways that we don't expect. This experience taught me the true spirit of Christmas comes as we open our hearts and activities to the Savior. But we will most likely find him in the small and simple acts of love, friendship and service that we give to each other. This Christmas I want to welcome Christ into my home, whether it is in the States or in Iraq. I want to focus on loving and serving. More than that; I want to open my heart to him all year that I may see him again.

Is there room in your Inn for Jesus today? Please make concessions and make room. He wants access to your hearts, your lives, to every room in your establishment. He promises: to forgive us of all our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) Particularly during this Christmas Season, life without Jesus leaves a feeling that things are incomplete.

God bless you and your family. We pray that we all stay healthy, and fully anticipate returning to you all soon on leave, and again at the end of this tour. Everyday that passes brings us a day closer to being with you.

Regimental Chaplain