

Winter

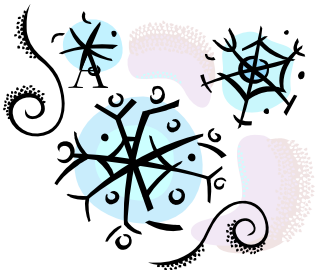


Memories



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My Favourite Christmas Memory

By Sanjiv

My Christmas memory was Friday December 25, 2002. It was incredibly amazing for my wonderful family and me, because we had family from different countries and different cities. That night we had many different kinds of foods, and the fun part was eating and enjoying it too. Everyone was happy that Christmas night, including me especially.

Why do I say, “Me especially”? Because I had never celebrated Christmas in my life. My wonderful amazing grandmother, who was a Christian, told me, when you experience Christmas you would know what I am talking about. Honestly I did. Wow! I tell you, it’s amazing, rejoicing and singing Christmas songs with your families and close friends, aunties, uncles and grandpa and grandma. It’s so beautiful. That is my Christmas memory: spending time with the close people you love so much and the people who also love you too.

Christmas is also a time to forgive and forget. Why do I say that? Because I know it’s the time of year for families, friends and everyone else who is so important to us, to come together and celebrate Christmas. We sing carols and rejoice to the Lord and Saviour. Once my grandmother and my aunty told me Christmas is a special time of the year. At the time when they told me I wasn’t sure that it meant to me. But now of course, I do. It’s a time to put up the beautiful Christmas lights and laugh, enjoying the time to think about what we have received. Jesus was born on Christmas Day, so as Christians we celebrate our Lord and Saviour’s birthday.

In Sri Lanka, people don’t actually celebrate Christmas because they don’t know the meaning of Christmas. I know some Hindu people and people of other religions who love to celebrate Christmas because they like the beautiful shining colourful lights and the beautiful gifts. Of course, everyone likes that, but the main point I am trying to say is: Christmas is a wonderful time of year to go to Church and sing loudly and dance and celebrate our Lord’s birthday.

I am so thankful to our Lord and to my loving grandmother, for teaching me what Christmas means.

My Favorite Winter Holiday

By Doris



My favorite holiday in winter is Christmas. I like Christmas because that is the day my Lord Jesus was born into the world to set us free from our sins. To God be the Glory.

I like the way my family celebrated Christmas. Since I was young and couldn't go, my father would send my older sisters to the market to buy goat meat and some other things for Christmas.

All my sisters, brothers, some relatives and friends would come together for the celebration. It's painful now that I have lost my father, and I am alone in Canada, but every year I always pray for a white Christmas because I believe that a white Christmas is a blessing.

Holiday Memories

By James



This took place in the year of 1979 when I was growing up in Peterborough. The whole family started to decorate the house before the month of December and made different kinds of shaped cookies into different Christmas ornaments for the Christmas trees. We also did different crafts.

The way we celebrate Christmas is a Jewish way because my mother is full Jewish and I am only half Jewish. It all started when my mother was young. She was told, by her parents, that we celebrate Christmas a little different because that is the way that we celebrate Christmas, by making lots of different kinds of pasta.

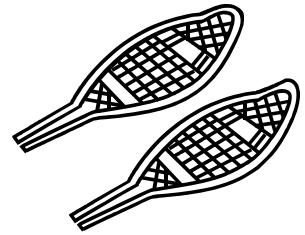
For the children, we exchange gifts. We put all the names from our family into a basket. We pick one name from the basket. We look to see what name is written on that piece of paper and we cannot show who we got.

My favorite pasta is macaroni because we make it different than anyone else makes it. This is how we make macaroni salad. We boil hot water in the oven instead of on the stove. Then we cut up Spanish onions, potatoes, mushrooms, tomatoes, green and red peppers. That is what happened in my holiday memory.

My Favorite Memory on the Farm

By Art

This is my holiday memory. I was to round up the cows with the skidoo and bring the cows and the horses home from the fields on a cold winter night. My family was not helping me on the farm. The skidoo kept breaking down and I would fix it and go again. We would wear our skidoo suits to keep warm in the bush. In winter sometimes we would go on snowshoes to round up the cows too and some of the calves would die in the field.



A Winter Memory

By Eileen

My favorite Winter Memory is dressing warm for winter with warm clothing, and being with families having lots of fun. I remember wearing thick winter gloves or mitts, knitted toques, and a white and blue scarf. I remember being happy just being around family and my nieces, and nephew, watching them put on their winter clothing to play outside together in the cold wet snow. They were cold, wet and dirty, but the main thing is that they were happy.



My Winter Memory

By Darryl

Christmas as a kid would be from November to January. At school, all the boys and girls would be talking about what they wanted for Christmas. There was Kris Kringle where everyone picked a name out of hat and had to buy that classmate a present. It was a lot of fun! We had a Christmas party and there was candy, chocolate, music and dancing.



There was a lot of fun at recess too. First thing we would do is make teams and have snowball fights. This was a lot of fun, but we had to calm down because things started to get crazy, so we played soccer in the snow. This was quite interesting. Lunch time recess was a lot longer so we had time to do more activities. A lot of people got snow jobbed, shuffled and we play fought. Everyone enjoyed this! Even teachers were being hit by snowballs!

On the last couple of days of school, everyone was talking about calling their grandparents and other family members. When I went home from school, we put up Christmas lights in and around the house. It was so beautiful! I put up the Christmas tree lights and the rest of the decorations.

We started cooking a lot of food the day before Christmas. On Christmas day, family members would come over and talk and talk. Drinking and laughing would be taking place too. After awhile, I would go outside and go tobogganing and build a snowman. Then we would open more presents and I would clean up the mess that was made.

After family had left, we would get ready to go skiing. This I love for sure! I remember I fell down at the beginning but then I got used to it. We skied for awhile and stayed in a hotel for the night. The next day we went home and received many phone calls from friends. They suggested that we should come over to eat food and talk.



After all that Christmas holiday fun, everyone got ready to go back to school and work.

A Winter Memory

By Tsering

I remember one cold winter when I was coming back from work. I slipped on the ice and I was worried that I might have broken my back. I felt pain on my back. The weather was very cold. The snow was falling. I was lucky I was wearing a warm jacket. I felt bad. I thought my back was broken. I was by myself and it was about four o'clock and I had just finished my afternoon shift and I was very happy to go home but I didn't see the slippery ice. It happened just close to the place where I work. I think I was lucky that I was wearing my warm down coat, because the weather was freezing cold and windy.

That's my winter memory. I could see cars were slipping on the road and I felt cold. I could smell the car's exhaust. I heard a strong wind and I was feeling the cold snow.

Thank God I felt all right and the next day I went to work. That's my winter memory.



My Favorite Winter Memory

By Rodcliffe



My favorite time is when you have finished doing all your Christmas shopping and you get ready to do the cooking.

I always do some volunteering in the kitchen because I love to cook and drink, but I always stay conscious. My family is a big family so when I'm cooking for the family, you have to cook more than enough.

In my family there are a lot of grandkids. I just love to see them eat and stuff themselves. In that way, I know that they are full and it's my help in the kitchen that does that. Apart from that, I just love that family gets together and celebrates Christmas.

A Winter Memory

By Rita

I remember every Christmas season going downtown to see the Christmas windows. First thing, I woke up when my mother called to go down for breakfast. I got out of bed and dressed. We had something to eat. My brother, me and mom went downtown to shop. So we did. It was cold but we had warm clothes. After we did the shopping we got to look at the windows. The colours were just right. We saw Santa Claus Village where they make the toys for all children. The next window had Santa Claus and his wife sipping a cup of tea. They could move their hands and head. The next window you can see Rudolph with his red nose. But most of all it was the feeling I got from the day - good will for mankind.

The toys, music, and Santa Claus made a nice start to a New Year. I wish that all mankind would feel the way I did that day. Thank you.

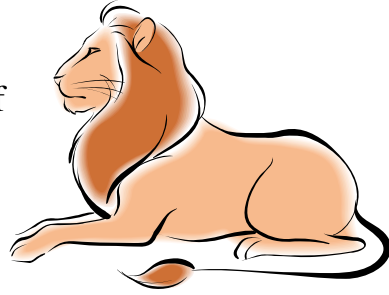


A Holiday Memory

By Carmel

When I was growing up back home in Eritrea, Christmas was not celebrated as it is in the rest of the world.

It is a different timeline and a different way of doing things. We don't have Christmas trees, Christmas lights or snowflakes.



The way we celebrate Christmas is by sacrificing a sheep for the bloodshed. The bloodshed is the most important thing to do, for the blessing of the year or if you are giving thanks for anything, you need to do that.

For the children, we get to wear a new outfit that day. For the adults, they get to give food, love and care all day.

The food that you have at the house is for everybody in the neighbourhood and everybody that happens to be there or around.

The Christmas that I grew up celebrating is the real birth of Christ and the celebration of the beginning of life and salvation from all your sins.

A Winter Memory

By Yolanda

Once in a cold winter we went to skate on cold ice at city hall. It was the first time of my English language Program. We went outside and it started to snow hard. I could hardly see the road. I saw many people holding umbrellas. I was walking to the bus stop, and it snowed all the way. The roads were full of snow. It was horrible weather. A woman from the street was walking. She started falling on the wet snow. I thought she wasn't serious, maybe she was just pretending. But it was very slippery and I started falling, too.

That is a winter memory I could never forget.

Christmas Memories

By Feddy



How we celebrate Christmas in our family tree (Uganda) is really fun. We start preparing a week before by cutting our compound grass, cleaning our houses, doing laundry and shopping for everything we will need for this holiday.

Then on Christmas Eve we would do things like ironing clothes, dusting, and our father would kill a goat or they would have organized themselves since they had a club of 20 people (families) and bought four cows, five months before. They could kill them, get their shares to take home, sell the rest of meat and keep their shares of money in a co-operative society.

We could roast or cook some of this meat and have it with our delicious traditional dishes like oburo (a mixture of millet flower and cassava flower mingled together) which is good with goat meat. Our mom could bake very early in the morning and start cooking mid-day. The whole day we could sniff the smell of good food while we taste soft drinks and bite into juicy fruits as we listened to Christmas songs.

My best Christmas memories are when we had a family tree gathering where our elder brothers and sister had come home from school for holidays, and our Aunts and Uncles who we didn't see for a long time, came over for Christmas from different cities, and we got a chance to meet and go with them to church in a holy, peaceful midnight mass and we sang Christmas carols on the 24th. Having supper with them after was also another custom one wouldn't forget.

In the morning on the 25th, if you were hosting, since we had a family tree rotation, you would have gone to church last night, so as to stay home on Christmas day to prepare all the food dishes and drinks for all of the families. We could help our mom this time. After, all families will come to a clean, decorated and glittering home full of food. We would eat and drink everything that was prepared for the holiday while music was going on.

In the end, the presents under the Christmas tree which Uncles and Aunts brought would be opened as everyone smiled while getting a present. When this part was done, the kids could play games, the elders could talk, and later on we could dance our traditional dance until morning. Everyone could feel the good mood of Christmas in a special way.



Homelessness

By Eddy

The winter I remember is when I was between residences. In the winter of 1997, I was evicted from my home with only a short time to find another home. In that winter, I spent time outside, in the drop-in, or stayed in the shelters. This made me a better man because I learned about how hard it is to live in this city.

The cost of living is so expensive that one cannot afford to live by himself. It took me four months to find a suitable apartment for me. That was a year of lessons.

I learned how people promise a thing to you and never go through with it. I had family say they would help and never did. Even friends said they would help with their credit and never did.

That was something I had to learn. So I now know who will be there for me, when things go bad for me. I also learned about how they behaved towards me. Some of them did not even talk to me. They considered me homeless or a loser.

My Favourite Holiday Memories

By Crystal

Christmas is my favourite holiday of the year. Why? Well because Christmas is the time of year when you spend the most time with your family and close friends.

My favourite Christmas holiday memories are the times when me, my mom, my brother and sister used to go to my grandparents' house for Christmas every year. They lived in Colborne in the country where you go outside at nighttime and see all the stars nice and clearly. We would usually get there the day before Christmas so we could prepare certain things like putting decorations on the tree and putting presents underneath. My grandpa would put out Pot of Gold chocolates and hard colourful licorice candies. Unfortunately nobody liked them. At nighttime my grandma would put out snacks and invite her friends from around the neighborhood over and we would all talk, snack and exchange gifts. At the end of the night my grandma would tell us children to go to bed so Santa could come to bring us gifts.

In the morning when we woke up we got to open our stockings. Then it was time for breakfast. After breakfast we opened our presents and shared memories from last Christmas and took some pictures.

For dinner we had turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn, peas and homemade turkey gravy and for dessert we had homemade pumpkin pie, ice cream and a spice carrot cake with currants and raisins in it. It was topped with a sauce my grandma called foam sauce.

When my mom, brother, my sister and me returned home the day after Christmas, we would spend the day with our close friends. Before Christmas we played a game called Secret Santa. This was a game where we picked a name out of a hat and whatever name we picked was the person we were to get a gift for, and by the time Christmas came we would find out who our Secret Santa was and for the rest of the day we shared our holiday memories with each other.



Christmas Holiday

By Madolina

Christmas is a celebration of our Lord and the birthday of Jesus Christ. People celebrate Christmas all around the world. Every Christian looks forward to that day. It is the day of forgiveness for all the wrongs in the past. People decorate their houses and the streets. Most of the houses have a tree decorated in a beautiful way. Before Christmas people send cards and they give gifts to one another. They also have parties or visit family and friends, people who they care about. Some people travel to other countries to see some friends. Most of the time people cook turkey and eat candy and chocolate.

I do like to celebrate Christmas. It has become a remembrance day for me. My younger brother became so sick on December 24 when I was trying to prepare for Christmas. He ended up in Princess Margaret Hospital. I lost my brother on January first. From that time Christmas has become special to me. I invite all my friends and his friends and family. We come together to celebrate Christmas. I cook a lot of food and we have drinks and sing Christmas carols.

Because of Jesus Christ, my Lord and my brother, Christmas day is a special day for my family and me. It means a lot to me.



My Favorite Holiday Memories

By Kathy

Christmas is one of my favorite holiday memories because it's all about coming together and doing things as a family.

On the first day of December my Dad would start decorating the house while all of my brothers and sisters would sit around writing our letter to Santa Claus watching Dad do the first part of the decorating. December fourteenth we all dressed in very warm clothing so we would not get cold, and then we went looking for the biggest, fattest Christmas tree we could find. We would carry it home and then Dad would say that it had to sit over night so all the branches could fall into place. The next evening my Dad decorated the tree, while he and my Mom told Christmas stories from their past.

My Mom loved the month of December. It gave her great pleasure, baking all kinds of goodies for her family. It was the only time of year that my Mom would allow all eight of her children to eat that many sweets, but it was the month of Christmas, and how could they say no. The smell of turkey and many other foods cooking on Christmas Day around our house was amazing; it was also tasty and delicious.

On Christmas Eve before going to bed, we were allowed to open one present and every year it was the same thing, pajamas and slippers. Santa Claus was in town waiting for all children to be sound asleep. Do you know how hard it is to fall asleep hoping that this was the year that we would hear or see Santa Claus?



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On Christmas morning, no one was allowed to open any presents until everyone was awake in the house. No problem! There would be eight children running down the stairs to see if we were good or bad this year. After seeing presents everywhere we would run back up the stairs to Dad and Mom's room singing Christmas carols. Dad and Mom were already awake when we began singing Christmas carols. That was something they looked forward to every year. After getting our parents down stairs we still had to eat breakfast before we opened our presents. Finally we all went into the living room. We would all sit around the tree while Dad gave out presents, one present at a time so every one was opening presents at the same time. After opening all of our gifts, Mom started cooking an amazing dinner.

Christmas was a busy day for everyone. Family and friends that we only saw on holidays would come and visit. By the time we played with our new toys and visited with cousins, Uncles, Aunts, and friends it was dinnertime. Everyone would sit at the table. My Mom cooked so much food we ate until we could not eat anymore.

To end a wonderful long day, Mom would wind us down with a bath, and then we all gathered in the living room to watch a Christmas movie.

The Christmas season is my favorite holiday memory. It is all about the month of December and all the things we do together to make Christmas day so special and memorable.

