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Merry Christmas 2006

Our society as a whole has embraced the holiday season for its promise of family gettogethers, delicious foods, giving and getting gifts and the beautiful decorations that truly make homes merry. Sometimes it is difficult in the middle of the whirlwind of festivities to retain a grasp on the true meaning of Christmas. But a story I heard a while ago reminds me that the essence of the holy day can be found in the seemingly commercial symbols of Christmas.

Take the fir tree for instance. It remains green all year, and green is a color of hope and peace. The needles of the tree point upward, to remind us of from where the good Lord comes. The star atop the fir tree represents the North Star and led Mary and Joseph to



Bethlehem where Baby Jesus was born. The celestial emblem is God's promise of bestowing the world with our Savior.

Candles, which are burned more frequently during this time of year, stand for Christ being the light of the world. Although the flame may flicker, the love and warmth of His embrace does not, and without His light, we would live in darkness.

The round Christmas wreath depicts the never-ending cycle of love. It continues from one person to the next, continuously and unconditionally.

The angels, whether they be an ornament on the tree or even a wall-hanging, symbolize the heralding of the good news that Jesus Christ was born. Let them serve as our motivation to spread the word about the importance of Christmas.

Even the deeper meaning of Santa Claus, the red-suited bearer of toys, is in line with the true Christmas spirit. He symbolizes goodwill— giving and sharing with others to make them joyful. And the presents under the tree? They should remind us of the greatest gift of all, from God to us — Jesus Christ.

Christmas is all about family, generosity and faith. And this Christmas, while we are warm and merry, let us not forget those who will be spending the holiday away from their loved ones to protect our freedoms and give us the ability to celebrate the birth of Jesus year after year.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at http://www.jasoncrowell.com.

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