



Senator Matt Bartle – Serving Jackson County

[Website](#) | [Contact Me](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

**\*\*\*This is a revised version.  
Please disregard the previous version.\*\*\***

## **Christmas: A Ray of Light**

As 2009 comes to a close, it has been a difficult year for many people in our state and across this great country. The economic crisis has left its mark on many Missourians and Missouri businesses. Job losses, home foreclosures and mounting bills are a sign of these times. While there are reasons for hope on the horizon, there are also signs that this could be a long and tedious recovery.

As we approach the beginning of a new year, we are also reminded that not all is well in the world at large. Thousands of American soldiers are stationed around the world, often in remote and dangerous places, in a valiant fight against tyranny and terrorism. The absence of many of these young men and women from around the dinner table this Christmas is a sobering reminder that political peace on Earth continues to prove elusive.

Yet, in spite of it all, the season of Christmas brings with it a welcome invitation to look beyond mere circumstances. Indeed Christmas is a remarkable day—unlike any other holiday celebrated throughout the year. Every time we date a check, letter or legal document, we pay tribute to the fact that human history (at least in western cultures) is divided into two distinct time periods beginning with the first Christmas.

In modern times, we look back across the centuries to that amazing event that took place in a humble country town called Bethlehem. In ancient times, they looked forward to this event and while they couldn't have understood Christmas in the detail those of us living after the fact do, even for them it was cause for great hope.

Writing around 700 B.C., the prophet Isaiah spoke of that day when human history

would be intersected by Providence in a dramatic way:

*Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress... The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:1-2)*

Truly the light of Christmas, even today, brightens our world with a message of hope. “For there is born unto you this day... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...”

From our family to yours—Merry Christmas! May there be peace, goodwill and grace within our hearts as we embrace its true meaning.

#### Contact Information

**Capitol Office**  
State Capitol Building  
Room 319  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Website:**  
<http://www.senate.mo.gov/bartle>

**Phone Number:**  
888.711.9278 (toll-free)  
573.751.1464

**Fax:**  
573.751.8442