



1957 - 2007

# Child Evangelism Fellowship of Saskatchewan

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## God's Greatest Gift

Dear Friends,

December 2007

As a young boy my first memories of Christmas always began with Dad reading the Christmas story from Luke 2. After he read the Christmas story he would always talk about giving and receiving gifts and the joy that there was in giving and seeing the expression on each one's face as they opened their gift. Christmas was always an exciting time as we spent much time thinking about what other members of the family needed and would like. It was so much fun watching each one open their present and there truly was much joy in giving.

This year our family was asked to read the Christmas story at church one Sunday morning and as I read it over again almost from memory, I began to think again about the joy in giving. But this time my mind went to what it must have felt like for God the Father to give the greatest gift He had ever given. Throughout history God had given many gifts before, things like children (Psalm 127), rainbows as a promise, and even possessions and work (Ecclesiastes 5:19), but this Gift was different. It was the greatest gift He had ever given, it was His one and only Son. This Gift was so precious to Him that He even chose the name that His Son was to be given. **"Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins."** In Matthew we are told, **'They will call Him Immanuel, which means "God with us"'**. God had given Himself that first Christmas.

When Sheena was little, she and I would sing a song together called, 'The Gift Goes On.' The words went like this:

The Father gave the Son  
The Son gave the Spirit  
The Spirit gives us life  
So we can give the Gift of love  
And the Gift goes on

Don't you love to get a present wrapped up in a Christmas  
Bow?  
God gave each of us a present on that night so long ago  
It's a Gift that keeps on giving if our spirits can  
receive  
It's the secret joy of living if our hearts can just  
believe

And the Gift goes on

When your life is full of Christmas then your life is  
full

of love

You can give away the present that began with God above  
Just like ripples in the water the circles of our love  
extend

What was started with the Father is a Gift that has no  
end

By Ron Harris and Claire Cloninger  
(c) 1983 Ron Harris Music/ASCAP

Only a few years later Jesus would give another gift to the world and that was His own life just as Mary was told, **“Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.”** Just as God had given the world the most precious Gift, His own Son, Jesus gave the world the greatest gift He could. He laid down His life that we might be saved. As we receive His gift of salvation for our sins, we too **can give away the present that began with God above.**

Children are such a special part of Christmas and it is such a blessing to share God’s Gift to the world with boys and girls all year long. Thousands of children have heard about God’s gift this year and hundreds have received God’s gift of salvation through His Son Jesus as they were forgiven for their sins. Just as the song says, **‘What was started with the Father is a Gift that has no end’.**

It has been a blessing to share God’s Gift with the children all year long through the 5-Day Clubs, **Club DJ**, The Mailbox Club lessons and the David & Jonathan Program. This past week we have heard from one of the reserves that are interested in learning more about **Club DJ** and are very interested in starting it on their reserve. Also, the first week of January, I have been asked to speak and present **Club DJ** to a Native church interested in starting **Club DJ** in their community after Christmas. This month we will be sending out Mailbox Club lessons to over 10,000 children representing over 6,000 families where once again we will take the opportunity to share with them about God’s Gift this Christmas **‘and the Gift goes on’.**

We want to thank each of you for your part in this ministry to children. We value your prayers as we seek to follow God’s leading in the days ahead. Our prayer is that you and your family will have a blessed Christmas as you celebrate God’s Gift and take each opportunity God gives you to share the Gift He so graciously gave us. Merry Christmas to you and your family and may this Christmas season find you celebrating **God’s Greatest Gift, His Son JESUS!**

For the sake of the children,



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