



The Salvation Army
Canada & Bermuda

Territorial Prayer Focus

Advent 2018

Greetings in the Name of Jesus! Imagine Christmas without Christ. Imagine Christmas without the Light of the World. And yet, this is exactly what this magical time of year has become for so many: Presents without the Presence of the Holy One. Money, gluttony, alcohol, road rage... there's nothing very magical about that.

What if this year more than ever our friends and neighbors and family members see Him alive in us! May we "spill Jesus" so that His Presence is an antidote to the craziness all around.

From My Home to Your Home:

Recently I purchased a fairly expensive gift for one of our daughters that I found on Kijiji. After leaving the person's home where the transaction occurred, we stopped with traffic at a busy intersection in Toronto. A gentleman shivering in a thin coat, looking anywhere from 25 to 50 years old, walked between our vehicles with his Styrofoam cup in hand, hoping for a gift of money. My daughter and I were silent as he headed toward our car. Her immediate reaction was to hit the car door lock, understandable in today's world. I lowered my window and handed him a \$5.00 bill. I suddenly felt ashamed at the money spent so easily on gifts for my family... and yet there is a place for that too. May we each seek God's heart as we open ours to those all around us. My daughter, feeling quite moved, suggested we all head to the streets on December 25th after our Family Feast and look for people with no home, sharing hot coffee and love with the strangers among us. I'll report back what we do!

This advent season, 2018, let's join together in prayer:

- With thanksgiving to a wonderful God who saves and loves and transforms lives!
- Pray for Holy Spirit love to fill us to overflowing, especially in the busyness of life.
- For continued strength and patience for our corps officers throughout the territory.
- For open hearts as we serve, and for wisdom from God to not miss His divine appointments.
- For God's blessing on the Salvation Army as we take seriously His call to serve our communities.
- For clear invitations across the territory for people to come to faith in Jesus!

Food for thought:

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present.

An old abbot was fond of saying, 'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.'

The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos—the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to us all."

Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*, p. 196

