



Washington Street MISSION

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.
John 3:16**

Christmas 2001

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Dear Friends:

The Christmas season is full of memories. Many of us remember opening gifts around the tree with family and friends, lighting candles at Christmas eve services at our church, singing Christmas carols and hearing the story of the birth of Jesus.

Washington Street Mission has always been keenly aware of the importance of memories and especially memories of the Christmas season.

Mrs. Miller who served for years as director of the Mission was often heard to say that the Christmas tree should touch the ceiling and that boxes of candy distributed to the children should be stuffed so full that they do not rattle. She knew that memories are important.

Looking at the faces of the children on the front of our Christmas card, you can see memories being made. Some of the children look excited about Christmas with smiles stretching across their faces. Others look expectant. Many seem uncertain about what to expect.

If you look closely, you will see one boy in the back of the group looking up at the Christmas tree with an expression of wonder and awe on his face. I imagine that the top of the tree was touching the ceiling. There is little doubt that he remembered that Christmas for a long time.

As we work with children, youth, adults and families here at Washington Street Mission we value the memories we are building with them. We want them to feel the love of Jesus here and to remember that God cares for them.

Most important of all, we want them to remember the real meaning of Christmas. As the Mission has consistently proclaimed the Gospel since first opening its doors in 1910, we want all of our words and deeds to declare that God sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

We invite you to join us this Christmas season in helping to share the real meaning of Christmas with people in need.

With God's Love,

Kenneth E. Mitchell
Executive Director

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