



**Merry Christmas!**



**Washington Street**  
**MISSION**  
408 North Fourth Street  
Springfield, IL 62702  
(217) 544-9011

# True Hope

Christmas is all about a baby born in a stable lying in a manger. When Jesus put on flesh and entered into our world, he brought true peace. He brought true joy. He brought true hope.

For centuries before Jesus was born, the Jews had put their hope in a Messiah, a king, who would deliver them from their oppressors and reestablish David's throne and kingdom. Little did they know that their hope in such a limited, national Messiah was miniscule compared to the baby that was born that night in Bethlehem.



God's mission has always been to restore fallen humanity into a right relationship with himself, and Jesus' entry into our world was the pinnacle of his plan. All of history revolves around the Incarnation. But that was only the first part of the plan. Although Jesus brought peace, joy, and hope to the people he taught, healed, and disciplined, it was a limited peace, joy, and hope without the cross.

At Washington Street Mission, we regularly see people without peace, joy, or hope in their lives. Because of their current situation, they cannot see beyond the moment. As a result, many of them see peace as the lack of conflict; joy as momentary pleasure; and hope as the next meal or place to lay their head. They get overwhelmed by their circumstances and cannot see what they need to break the cycle of hopelessness.

Christmas is a time of true hope, because Christmas is all about a baby born in a stable lying in a manger...in the shadow of a cross. God's ultimate plan was to offer his Son, Jesus Christ as the necessary sacrifice for the sins of all humanity past, present, and future, which was accomplished on the cross. When Jesus died, he made atonement for all sin and then after being buried, was raised to life on the third day. Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection gives us true hope, the hope that this world is not our home, that our true citizenship is in heaven and that we will spend eternity with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Your donation during this celebratory time of year helps us to bring true peace, joy, and hope to the people we serve at the Mission. It empowers us to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of our guests so that they can be warm and clothed AND can hear about the hope that comes at Christmas through Jesus Christ. Thank you for your generous support! Merry Christmas to you and your family!

Christmas 2017

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