



## A Gift of Love

By Kenton Hundley

From Michael Jackson to Mariah Carey, Bing Crosby to Bono, there were millions of songs in my home with dreams of peace on Earth at Christmas. Some may know of The Christmas Truce. In 1914, British troops and German troops in WWI stopped fighting on Christmas Eve. I've read that the troops began to yell jokes across the trenches and eventually began singing Christmas Carols together. Merely 30 yards away, the troops were certainly close enough for friendly banter, and the decorating of Christmas trees, trench repair and fellowship between "enemies". On Christmas morning a soccer ball appeared and a "kickabout" ensued.

As a child, I was full of joy when unwrapping a soccer ball, football, or basketball on Christmas. It was easy to imagine what was beneath the red and green wrapping of a sphere or prolate spheroid shape under the tree. Dreams of being the next Pele, Jerry Rice or Michael Jordan never far away. Some gifts were too big to be wrapped in paper; the secret was out! A new bike! A new skateboard!

My wishes or dreams at Christmas have shifted a bit. I still dream of World Peace throughout the year. Being older now, sometimes I feel World Peace is just a dream. Yet this year at Christmas I would love to see the people we love and the people lacking love, be able to unwrap



the Gift of Peace. I would love for God's children to begin to unwrap the peace that exists within. The "peace which passes all understanding." There is a peace within us that can be seen and felt, as passing moments or daily practices.

Imagine a world where one child looks at another and thinks, "Ahh... they're feeling peace right now." Imagine a world where strangers gaze upon one another thinking, "They know what peace is!" This year at Christmas I'd love to see people with peace of mind, peace in their relationships, at peace with their neighbors. The Shalom kind of peace, to make good. This Christmas I'd love to see children feeling that they are making good with themselves. Strangers making good with one another would be a welcome sight this Christmas and everyday thereafter.

*O God, this year at Christmas we call upon you to give us the tools to unwrap the Gift of Peace within. Grant us the knowledge to recognize feelings of peace within, and the courage to share the ways we acquired that peace with others. Lord God, this year at Christmas bring warmth to those longing to be wrapped in the warmth of your unconditional love and peace. Surprise those who doubt your love and peace with a renewed knowledge and belief in You, O God. Amen*

