

## The Unicycle

By Barbara Eveland

In 1964, there were 8 children at home in my family. Jimmy was not skilled in walking through a room and his ability to deliver newspapers was uncertain. Jimmy was certain that a unicycle was what he needed to succeed.

One by one each child was asked to give up a gift for Christmas so that Jimmy could have his unicycle Our parents were wise in telling us that we were giving this gift to him rather than focus on what we would not receive.

On Christmas morning Jimmy was filled with the energy of 10 lightening bolts. He rushed to the garage and there he spent everyday hanging on to a rope from above and balancing on the unicycle below. Jimmy's balance in walking improved and soon he was able to jump the unicycle up on curbs and cover paper route in record time. Both hands free for throwing papers meant that he was a star. His picture was on the front page of the newspaper. He was on his unicycle with his paperbag draped across his body while holding one paper in his hand. The joy that Jimmy shared with everyone was a bigger gift than any we gave up in his honor. Every sibling realized that having this kind of joy at home was a gift of peace and joy to each of us.

The peace we found at Christmas in 1964 was a peace with giving a gift of love that meant actually giving of our own selfish desire in order to share in another's deep joy.

## Scripture Reading John 14:27 NRSV

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

## Prayer:

Oh God, I ask a Christmas blessing for this year. I ask for the ability to give as you have given to me and to spread your peace to those that I do not understand as well as those who I love and admire.