



It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Xmas

Long before Thanksgiving and sometimes before Halloween, Christmas becomes everyone's concern. As a person walks down the streets of uptown and downtown Albemarle, he hears Christmas music. Windows of stores and decorated with the traditional holly, snow, Santa Claus, and mistletoe. Papers showing what bargains can be found are displayed on door and window panes. Everyone rushes from one store to the next, wondering what to get for Mom and Dad, Sister and Brother, or Sherry and Terry. The phrase that comes from most parent's lips as their little boy or girl begs for a toy is, "No, dear, Mama and Daddy do not have enough money. Maybe Santa will bring it for you."

Commercialism? Santa Claus? Snow? Holly? Mistletoe? Money? Giving meaningless gifts? Is this Christmas? What ever happened to "Away in a Manger" and "What Child is This?" How many people can remember a Christmas when all that was thought about was the birth of Christ and peace on earth? If we look into the past, we will see that not many persons can remember

such a Christmas. Most of us just think of all the gifts we will get, all the food we will eat, and all the time we will have out of school.

But there is more to Christmas than that. There is Christ. He wants the whole world to celebrate his birth, but not the way we are doing it. He wants the whole world to know he came and he is coming again. But he does not want to be classified as a "Superstar," he wants to be classified as the "Only Star", "the King of Kings."

As the Bible says, "For unto us is born this day in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord." Does Christmas mean what it is supposed to?

By Jorge

In Argentina, Christmas is celebrated the night of the 24th of December. All the family meets together and have a very nice and happy party. The house is decorated, and the central part of decoration is the Christmas tree full of lights, and there are some little candles on its branches.

In the afternoon comes Santa Claus, putting the presents at the base of the tree, and some of them on the branches. The dinner is had at about 10 o'clock. It is a big dinner, with turkey dressing and white wine; and after this we have some candy, dried fruits like nuts and so on, and champagne.

Some Christmas songs are sung with happiness, and some times with sadness, sadness for those who were there the year before and will never be there again, sadness for those who left and never came back.

At midnight many people go to church and visit friends. The sky is lighted by numerous fireworks, and the stars seem to dance in the wide sky.

Everything looks dressed with the Christmas clothes of peace and goodness. It is a night full of

life. Everything stops its race, and the people look back at the past year, seeing how far away it is.

And so, invisible but felt, the spirit of Christmas comes; everybody can feel it in their hearts and heavy on their skin. The cups of champagne will go up this night. The Christmas tree will look wonderful. And everybody will see in the sky a little baby born in Bethlehem, looking at them with mercy and goodness.

From an Argentine, to you, Merry Christmas.

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