

**MIRROR
MEDITATION**

By EMMITT L. BRINSON

Quite often we hear the question; why have we allowed the celebration of Christmas to become so commercialized? I wonder how many of us would enjoy Christmas if we did not see the gayly decorated stores and windows, the ornamented

lighted Christmas trees, the bright lighted streets, the hustle and bustle of shopping, not to mention the billions of dollars in earnings it creates. How else could we express ourselves in the joy of giving, if we did not have the convenience of purchasing the variety of gifts that suits our needs.

The atmosphere and surroundings in many cases help us to build up to the spirit of things. It is a reminder of some wonderful memorable and joyful Christmas in the past. Time and place are important to our emotional conditioning and without something which sets the spark within each individual, Christmas would not have meaning.

There are many millions who would never know or experience anything of the joy of the greatest event in the his-

tory of the world if it were not for a commercialized Christmas. To some there must be snow. To some there must be brouising in the sun along some sandy beach. To some, there must be commercialized recreational activity. So time, place and atmosphere might be of personal importance, but not of general importance.

I recall the candle lit trees, open fire place, stockings on mantles, the smell of cedar, the decorations that would seem antique today, of popcorn garland, of holly and laurel. The excitement of roaming the woods, the creeks and swamps for decorations and mistletoe. The anticipation of what Santa would bring; knowing full well it would be limited (compared to the luxury of variety these days.) There would be plenty of fruits and candies, home made pies and cakes. Extra food-and a real feast on Christmas day.

Then the real spirit of things enter into my memory just as it does in every adult. One that stands out more than all else is the joy I saw in the eyes of my Mom and Dad as they watched the excitement and gladness of we children. The love and gratitude and pride they expressed to us as they took up in their arms for the thankful hugs and kisses; their glances at one another, grateful to be the giver; the love-the joy that came from their hearts, their prayers of thanksgiving for blessings no matter how meager. This to me is the spirit of Christmas.

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WISHES FOR A
MERRY CHRISTMAS**

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Best Wishes*



This cheery wish for Christmas joy, though it's repeated yearly, is just as warm as it can be and meant oh-so sincerely: Happy Holiday!

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