

**Have you ever stopped and questioned what Christmas really means?  
Is it lighted trees, a red nose deer or colored jelly beans?  
Is it Grandma bringing presents wrapped in paper and a bow  
Or is it day old fruitcake and a door with mistletoe?  
Christmas is the blessed day when the world was born again.  
It's the day a Child was born that would take away our sin.  
It's the day we learned of "hope" in a world where none was found  
And the true meaning of love as it spread the world around.  
It's the day friends and loved ones seem that they can do no wrong  
And the world sings praise to God through the many Christmas songs.  
Now that you know the meaning of this blessed Christmas Day,  
There's something I need to ask you. There's something I want to say.  
Will you help me make Christmas a day that lasts throughout the year?  
I'm not asking for you money... not your blood, sweat or a tear.  
Would you pass along a smile and if you have time to spare,  
There's a veteran's home nearby with lonely people there.  
If you could just acknowledge, the next person that goes by,  
Then let them know God loves them and there's no need for them to cry.  
You see, there are many hurting souls as the holidays come around  
And some have lost all hope while their dreams have hit the ground.  
Sometimes a smiling face can send a message, "It's all right",  
And it can change the darkest hour into the brightest light.  
If you could search your heart for a kind word, it might help to fill their need  
And it could show them they have value and give hope they can succeed.  
Let us all celebrate life and let go of the past.  
Merry Christmas, My Friend. You know the meaning at last.  
May God Bless You with Love. Have a Happy New Year!  
It comes from my heart and it's said most sincere.**

**Sue Lueck Carlson  
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**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THE HAPPIEST OF 2004**

**TO YOU AND YOURS!**