



Is this not a collage of what we see in the world today?

We are not Scrooge, but aren't we suppose to be thinking about what this celebration is about — in the midst of all the bah-humbug?



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For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

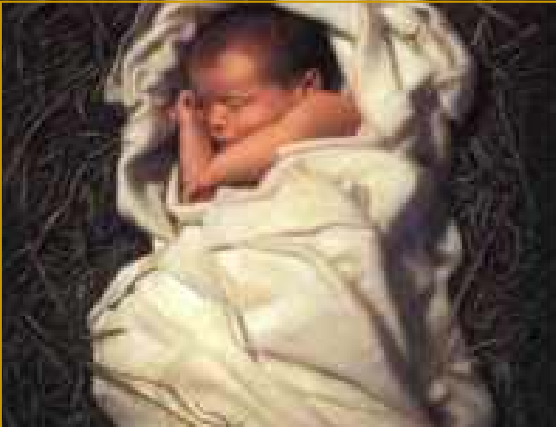




It is written, Isaiah 9:6.

The first gift was not wrapped,  
had no bow,  
wasn't purchased online or in a store.  
The first gift of Christmas was a  
simple gift,  
a sacred gift.  
It wasn't gold,  
or frankincense,  
or myrrh.

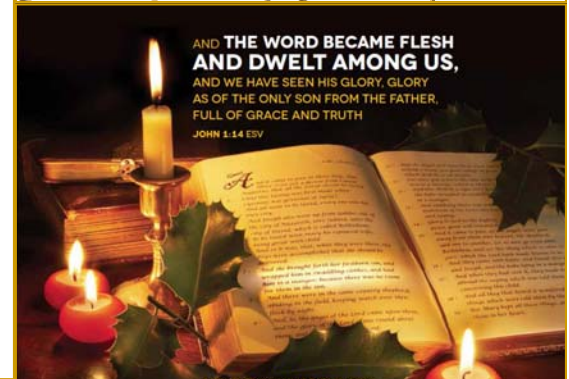
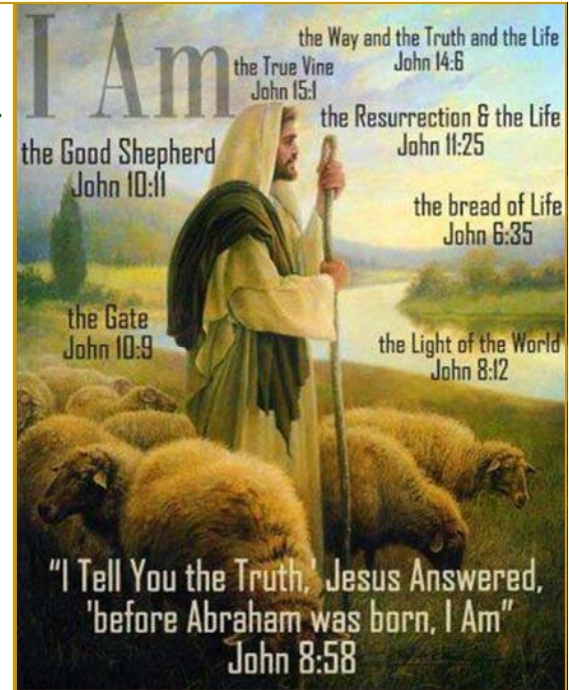
It was a gift of love,  
and life,  
and peace,  
and hope  
given by a Father  
to all His children.



For God so loved the world,  
and you,  
and every single one of us.  
He gave His Son.  
He is the Christ (Messiah, Anointed  
One.)

He is the Gift.  
This season discover the Gift,  
embrace the Gift.

**"For God loved the world in this  
way: He gave His One and Only  
Son, so that everyone who believes  
in Him will not perish but have  
eternal life." John 3:16**



*Greetings, once again we have the opportunity to send an update and good tidings of great joy! We have had a full year and we are looking forward to every day the Lord gives us. We only have TODAY (one day at a time) and THAT DAY, the day when we go to be with Him! Here is the update...*

- \* We ended last year by attending a Christmas Eve remembrance of the birth of Jesus at West Houston Bible Church and celebrating Christmas Day with Justin, Carmen and family in Junction, TX.*
- \* We both attended a year of studies with Tyndale Seminary.*
- \* We attended a Life of Jesus Christ course at West Houston Bible Church in September.*
- \* We are currently studying a Bible Study Methods course.*
- \* We celebrated our 41<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary in Fredericksburg TX. We got to see family and friends too.*
- \* Carmen, Justin, Jade (9), Brock (7) and Koda (5) are all doing well and busy with work, school, sports, and many events and activities. They were all here for the Thanksgiving holidays along with the Rawls and the Powells. It was a good time for all (8 adults, 5 kiddos, and 7 dogs).*
- \* We cherish every moment of being with our grandchildren (our treasures) in 2014! We got to watch our grandchildren play Tee-ball and softball this spring and they all came to the ranch this summer for a couple of weeks, which is always a grand time together!*
- \* Jason just moved into a new home in Seattle WA and continues his work with CBS radio and other enterprises. We recently saw him as he passed through Texas on his way back to Seattle from Nashville and we hope to see him for Christmas this year.*
- \* The ranch continues to keep us busy. We were very blessed with our first honey harvest this summer. We had a fantastic garden, but we are so glad the canning season is over for 2014. We continue to raise grass-fed beef and the hens produce free-range pasture grazed eggs. We sold all but about half of our goats, but plan for more in late spring 2015. We also sold a bit of our garden produce this year.*

*If we could sum Christmas up in just three words it would be — “God with us,” in two, Jesus Christ, in One, Immanuel.*

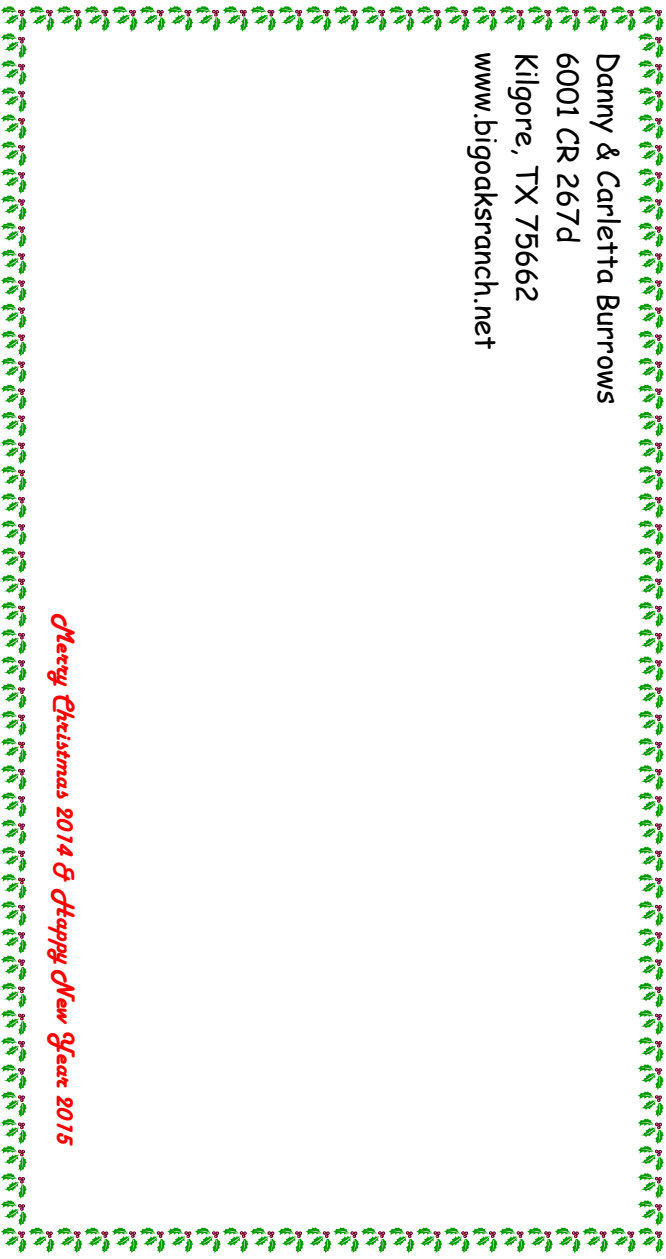
*In closing, we want to wish you and yours a continuing celebration of the most valuable and treasured life of all time and eternity, our Lord Jesus Christ. Come see us if you come through East Texas, [www.big OaksRanch.net](http://www.big OaksRanch.net).*

*Merry Christmas 2014,*

*Denny & Carlotta*

*Proverbs 23:23*

*All Scriptures are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)*



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*Merry Christmas 2014 & Happy New Year 2015*