All I want for Christmas...

Is my two front teeth, as the popular song goes. Or maybe you want a hippopotamus for Christmas? Either way, this year that dentist bill for those two front teeth or the vet bills for those shots and hippo shipping may be a little outside the budget. Perhaps some socks and underwear is just what the economist ordered.

Christmas is usually one of my least favorite seasons. Shocking, I know. But with all the shopping that needs to be done, the hectic traveling, and the shopping it makes for a comparatively stressful time. It's during these times my perspective demands a shift and I remember the things that I love about this time and the reasons I do what I do.

Joy to the World

the Lord is come

let earth receive her King

This year over 40 USC students will experience the true meaning of Christmas for the first time. Understanding Christ's birth and what it meant to the world will whisper to their hearts the true beauty of this season. Their presents will be given and received in celebration of God on earth rather than tradition of family. Their exposure to Christ will deepen every part of this holy day that is so often overrun with commercialism and misdirection away from God to the real reason we celebrate each season.

It is this process repeated year after year that makes me love what I do and thank each of you so much for your partnership with us as we strive to reach USC students with the great news of Christ. I think of James, who until recently had been running from God and is now experiencing purpose and community. I think of Ryan who showed up at our meeting with his sister and was drawn to the joy seen on the face of Gen, a fellow staff member at USC, as he talked about Christ and how much he loved him and is now familiar with that same joy found only in Christ.

I know this year's Christmas comes with a bit of financial concern for most of us, but I pray that you and those you love would experience the joy of Christmas that no situation or man can take away. The joy that is found in Christ on earth, come to save. The joy that prompted Isaac Watts almost 200 years ago to pen the words, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come; Let earth receive her king".

Merry Christmas & Thank You



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