

How I See It

The Magic of Christmas

At this time of year we retell the story of great things happening to ordinary people:

A young girl is visited by an angel and told she will become the mother of God.

A young carpenter is visited by an angel and told to become a husband.

Ordinary sheep farmers are told to find hope in a stable.

Three scientists are told to follow a star and discover something far beyond their imagination or explanation.

A common businessman who runs a tavern with rooms becomes a tool of kindness to help a young couple settle into a safe, quiet barn for the evening.

Even common animals are witness to a special birth.

And even the power of a great king was diminished by ordinary deception to protect the location of the manger.

For thousands of years children have learned the story that many adults have forgotten. For thousands of years threats to silence the wonder of Christmas has been powerful, yet futile. Why? Because the story is too great, the promise too wonderful, and the reality too tremendous for our brains to understand and our hearts to keep silent.

In the midst of economic uncertainty, war, poverty, perversion, crime, and things that don't make sense - a story two thousand years old still brings comfort, reassurance, and the courage to go on.

Christmas is a story about YOU.

Christmas is a story about all of us who feel ordinary and sometimes forgotten in the struggles of life.

The magic of Christmas is the promise that great things can come from ordinary people, doing ordinary things, in ordinary places.

No matter what is happening in your personal or professional life, whether loved ones are safe and healthy, troubled and hurting, or absent altogether, know that there is a gift to receive this season. That gift can bring peace and a power to endure and achieve regardless of the obstacles.

If you believe, believe harder.

If you don't, find out more.

At this time of year, May HE be born again in you.

May the magic of this time bring you the strength to care, the courage to celebrate, and the commitment to REACH!

At least that's how I see it.

Top 3 Workforce Preparedness Initiatives

- 71% Link learning to performance
- 54% Streamline workforce planning
- 52% Leverage pay-for-performance

source: HR Executive magazine 1/06

Thoughts from Here & There

Origin of the “12 Days of Christmas” (reprinted by popular demand from last year’s December issue)

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote the *12 days of Christmas* as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning - one known only to their church members:

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles’ Creed.

Vinnie’s Commercial

Merry Christmas and God bless our mortgaged homes! May your home be a gathering place... filled with the laughter of children, fond memories of loved ones, good health, and the joys of the season.

May you and yours be blessed with Peace, Love, and Joy.. the greatest gifts this holiday season has to offer.

So here’s to a full belly, a heavy purse, and a light heart. However you define success, may you come closer to it in 2007! We’re here to help in whatever ways we can.

ALWAYS, ALWAYS... Continue to REACH!

*These perspectives are not a substitute for tailored counsel or programs designed for your particular situation.
Contact us to discuss your specific needs.*

“Encouraging others to reach up, in and out to achieve”

239-455-0816

REACH Development Services

163 Burnt Pine Dr.

Naples FL 34119

www.REACHdevelopment.com