



# The Christian Connection™



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**SOARING COMMUNICATION FOR CHRIST**

## The Gift of Love

By: Joan M. Blake



The holiday season is upon us. Everywhere, trees are decorated with lights and holiday emblems. People are busy and excited at this time of giving and receiving. They shop for gift items for their family and friends.

### Ways to give during the holidays

Whether you decide to give gifts to people on your list, to donate to your favorite charity, to assist at a homeless shelter, to visit the sick or the imprisoned, to prepare delicious dinners for your family, you are participating in gift giving during the holiday season. Your gifts are wrapped with love and compassion, and symbolize the reason for celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the love gift that God gave to the world.

### God's redemptive plan

The all-knowing and mighty God (Psalm 139:1-4; Isaiah 9:6) allowed his Son, Jesus Christ, the miracle of love, to be born of Mary, a peasant girl who gave birth to him in a manger (Luke 2:4-7). Jesus came into this world not with worldly riches, but lowly, to live among people like you and me and to identify with our pain and grief. God's plan was to redeem the world from sin and death by sacrificing his only Son, Jesus, who died on the cross and was resurrected on the third day; and is now seated on the right hand of the Father, forever making intercession for us (Romans 8:34).

### How to obtain the gifts of salvation and eternal life

When you confess and repent of your sins and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, God forgives you of your current and past sins; you are restored to a rightful relationship with Him through his Son Jesus Christ, regardless of the nature of your sin; and you receive the gift of salvation and eternal life (1 John 1:9).

### Impacting others through the gift of love

God extends salvation and eternal life to you because He loves you. Mary was the vessel God used to birth Jesus, the gift of love to the world. Similarly, God can equip you to be a world changer impacting others in your home, on your job or wherever you go. As you reflect on the holiday

## The Christian Connection

The Christian Connection is published by the Christian Resource Network Inc., a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization whose main mission is to provide support to those who are experiencing emotional pain. Other related services include women's small group training and mentoring services.

If you would like to become a member of Christian Resource Network, Inc., make contributions, advertise in *The Christian Connection Newsletter*, or be on our email list, please contact the editor or visit our website.

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season, give the gift of love; many lives will be changed.

May the God of love and peace fill your hearts to overflowing this holiday season!

In Christ,  
*Joan M. Blake*  
Editor/Publisher

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**PRAYER TO RECEIVE SALVATION**

Dear Jesus,

I confess and repent of all of my sins that I have committed against you. I pray that you will forgive me of my sins and give me the gift of eternal life.

Thank you for dying on the cross just for me. I accept you, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as my Lord and Savior.

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**DESCRIPTION OF BOOK**

This book is a moving story of Joan Blake's journey from her island home of Trinidad and Tobago to attend college and work in America. She expresses the joys and challenges of being a wife and mother, and shows by her personal testimonies that even when life deals out times of sorrow, we can find comfort, hope and purpose by resting in God.

The prayer, scripture, and reflection sections at the end of each chapter enable one to use the book for personal as well as group study.

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## Letters To The Editor

If you were blessed by the articles published in this volume, we want to hear from you.

Please email:

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### Do you need prayer?

**Email: [Jblake@christianresourcenetwork.org](mailto:Jblake@christianresourcenetwork.org)  
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