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# CHRISTMAS AT HEART

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By Evelyn O. Shih

I once saw a booklet on Buddhism, which was well-written, in that it was plain and easy to read. After I finished reading the booklet, however, I felt sorry for the followers because there was not a sentence about God, only information about effort to discipline and improve themselves. I thought about how they don't know how to connect with the Creator and claim His power to conquer sin and temptation.

Actually, the Creator of the human race has always cared about us and wants us to be happy and free. When He saw that people wouldn't and couldn't, recognize His love, He even sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to the world to teach us in person. He eventually died on the cross to redeem us for our sins and gave us new life to overcome evil.

Each year, we celebrate the arrival of Jesus over two thousand years ago as Christmas, however, just singing 'Joy to the World, the Lord is come' with others is not enough. The most important thing is to accept Jesus into our hearts, to have Christmas in our hearts.

The holiday, Christmas, comes only once a year, while Christmas in our hearts is

an everyday business. Early each morning, I kneel down to praise Him for His presence and trust Him that He will lead me all the way, then it is natural that I live in joy and peace. I have nothing to worry about, or to fear, since the mightiest one in the whole universe is with me. Hallelujah! I have Christmas in my heart everyday!

Sometimes, however, we forget about the Lord's presence. We are like the child who wants to be free from the holding hand of the parent. The outside world is so fascinating with all its twinkling and sparkling things. We think we need these stimulation more than the parent's serenity. Or, we think that we are capable of running our lives, with on need for our parents' guidance. When our plans fail, we still refuse to admit any wrongdoing, we just complain that God is unfair for He hasn't blessed us according to our wishes.

The worst thing about never enjoying God's company is that we don't even know that there is a higher ground. The Son of God, however, has come to earth for two thousand years and He is waiting outside your heart to come in and be with you all your life. You can begin with Christmas in your heart right now! ♣