

**Pastor's Ponderings – December 2013**

*Dear Sisters and Brothers,*

*“O Happy Days”, often means different things to different people. “O Happy Days”, sprinkling a little joy in the hearts, minds, and spirits of individuals in a variety of ways.*

*“Joy to You and Me, and All the Boys and Girls” what a wonderful thought. “Joy to You and Me, and All the Boys and Girls” what a wonderful goal to nurture as people living in the world today.*

*“O Happy Days” and “Joy to You and Me All the Boys and Girls” sounds like an opportunity to celebrate! “O Happy Days” and “Joy to You and Me All the Boys and Girls” sounds like an opportunity to be “Merry”!*

*Happy, Joy, and Merry sounds like an opportunity to feel good, to feel good and to celebrate!*

*“O Happy Days” sounds a little bit like Christmas! “Joy to You and Me All the Boys and Girls” sounds a little bit like Christmas! Ah, yes indeed, happy, joy, and a little bit of “Merry Christmas” sparking some excitement in the hearts, minds, and spirits, of boys and girls of all ages across the land.*

*“O Happy Days”, “Joy to You and Me and All the Boys and Girls”, wrapped in a nice little package of “Merry Christmas” with Santa Claus, Christmas Trees, Christmas Decorations, Christmas Cookies, and Christmas Gifts! Wow, that is a lot of happy, a lot of joy, and a lot of merry, as family and friends reach out to one another in a spirit of celebration!*

*“O Happy Days” beyond Santa Claus, the Christmas Trees, the Christmas Decorations, and the Christmas Cookies; “O Happy Days” the Christmas Gift of the Christ Child, God’s gift to the world!*

*“Joy to You and Me, and All the Boys and Girls” beyond Santa Claus, the Christmas Trees, the Christmas Decorations, and the Christmas Cookies; “Joy to You and Me, and All the Boys and Girls” the Christmas Gift of the Christ Child, God’s gift to the world!*

***“MERRY CHRISTMAS”** beyond Santa Claus, the Christmas Trees, the Christmas Decorations, and the Christmas Cookies; yes **“MERRY CHRISTMAS”** is the Christmas Gift of the Christ Child, God’s gift to the world! Truly, this is something which can nurture a happiness and joy and merriment within our hearts, minds, and spirits, a time to celebrate as the Children of God within the Family of God!!!*

***GOD’S** gracious **LOVE** is revealed yet again, in the Christ Child, God’s love revealed not for one, or two, or three, **GOD’S** gracious **LOVE** revealed for one and for **ALL!!!***

*“O Happy Day”, “Joy to You and Me, and All the Boys and Girls” wrapped in a very “Merry Christmas”, wrapped in an opportunity to feel good and to celebrate because of **GOD’S** gracious **LOVE** for us!!!*

*Although, our traditional **THANKSGIVING DAY** may be over and **DONE**, our reasons for **GIVING THANKS** unto our gracious and loving **GOD** who continues to nurture happiness, joy, and a bit of merriment in our hearts, minds, and spirits, wrapped in the gift of the **CHRIST CHILD** remains ever **PRESENT** with a great big **BOW** on the **PACKAGE** of **LOVE** for not one, or two, or three, but for **ALL!!!***

*Love in Christ,*

*Dana*