

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“O Boy”, “O Girl”, let us give thanks that February is now upon us! Why, should we give thanks? We should give thanks because once February arrives we can begin to think a little more seriously about the closing days of **WINTER!!!**

We can add to our sense of anticipation about the closing days of **WINTER**, this little “tidbit”: February is the shortest month of the year!!!

Now, February is noted for a couple of other things as well, like President’s Birthdays and Valentine’s Day!!!

However, let us go back to this whole **WINTER** thing again for a few minutes. There is an old saying that says something about “Cold Hands” and a “Warm \_\_\_\_\_”!!!

Ah yes, when you reach out to shake some one’s hand and you discover that their hand seems to be quite “cold”, either the other person or you yourself, might be found to make this proclamation “Cold Hands, Warm Heart”!!!

Well, I am left to wonder a bit, who is there among us that has not experienced or encountered something of “Cold Hands” this **WINTER** beginning with the month of December??? Indeed, we have already had a fair amount of frigid, cold, harsh, extreme weather, during winter 2013-2014!!! Therefore, it seems quite reasonable to assume we might also have had the opportunity to encounter “Warm Hearts”!!!

Ah, “Cold Hands, Warm Hearts”, but where do “Warm Hearts” really come from???

“Warm Hearts” come from allowing ourselves to be open, allowing ourselves to be open to the experience of something we call **LOVE!!!** The **ULTIMATE** example of **LOVE** is found in the **WONDER** of **GOD’S** gracious **LOVE** for us, God’s children!!!

**GOD** has shown, **GOD** has highlighted, that precious and deep love for us that “warms hearts” through the gift of God’s Son baby **JESUS** born in Bethlehem, born to go to a cross in Jerusalem, and to display victory over death on the cross through the power of the “Empty Tomb” and the **RESURRECTION!!!**

Loved by **GOD** through **JESUS**, we as God’s children are called upon by **GOD** to in turn “love one another”!!!

Indeed, **WINTER** may continue to linger on after all, as short as the month of February is, it is only just beginning. So now, as we continue to journey through the month of February and the rest of **WINTER** may we do so renewed and nurtured by an awareness of God’s gracious love for us which **“WARMS HEARTS”!!!**

As we, God’s children, experience anew the wonder of God’s love that empowers “warm hearts” may we share that love with one another in ways that allow other hearts to experience the very precious gift of a **“WARMING HEART”!!!**

What is that Hymn we sometimes sing??? Ah yes, **“PASS IT ON”!!!**

Love in Christ,

Dana