

# The Christmas Mailbox

“Nothing echoes like an empty mailbox.” Charles Shultz

At our home in South Carolina, when I was growing up, one of the highlights of the day was to walk down the driveway to get the mail from the mailbox at the road. My dad, in his late eighties, still tries to get there every day, or someone will get it for him.

Most days, “when the mail has run”, as they say, people walk up to see what the mail carrier has brought. Whether it’s the box outside the door in town, or the box at the post office, it is a daily ritual that must be observed.

It is amazing that one can connect with anywhere in the world through an ordinary metal box. Somehow the Post Office can transform a simple piece of paper into actual mail that can go anywhere.

Ernest Wright thought about this. “In this country, two things stand first in rank: your flag and your mail. You all know what honor you pay to your flag, but you should know, also, that your mail, — just that ordinary postal card—is also important. But a postal card, or any form of mail, is not important, in that way, until you drop it through a slot in this building, and with a stamp on it, or into a mail box outdoors. Up to that instant it is but a common card, which anybody can pick up and carry off without committing a criminal act. But as soon as it is in back of this partition, or in a mail box, a magical transformation occurs; and anybody who now should willfully purloin it, or obstruct its trip in any way, will find prison doors awaiting him. What a frail thing ordinary mail is! A baby could rip it apart, but no adult is so foolish as to do it. That small stamp which you stick on it, is, you might say, a postal official, going right along with it, having it always in his sight.”

Thanks to all the people of the post office, who handle so much more mail at Christmas! Packages from Amazon and all over the world. Letters and cards, bills and advertisements, newspapers and magazines. During the lifetime of the mailbox, literally tons of mail will travel through that box.

God’s people must check their mail from heaven all the time, too. God is sending us “letters from heaven” all the time. We must never forget to check the mailbox, to be sensitive to what God is telling us. Heaven’s mailbox is never empty.

Prayer is really a kind of mail. We receive and send messages from God. It would be a tragedy to walk out to the road and open the box and find never anything there.

Know this, though, dear reader. God is speaking all the time about the wonderful plans he has for us. He tells us how much he loves us. He gives us guidance and direction for how we can live to find wonder, miracle, and hope.

As we approach the blessed day of Christmas once again, we must turn our hearts to Christmas letters. We should open that mailbox that shares the glory of heaven with us through the good news of Jesus Christ.

Perhaps we could write some Christmas prayers or messages for others and share them with the delivery of God’s Holy Spirit.

Here is a prayer written by Henry Van Dyke for Christmas Day.

The day of joy returns, Father in Heaven,  
and crowns another year with peace and good will.

Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the worship of the wise men.

Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world...

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake. Amen

So look at that mailbox a little differently. Think; write holy words that will be transformed, like that lowly letter to a piece of official mail, to divine messages, Heavenly communications, miracle in process. Learn the true potential of prayer, and unlock the wonder of what God makes possible.

“True prayer,” wrote Charles Spurgeon, “True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth.”

And a true Christmas prayer celebrates and hears the best news from any source for anybody anywhere.