

What does Christmas mean to you?

Too often during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season we forget the purpose of the holiday. We ask:

"What does Christmas mean to you?"

Here's what kids have had to say from around the world and some of our own Family Traditions.

Family Traditions

- ❖ *At the beginning of Advent, the Christmas tree is hauled out and put up and decorated on a colour theme of white and gold one year and green and purple the next. The Advent wreath is placed on the table and a candle is lit every Sunday after a short prayer.*

Joe and Jo

- ❖ *A few days before Christmas my children and I visit our neighbours up and down the street delivering an assortment of traditional "goodies" which we have prepared together. The neighbours are always very appreciative and really enjoy "catching up" with the children.*

Peter and Gemma

"Christmas means laughing and spending time with your family and friends but most important of all is celebrating the birth of Christ."....**Jen (19) New York**

"Christmas to me means spending time with those you love and who love you. It's not about presents as a lot of kids think. It's about enjoying the time you have on this Earth. But most importantly it's about forgetting those bad feelings you might have about someone and celebrating the birth in the world of Christ, Jesus, no matter who you are.".....**Ella (11) Queensland, Australia**

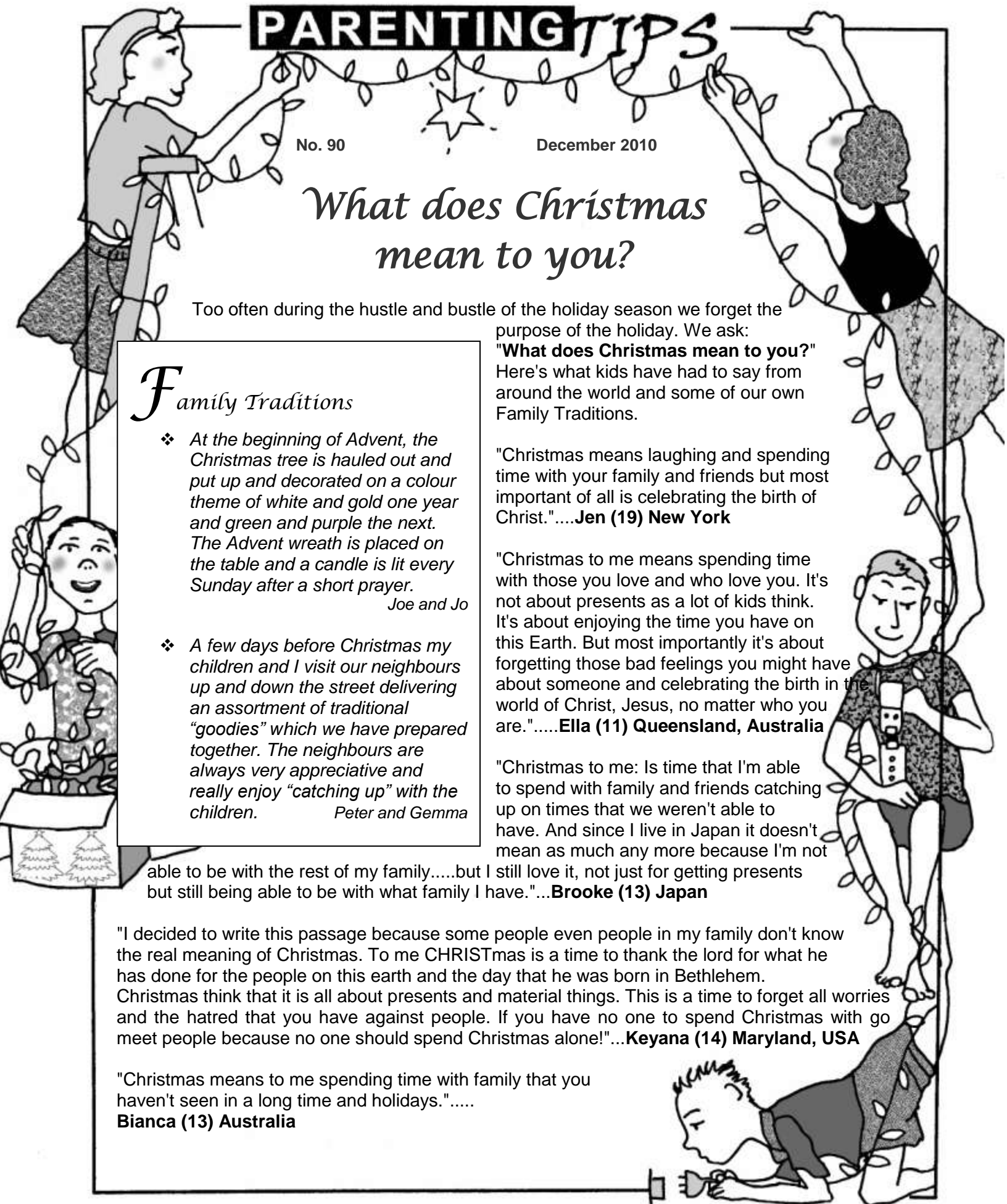
"Christmas to me: Is time that I'm able to spend with family and friends catching up on times that we weren't able to have. And since I live in Japan it doesn't mean as much any more because I'm not

able to be with the rest of my family.....but I still love it, not just for getting presents but still being able to be with what family I have."...**Brooke (13) Japan**

"I decided to write this passage because some people even people in my family don't know the real meaning of Christmas. To me CHRISTmas is a time to thank the lord for what he has done for the people on this earth and the day that he was born in Bethlehem. Christmas think that it is all about presents and material things. This is a time to forget all worries and the hatred that you have against people. If you have no one to spend Christmas with go meet people because no one should spend Christmas alone!"...**Keyana (14) Maryland, USA**

"Christmas means to me spending time with family that you haven't seen in a long time and holidays.".....

Bianca (13) Australia



"For me Christmas means to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and it's a time to thank the Lord for what he has done for us in this earth and that he was born in Bethlehem. And it's also time to forget all worries and the hatred that you have against people.. That's all..... may God bless you all."....**Kristina (18) Philippines**

"Many people think that sending a present once a year is Christmas. In my eyes Christmas is the birth of Jesus. Every year, first thing in the morning my mother has my brother and I say "Happy Birthday Jesus", and my mother has us children watch The Birth Of Jesus Movie. Christmas is also to be with family - caring, sharing and loving and just being happy and being together. But one needs to carry that out all year through. Love, sharing, caring, keeping in touch with loved ones all year through. I believe it is Jesus's way to keep the spark lighting with Love, Joy, Peace, happiness, and Hope."....**Tiffani (10) Arizona**

"Hello everyone may God bless each everyone of you all. Christmas is such a wonderful Holiday, but actually Christmas day is Jesus Christ's birthday. This day doesn't mean go give gifts, but to realize that this is the day God sent his only son so that we might have salvation. This is what it's supposed to mean, but we as people made it seem like a day to give gifts and talk about Santa, when we really should be telling the children the true meaning of this day. Everything else is good the gifts and everything, but it's good to remember the true meaning of Christmas. May everyone have a blessed Christmas "rejoice on this day"**Carmen (19) USA**

"Christmas means giving and receiving to my family. We give to others like the less fortunate and my relatives. I love Christmas because when I wake up there are a lot of presents under the tree, and I get to open them. This is what Christmas means to me."....**Rachael (13) NJ**

"Christmas means to me when your friends and/or family gather around and celebrate the Lord's name. It means to thank the Lord for everything he's done, to keep us on our feet. It celebrates when he died for us and came back alive."...**Chelsea (12) USA**

"Christmas means to me when you celebrate young Jesus' birthday, have fun, spend time with your family, and eat."....**Leia (12) Australia**

*O*h, how we love Christmas in our home! The old saying, 'Children make Christmas', has a ring of truth.

Some of the ways we celebrate Christmas:

- ❖ *During the nine days before Christmas, our family prays the Christmas Novena. We take turns to say the prayers, thanking God for His many blessings, and telling the children stories about the birth of Jesus.*
- ❖ *The children help us to wrap a hamper for the less fortunate.*
- ❖ *The children choose one of their favourite toys to give to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.*
- ❖ *We love singing Christmas carols, and go to 'Carols in the Park', both in our parish and at the Domain.*
- ❖ *On Christmas Eve, we make a birthday cake for Jesus. We share the cake on Christmas day.*

Jose and Alison

Sources:

www.kidsturncentral.com/holidays/christmas/spiritof.htm
Redfield College Christmas Recipe Book