



FAMILY RENEWAL RESOURCES PROJECT
parenting forever, through whatever

A Christmas Hope

I offer my own Christmas Story of hope for separated moms, dads and grandparents.

In the second year of separation my close relationship with my oldest daughter had become distant and we had become isolated from each other. I was in a state of despair and at a loss as to how to change what had taken place.

It unexpectedly occurred on Christmas Eve at about midnight. My Santa came not down the chimney but with a simple knock on my door. I hesitatingly answered and found my daughter with her boyfriend. They were quickly ushered in and for the next two hours we talked and talked about her life, the life that I had missed sharing for some time. The past did not matter, the present and future did.

What happened that Christmas Eve was based on the courage of my daughter to set aside whatever divided us; to take a bold and unpredictable step that changed our lives, forever.

My Christmas message is that each of us has to be prepared to create or seize that unpredictable, courageous moment through our own actions or the boldness of our children.

I believe that joyful experience can and will happen for every separated parent or grandparent, often at the most unexpected time. My Christmas wish is that your family will be blessed with such a moment.... or two or three.

Barry