

This true story tells how a wife found a way to give her husband, who hated the commercial part of Christmas, the perfect gift. One year shortly before Christmas, their son had a wrestling match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. The wrestlers on that team had no headgear or any type of uniform. After the match, the husband commented on the bad conditions these boys had to wrestle under. This inspired his wife to buy wrestling headgear and shoes and send them anonymously to the inner-city church. She put a note in a white envelope telling her husband what she had done and that it was her gift to him. She put the envelope in the branches of their tree. When she gave it to him, his smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and for many years that followed as his wife followed the tradition of giving to others in his behalf. As the kids grew up, toys lost their luster but the white envelope never lost its allure. The Christmas Eve after her husband died of cancer, found his wife placing an envelope in the branches of the Christmas tree. The following morning she discovered three more envelopes had joined hers. Each of their children had for the first time, but not the last, placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. May we all find a way to share the holidays with those around us.

**REASONS TO LOVE THE
 HOLIDAY SEASON**

- You can wear red and green together even if they clash.
- Hot cocoa can be its own food group.
- The anticipation of making a snowman.
- Dreaming about what you can give your loved ones.
- The excitement found in the eyes of children.
- People who are not typically friendly may actually smile at you.
- Night ice skating under a glistening blanket of stars.
- The wonderful smell of a freshly cut pine tree.
- Catching snowflakes on your tongue.
- Giving time and other resources to help others have a good holiday.
- Remembering holidays past, cherishing this holiday season, and being grateful for those that will come in future years.

**Happy
 Holidays!**

Winter Driving

Severe weather can be frightening and dangerous. For a safer drive use these tips from AAA: ❖ Avoid driving if you're tired. ❖ Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage. ❖ Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up. ❖ Keep tires properly inflated. ❖ Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface. ❖ Keep your vehicle in peak operating condition. ❖ Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. ❖ Always look and steer where you want to go. ❖ Drive slowly. ❖ Don't stop when traveling up a hill. ❖ Increase the normal following distance of three-four seconds to eight-ten seconds. ❖ Watch weather reports prior to driving long distances or driving in isolated areas. ❖ Let someone know your route, destination and estimated time of arrival. ❖ Have a cellular phone and charger plus blankets, gloves, hats, food, a flashlight and water in your vehicle. ❖ Stay home. If you really don't have to go out in a bad storm, don't. ❖ Always BUCKLE UP!

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS

December can be stressful, instead of meaningful, if our main goal is perfection. While we may have dreams of a Norman Rockwell Christmas, reality is often different. To make this holiday season more meaningful try some of the following:

- ❖ Before handing out and opening gifts, reflect on the blessings of the past year.
- ❖ Know exactly how much money you are going to spend. Don't feel pressured by advertisements or other people to spend more.
- ❖ Don't over-schedule. Too many activities can cause you to miss out on the peace and beauty of the moment.
- ❖ Listen to music. Music can create a calm and peaceful atmosphere.
- ❖ Light candles and enjoy the magic and warmth they generate.
- ❖ Write a letter expressing your love to someone special. This will be a gift that will never be forgotten.
- ❖ Send a letter or gift to a soldier away from their home and family.
- ❖ Create and sustain traditions. Traditions make people feel connected to one another and offer a sense of comfort.
- ❖ Go for a walk or a drive to unwind.
- ❖ As a family, cook something new to enjoy and share with others.

Gift Suggestions:

- ❖ To your enemy- forgiveness ❖ To an opponent-tolerance
- ❖ To a child-a good example ❖ To a friend- your heart
- ❖ To a customer-service ❖ To all-charity ❖ To yourself-respect

MAKE SURE YOUR CAR IS READY FOR WINTER

The cold winter weather can be hard on vehicles so be prepared for car problems by having the following items:

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| Spare fuses | A thermal blanket/bag |
| A gallon of water | Duct tape |
| A "help" sign/flag | Flares/reflectors |
| Jumper cables | Tire gauge |
| Work gloves | A 12-volt tire inflator |
| A flashlight/batteries | Basic first aid kit |
| Change/small bills | Paper towels/roll of toilet paper |
| A never used empty gallon gas can | |
| A few tools like Allen wrenches, pliers and screwdrivers | |

All these items will fit in a medium size gym bag or box and can be easily stored in a vehicle's storage area. Remember to keep it updated and never remove it from your vehicle.