

***“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart?
Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with
God's own love and concern.”***

Mother Teresa, “Love: A Fruit Always in Season”

Have you noticed the world seems to grow smaller each day. I only recently had a conversation with my nephew and his family at their home in Amman Jordan. It's so simple and there are no interruptions. Younger readers won't understand the following piece of information about early telephone systems. Here is my personal information about “Party Lines”. The first 18 years of my life in my parents' home we had a telephone that happened to be one line for four houses.

One line served the McIlvain and three other homes in the Kingsmill community. Each home had a distinct ring. When someone called our number, the phone rang two longs to inform the call was for us. Three rings triggered an answer at the Harris family, and two shorts announced a call to the Rasco family. Being a teenage boy, I spent several minutes (possibly hours) on the phone. It was not unusual for one of the mothers in the other homes to pick up the phone and announce, “Now Teddy, you have been on the phone long enough. Hang up! We want to make calls now.”

Mother Teresa's book, “Love: A Fruit Always in Season” has had a place on my bookcase since its publication in 1987. The great writers on those shelves are inspiration to write the next TALK, and it was the words, “Mark the season of advent by loving and serving others”, that provided a catalyst to TALK about the promised peace in this amazing season.

The world seems to have grown smaller as time passes. Indeed, we can connect with people from all over the globe, but sometimes I feel overwhelmed by information and opinions. Hence, I have become more selective in my focus. By viewing the world as my home, I assume the role of influencer, and ambassador of peace. I form connections focused on peace, knowing they have a ripple effect beyond geographical boundaries and beliefs.

In this season of love and goodwill, I make the choice to focus on positives like solutions instead of problems and commonalities rather than differences. Peace, goodwill, and harmony are my priorities as I meet family and friends or encounter strangers. I commit to express peace in all my interactions with others. To keep my mind focused on this thought, I am guided by the words from the book of Psalms:

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity. Psalm 133:1

Peace always

Ted