

The twelfth Christmas blessing that my Lord gave to me

Christmas Caroling

I know I have written about it in previous Christmas newsletters, but a highlight at Christmas time is always grabbing the guitar, and leading a group of students and teachers in Christmas caroling. This year I had the opportunity to go Christmas caroling twice, once for the Friday Night Bible Study Christmas Party, and again with students who live at school.

For the Friday Night Bible Study Christmas party, the large group of us went to a local department store and sang outside the front doors. Many people who were walking by stopped and listened or watched as they passed. After singing 3 songs there, we split into 3 groups of approximately 30 people a piece. Each group took a different path, stopping at various shops and businesses along the way. Songs that we sing for caroling include *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Joy to the World*, *Away in a Manger*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, *Silent Night* (with a Chinese verse), and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. When I am leading groups, we usually sing two songs and then close with a verse of *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*. This year, caroling destinations for my group included Starbucks, 7-11, two different tea stands, and my barber's house. My barber later commented that she loved the sound of us singing and was very glad we stopped at her house.

Picture: *FNBS Christmas Party, singing outside of Far East Department Store*



The second chance I had for Christmas caroling was with the students who live at school, many of whom attend OSF. We went caroling on the night of Wednesday December 23rd from 8:30-10:00pm. (This was the same day as the students' song competition and tree decorating). For OSF Christmas Caroling, we split into two groups and went first to the business outside of our campus. Then we came back and sang to the other students and teachers who live at school. The evening always closes with us singing at the married teachers housing, where many of the families give candy and treats for the students who come out caroling.

Picture: *OSF Students sing outside of 7-11*



I don't know what it is, but I just love being able to grab my guitar and walk with students up and down the streets, singing praises to God. It is really neat for both the singers and the listeners. It helps us build ties to the local community and provides an opportunity to share the message of Christmas with those who work and live near us. We always handout a card or paper with a Bible

verse explaining why we celebrate Christmas. In addition, the people in the community near school enjoy and anticipate our visit every year. I know of three different businesses that began asking a couple of weeks before Christmas, when we would be arriving to sing. Also, one of the local tea stands recorded the caroling group with a digital camera, and they occasionally use this recording as a screensaver on their computer. Praise God for this opportunity he has given us to celebrate Christmas and share the good news.

Prayer requests:

1. Thanksgiving for the chance to sing Christmas songs in the local communities.
2. Pray that the people who heard the songs would be curious to learn more about Jesus and his love for them.
3. Thanksgiving for a wonderful Christmas season, filled with the love, peace, and hope that only comes from Jesus.

The 12 Christmas blessings that my Lord gave to me

-Christmas Caroling

-Church Kid's Camp Party

-10 Small Group Students

-Pirates of Sin skit

- Christmas Celebrations

-7th Grade Bible Class

-6 former students

-Bright, glowing trees

-Song Competition

-Lost Son Skit

-Water and Word

...and Messiah on Christmas Eve