



Melk, *the* Christmas Monkey

by Katie Hornor

Artwork by Kat Reader

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Good morning!

Today I'd like to teach you about God's care for us. Did you know that God has angels on duty all the time just to watch over us?

Psalm 91:11 says: For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

You and I must be pretty important for God to take care of us like that! Let's thank him for being a loving and caring God.

You can see I've been busy drawing an angel for you. Today as you make a paper plate angel I want you to talk about all the ways that God takes care of you and protects you.

Your Friend, Melk

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Hi Guys!

I am counting down the days 'til Christmas because I LOVE Christmas! Counting down to Christmas is also called "advent" which means the waiting time. For many many years God promised the world that his Son, the Messiah would come, and when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, it was God keeping his promise. "There hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant" (1 Kings 8:56).

There is another promise God has made to us. That he will come back to earth to get all of his children some day. "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:8). Just like he has kept his promises throughout history, we know he will keep that promise too and we can wait for his coming. In the meantime though, lets make a paper chain today for Advent, to count down the waiting days until Christmas!

Excitedly, Melk

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Hello!


Don't you love pictures! I just love taking them and then looking at them and remembering all the fun times we've had, and all the wonderful things God has done for us.

Do you remember the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River on dry land after their years in the desert (Joshua 4)? After they were safe on the other side and had thanked and praised God, God told them to set up a memorial of stones. That way whenever their children saw it and asked what it was for, they could tell the story of the goodness and miracle of God in saving them! What a great memory!

Today I want you to look through your Christmas pictures from last year and remember what God has done. And then you're going to take some family photos, so that in the future we can remember how good God has been to you this year too, and in this Christmas season. Remember the good things!

Your Remembering Friend, Melk

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Good Morning!

We are counting down the days 'til Christmas! Are you getting excited?

One of the reasons I like Christmas is all of the yummy things there are to eat! Like these sweet candies! I kind of got stuck trying to get some more. Oops!

Did you know that God's Word is sweet too? God's Word is to our souls like sweet food is to our tongues and bodies, a joy to savor.

Psalms 34:8 says: "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." and Psalm 19 talks about the commandments of the Lord being sweeter than honey!

I hope you enjoy this special sweet treat today, and every time you see these sweet candies I want you to remember that God's Word is sweet too!

Your Sweet Loving Friend, Melk

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Good Morning!

I was just sitting here thinking about how God sent Jesus to earth as a baby. . . From the beginning of the world God knew he would do this and then he had someone record the story for us, so we can hear over and over again how God keeps his promises and provides salvation and pardon from our sins!

Can you imagine what it must have been like that night in the fields as the shepherds heard the angels and knew that God's promise had been fulfilled! I wish I could have been there! Luke 2:10-12 - "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Today, I have a manger scene for you to color and build out of paper! I want you to work together and have fun! And then you can use it to tell others the story of how God kept his promise!

Love, Melk

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Hi Guys!

Did you know that Santa says you have to be good girls and boys in order to get gifts at Christmas? But God is not that way. Listen to what the Bible says: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17 and "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:11-12

God says that HE gives us gifts because we are his children, it doesn't depend on what we do, because we could never be good enough to "earn" his love. He loves us because he is God! But he also says that we should give to others what we would like to receive, so today we're going to give a good gift to our neighbors. I laid out the instructions for you. Have fun!

Your Gift Loving Friend, Melk

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Good Morning Friends!

I slept under your Christmas tree last night, looking at all the beautiful Christmas lights, and it reminded me about how God is light.

Did you know that the Bible says "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). And in Luke 2, the angel told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be a light to bring salvation to the Gentiles (that's those people who are not Jews) and glory to Israel (the Jews). Can you think of other ways that God is light to us?

For our fun activity today, your mom and dad said that we can plan a family camp out under the Christmas tree tonight! It's going to be so much fun to lay here and sing songs about Jesus and look at the lights, so get your sleeping bags out! I can't wait!

Your Light Loving Friend, Melk

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Hi Guys!

Don't you just love light! I love to look at them on the tree, and outside and everywhere!

God loves light too. In John 1 the Bible tell us that the life that we find in Christ is "the light of men", that He is the "true light" and that "to as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

Have you believed on God's name and become one of his children? If you haven't I want you to ask your mom or dad today, right now, about how you can become a child of God.

And then, lets have some fun hanging up these lights!

Your Enlightened Friend, Melk

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Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday from your Monkey!
Happy Birthday to you!

Since today is _____'s birthday, I thought it would be the perfect day to remind you that God is the giver of life. God gave your parents life and he gave you life, and he continues to give all of us life each and every day with each breath we take.

And you know what else - when you got saved God also gave you eternal life! In John 1 the Bible says that God made all things! And in John 3:16 it tells us that he gives to those who believe on him eternal life and we will never die! If you haven't ever asked Jesus to forgive your sins and give you eternal life, why don't you talk to your Mom or Dad today and find out how to do that.

I hope you will have fun celebrating _____'s birthday today. Be sure to save a piece of cake for me!
Your Happy Friend, Melk

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Hello There!

I was just sitting here reading the legend of the Candy Cane to some of my friends. Do you remember learning that God's Word is sweet? One of the sweetest things it tells us is that God is our Savior, and the candy cane can tell you the story of God's salvation!

In Luke 19:10 the Bible says that "the Son of Man" that's Jesus, "is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Like a shepherd searches for lost sheep. He came to find us, and to save us.

Have you asked Jesus to save you yet? Read the the story of the candy cane together today, and talk about the story, the candy, and about Jesus, our Savior. Then be sure to tell the story to someone else too!

Your Candy Loving Friend, Melk

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Happy Day to you all!

Did you know that God is omnipotent? That means all-powerful. God can transform the ugly things into beautiful things, (like caterpillars) and he can make good come from bad, and he can take old things and make them new. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 He tells us that when we get saved ALL things are become new! And in Ecclesiastes 3:11-14 He tells us that He makes everything beautiful in his time!

Today, we're going to take some plain old paper and make it into beautiful Christmas decorations. You can trace your own shape as a reminder that God can make you a new person when you accept his free gift of salvation. Because he is all-powerful! Have fun!

Your Friend, Melk

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Hi Guys!

Wow! I've had a busy time! I've been working hard hiding something special for you to help you learn today's lesson!

Matthew 7:7-8 says "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

God wants us to seek him, to ask him, to talk to him about our needs and our desires. And he promises to answer us. God always keeps his promises. We will find him if we seek him, just like you will find the candy canes I've hidden for you if you seek them.

Are you ready? Get set! Go!

Love, Melk

12 - www.MelkTheChristmasMonkey.com

A decorative border made of red and white striped candy canes, forming a rounded rectangle with two small loops on the left and right sides.

Hi Guys!

I have another surprise for you today!

The Bible tells us that God "makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). God doesn't bless us based on what we DO, but based on WHO HE is! Isn't that awesome! He loves us and blesses us because of his own goodness, whether we deserve it or not.

And whether you deserve it or not, because I love you, I have wrapped up some special surprise gifts for you today. I hope you will enjoy them and that they will help you remember how much God loves you even when you don't deserve it.

Your loving Friend, Melk

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A decorative border made of red and white striped candy canes, forming a rounded rectangle with two small loops on the left and right sides.

Good morning!

Today I want to invite you to make smores together! It's a sticky mess, but it's yummy!

Did you know that God is like the fire? The Bible actually says that God is a consuming fire. (Deuteronomy 4:24) Just like the fire wants to consume all of the marshmallow, God is a jealous God and wants all of us. He doesn't want to share us, our worship, or our service with anyone else.

But God is also jealous in that he wants to defend and be concerned for his own honor. Everything you do is reflection to others of what God is like. While you make your smores, talk about how you can be careful to defend God's honor today.

Your Sticky Friend, Melk

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Good morning!

Do you remember how I told you that God is all-powerful (omnipotent) and he can turn ugly things into beautiful ones. Well, God can also create life!

In Genesis 2:7 The Bible tell us that "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul". That man was Adam, who was the father of all living people today. And we are still living because God continues to give us breath. Every moment of every day, is a gift of life from God.

To remind us of how God made man from the ground, we are going to make gingerbread men from cookie dough today! It's going to be so much fun! Go wash your hands and find an apron and let's get busy!

Your Life Loving Friend, Melk

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Hello everyone!

Don't you just love the snowflakes I've been making? Do you like snow? I do. And God does too. Did you know that scientists who have studied snow have never ever found two snowflakes exactly the same!

The Bible says that "All things were made by [God]; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3), and that "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11a).

Today you're going to (read Snowflake Bentley and) make some snowflakes of your own to hang around your Christmas Tree. And as you make them I want you to praise your Creator God for his creativity and for the beauty of his creation.

Your Friend, Melk

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Hello again!

If you were omniscient like God (that means knowing everything) you would know I've been practicing up on my Bible knowledge. I don't know everything like God does, so I have been reviewing with my friend.

God is so smart, the Bible says that he even knows "the number of the stars, and calls them all by their names" (Psalm 147:4) and that "Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:30). And what's more Hebrews 4:12 tells us that God even knows the thoughts of our hearts! The things we don't even say out loud! That is amazing knowledge!

Today, you get to play a Bible trivia game together to review your Bible knowledge and to learn some new things. It's going to be fun! Who wants to be on my team?

Your Knowledge Loving Friend, Melk

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Good Morning!

Can you guess what I'm doing? Have you ever thought about the stars? How big are they really? How many are there? How do they shine and stay where they are not explode or crash or...?

In Genesis 1, the Bible says that God made the sun, moon and stars and "divided the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth" and that it was good, not to mention beautiful! God also used the stars to guide the wise men to the Christ child. What an awesome Creator God we have!

And because we were made in his image, we also enjoy creating things. Today, we get to create star ornaments to remind us of our Creator God and his wonderful lights in the sky!

Your Creative Friend, Melk

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Hi Friend!

Remember how we talked about God creating the stars? That wasn't the only thing he created? In fact in Revelation, God tells us that he "created all things"! That means you and me too. And he tells us that we were created for his pleasure!

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11

Do you get pleasure from creating too? What about when you create something and give it as a gift to someone else? Does that give you pleasure? Today we're going to enjoy creating some works of art, using other things God has created. And if you'd like, you can give it away to someone when you are finished.

Have fun! And don't forget to clean up your mess!

Love, Melk

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Hello everyone!

I have been excitedly waiting and preparing for today!

Do you know where ____ (destination) ____ is? Do you know that God is there right now? And he is here right now too! That is because God is so big and so powerful that he can be everywhere all at the same time.

In the Bible God says "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5b, and that we cannot outrun God. No matter where we go, he is there. (Psalm 139:7-10)

I hope you're as excited as I am about our trip to ____ (destination) ____! It's going to be so much fun! Don't forget to look for things that remind you of who God is as you travel. And don't be afraid, because he is with you and he is already at your destination too! Happy Travels!

Your Traveling Friend, Melk

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Hi Guys!

Today's lesson might be kind of hard to learn, but it's important if we are to know God and understand how he loves. Do you remember we learned that God loves us because of WHO HE is, and not because of what we do? Can you think of someone you know who you really, really don't like? God loves them too, and He says we are to bless them, and do good to them. Pray for them, and love them. (Matthew 5:43-48). Because whether they deserve it or not, God loves them, and wants us to show them his love through his good gifts.

Today, we're going to wrap some gifts and deliver them to those hard-to-love people, and we're going to pray for them to accept God's love.

Your Loving Friend, Melk

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Hi Guys!

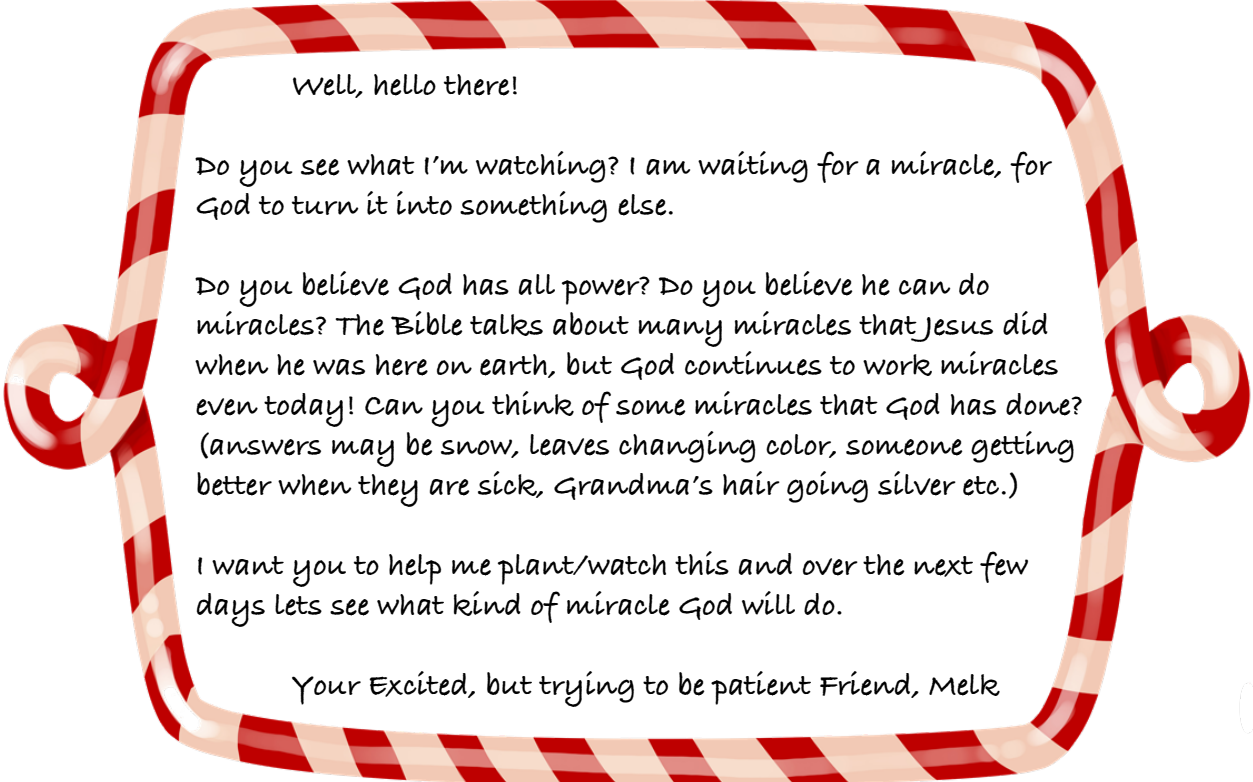
Are you joyful today? Did you know that God likes us to be joyful? And that it is healthy for us?

Proverbs 17:22 says "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." When was the last time you laughed together with your family?

Today I want you to find joy in doing something silly with each other. We're going to take some silly photos so we can laugh together at how silly we look. I've collected some things you can use and you can make some more of your own silly props too, if you want to. Have fun!

Your Joyful Friend, Melk

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Well, hello there!

Do you see what I'm watching? I am waiting for a miracle, for God to turn it into something else.

Do you believe God has all power? Do you believe he can do miracles? The Bible talks about many miracles that Jesus did when he was here on earth, but God continues to work miracles even today! Can you think of some miracles that God has done? (answers may be snow, leaves changing color, someone getting better when they are sick, Grandma's hair going silver etc.)

I want you to help me plant/watch this and over the next few days lets see what kind of miracle God will do.

Your Excited, but trying to be patient Friend, Melk

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Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti...

Oh, hi! I was just practicing my singing.

Don't you love it when people sing to you? Did you know that God loves it when we sing to him too! You did? Well then, you must know that God is musical. He created music, and he gives us our musical abilities, and he loves it when we praise him and sing to him.

I am so excited that we will get to go to a Christmas concert today and praise God and enjoy music together!

Get your best concert clothes ready and go warm up your singing voice. It's praise time!

Your Singing Friend, Melk

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La, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Oh, hello. I didn't hear you coming. I was singing/listening to these songs. They're so pretty!

In the Bible God puts singing and joy together. Listen to this: "Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away" (Isaiah 51:11).

Isn't it cool that when we feel bad or down in the dumps we can sing to the Lord and begin to feel better! You should try it! Enjoy your (new) music today and enjoy singing along when you can and see how it gives you joy.

Your Musical Friend, Melk

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Hi Guys!

Remember how God created all things, how he loves music and wants us to praise him and that singing can bring joy?

Listen to what God says in Psalm 96: "O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised" (vs. 1-4).

Today, we're going to show forth his salvation and declare his glory to others by singing songs of Christmas! Grab your songbooks friends, and let's go caroling!

Your Joyful Friend, Melk

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Good Morning!

Did you know that one way God takes care of us is by providing for all of our needs. In Genesis 2:9 the Bible tells us that God made plants and trees that are good for food. And in 2 Peter 1:3 it says that God has "given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." But it gets even better. Remember how God gives us good gifts? In Psalm 84:11 he also promises not to withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly (righteously).

God is our good provider. As you make a pie today, talk about the other ways God has provided for your needs. What good things has God given you that you can thank him for?

Your Pie Loving Friend, Melk

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Hi Guys!

Are you ready for some fun? I've been sitting here trying to think like an architect and decide how to build this Gingerbread house. I know it needs a firm foundation so that it won't fall. Do you think we should build it on a paper plate or a glass one?

You know, the Bible talks about God being our builder, and our rock, or foundation, to protect us, and in Matthew 7 he tells the story of the wise man and foolish man. The wise man built his house on the rock, the strong foundation, and when the storms came, his house withstood the storm. If you haven't read it, it's a great story! God is like a rock too. If we build our lives around his principles, when the storms of life come, he will help us weather them in a way that brings him glory. Talk about that as you help me build this house today. How is God strong for you? How does he protect you? How does knowing who he is help you through the hard times?

Your Architect Friend, Melk

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Well, Hello there!

Christmas is getting closer! I am so excited to celebrate the birth of our Savior, aren't you? How many days are left?

Did you know that one of the greatest gifts a person can give to another person is to tell him about Jesus and his gift of salvation and forgiveness from sins? In 2 Peter 3:9, God tells us that he doesn't want anyone to perish, but wants all men to come to repentance.

Today, we get to be the hands and feet of Jesus, taking the news of salvation, the greatest gift God has to offer, to our friends and neighbors.

Your Gift Loving Friend, Melk

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Hi Friends!

I know you've heard stories of fairies and monsters and magic before. Sometimes it's hard to know what to believe and what not to believe, isn't it. God's word is not like those fairy tales. God is truth, and he cannot lie. Every word of his word speaks the truth. God's story also has a happy ending and his story is SO much better than fairy tales.

I want you to read the Christmas story today, from the Bible, if you have one. It's found in Matthew, and Luke, but probably Luke chapter 2 is the best one to read. Think about what it would be like to be Mary, or Joseph, or the Innkeeper, or the Shepherds. What would you have done if you were them? Would you have acted differently? What did Jesus' birth mean for the world and for you especially? Talk about it after you read the story together, and then spend some time in prayer together, thanking God that his story is truth, and his salvation is available to everyone who asks and believes.

Your Truthful Friend, Melk

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Dear Friends,

I have had a wonderful time getting to know you this Christmas! I will always love the memories we have made together and I hope that you will always remember the things I have taught you about who God is.

Remember that above all else, God is a loving and just God, who loves you more than any other person can love you. He loves you so much that he sent Jesus, his only Son, to earth as a baby at Christmas, so that he could pay the penalty for your sins and mine by his death on the cross. God lovingly allowed him to do this so that you and I could be forgiven and adopted into God's family and ultimately live with him forever in Heaven.

I hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas, and that you will never forget how loving our Savior, God, is.

Your Christmas Friend, Melk

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For more information about Jesus, please visit
www.CandyCanesForLife.com