



Dear smartname,

I was recently asked why Christmas is so important to me. As I pondered my response, I recalled a moment in history that epitomizes the Spirit of Christmas. It was 1914. World War I was in full swing as Christmas Day approached. The British Expeditionary Forces were hunkered down in misery in makeshift trenches and dugouts, while the

German forces were likewise struggling on the other side.

At 10pm, British machine gunner Bruce Bairnsfather, shivering in the muck and mire while enduring an endless cycle of sleeplessness and fear, heard carol singing wafting across the field. He and his comrades were astonished, then cautiously they approached and soon a choir like no other erupted. An impromptu ceasefire evolved as weapons were abandoned and food, tobacco and wine were shared. As Bruce recalled, "there was not an atom of hate on either side."

In 2014, the English and German national soccer teams staged a friendly match in England in remembrance of the impromptu soccer games played that Christmas, a century ago, in the most unexpected of circumstances. A memorial stands in England's National Memorial Arboretum commemorating the Christmas Truce, dedicated by Prince William. The Spirit of Christmas trumped death, darkness and despair for many troops that day. Bruce Bairnsfather cherished those memories as did many on those fields that day. He identified years later that he would not have missed that Christmas in the midst of war for anything.

On the first Christmas above the fields of Bethlehem, the resounding message of redemption and renewal, of new beginnings, of grace and truth, hope and joy was epitomized. Lowly shepherds, considered the outcasts of society, were given front row seats as a host of dazzling angels filled the skies above them, triumphantly proclaiming from the heavens: "Do not fear. We bring good tidings of great joy to all people." The power of that staggering message resonated in their souls as they reverently made their way to the humble

stable early that morning. Unpretentious beginnings would rock the world.



In the midst of perpetual scarcity of medical resources of every kind, KBNF hears of opportunities to respond, reach out and meet urgent needs. Calls across the airwaves are made as Rose and her team collaborate daily with our donors and beneficiaries generating faith, hope and gratitude in the hearts of all. In whatever situation we find ourselves, KBNF is proving our resiliency and determination to reach for greatness as you all declare by your actions that our partners in West Africa are not alone; we are in this together. **Good tidings of great joy, hope, and peace is proclaimed with every effort.**

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IN ACTION

I consider recent activities. Hundreds of beds are being received, processed, and shipped as fast as we can facilitate. Mammoth coordinated effort by Shirley, John, Idelette and our volunteers is in full motion. Temporary warehousing, generously donated by local companies, is solely enabling KBNF to receive these quality beds.

Finesse detailing of each bed in preparation for safe and secure transport is required by a fleet of volunteers day after day. Robust loaders are arriving to swiftly maneuver 400 lb. beds and stretchers, linen and mattresses snugly packed into a shipping container like a puzzle, in record time.

Shirley identified how these electrical beds have manual capabilities when a crank is used. This would enable repositioning of a patient in the presence or absence of electrical power. That's transformative. Cranks are costly. KBNF is blessed with former ironworker volunteers that are capably manufacturing these cranks at a fraction of the cost. Those beds will tangibly deliver safety and security to hurting—often times vulnerable—patients for years to come.



**Together, you are angels
unaware, proclaiming
Good Tidings of Great
Joy to all people!**



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Nursing carts by the dozens are being extensively detailed, giving them a whole new life, while standardized nursing supplies are organized and packed into the multiple drawers by Jocelyne. These carts will serve to bless and encourage nursing units for many years to come.

A Langley thrift store donates copious baby outfits, freshly washed awaiting their advent into our peri-natal baby boxes. Those boxes deliver hope, healing and life to many new mothers.

Our February 2024 neurosurgery mission preparation is well underway as people in Liberia facing neurological decline with nowhere to turn, hear the good news of our imminent arrival and a glimmer of hope sparks within. Could this—just maybe—be their miracle too? Our multinational team reconvenes regularly via zoom to

discuss cases. Coordinating of surgeries, nursing and rehab staff, education and training programs to be delivered at three hospitals, as well as assessing of equipment viability and availability are all in full swing. A container is en route packed with mission supplies.

The drill we pulled out of retirement and into renewed neurosurgery service years ago, requires replacing, as parts are no longer available. Rose is also pursuing acquiring a spinal surgery set. This is a tall order at CDN \$21,000. This is not an option, but a necessity. Spine surgeries will be conducted that will enable our Liberian neurosurgeons to advance their skill sets and facilitate complement surgeries post-mission. Knowing KBNF, we will rise to the occasion as we pursue sponsors.

An earnest pursuit of KBNF Legacy Centre warehouse is in full swing as members of our Board coordinate with realtors for the desired warehouse, storage, work rooms and offices that will enable KBNF to have our forever home and headquarters for the first time.

Together, you are angels unawares, proclaiming Good Tidings of Great Joy to all people!

The Spirit of Christmas lives on.

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Thanks to you, the Spirit of Christmas lives on.



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