



H D Press On CMA Highway Disciples Katy, Texas



December 2026 Volume 25 Issue 12

Where did the idea of giving gifts at Christmas come from?

Billy Graham "My Answer"

Question:

Where did the idea of giving gifts at Christmas come from? I enjoy Christmas and don't want to change anything, but one of my grandchildren asked me this recently and I didn't know what to say.

Answer:

The first Christmas gifts actually were given shortly after Jesus' birth, when a group of wise men from another country sought out the young child and His family. When they found Him, the Bible says, "they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh" (Matthew 2:11).

Since then, people have often given each other gifts to celebrate the joy of Christ's coming into the world. We don't give gifts or offerings directly to Him; however, the way we might give a gift to someone on their birthday — for we don't need to try to win His favor or buy His friendship. Instead, we give gifts to others to let them know we love them and value their friendship. Hopefully, our gifts will also remind them of that first Christmas.

Most of all, as we give gifts at Christmas, we should remember the greatest gift of all — the gift that God gave us by sending His Son into the world. We are separated from God because of our sin — but God sent His Son into the world to take away our sins and offer us the gift of His salvation. We don't deserve it — but God in His love offers it to us anyway.

Like any other gift; however, it must be received. By faith reach out and receive the gift of Jesus Christ into your life today. Then you'll be able to say, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

In Christ,

Dirk "Rocketman" Smith
President, Highway Disciples



Gary Teal (Area Rep), Dirk Smith (President), Jack Clark (Chaplain), and Tom Jessup (Treasurer Emeritus)

Thoughts and Ponderings from Amy

OUR HELP IS FROM THE LORD PSALM 121

Christians have long found solace and reason for courage and hope in the words of this psalm. We live in a fallen world, a world full of trouble and danger. Protection is needed for traveling through this dangerous territory. Notice how the psalmist coaches himself-talking to himself and reminding himself of the truth of God's Word. He identifies the source of this help as the Creator, "the LORD, who made heaven and earth." He reasons that since God is the Creator, he is also the sovereign ruler over all. We need to follow this example of reasoning and working out the truth in our minds.

Because He is personally involved in both the mundane and the significant things in our lives, God knows the difficulties that we face. He is able to keep us safe from anything that would do us real and lasting harm. Our Lord not only helps us with immediate concerns; he also ensures that we will endure to the end (Phil. 1:6).

We are not promised that our lives will be free of hardships and tragedies. In fact, Jesus told us that we will have trouble in the world (John 16:33). His enemies are our enemies. A biblical perspective on life demands that we acknowledge this reality: trouble, difficulty, and hardship are the norm, not the exception. And yet, God promises that he is always with us (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).

All earthly sources of help have limitations. None is worthy of our devotion or ultimate dependence. So it ought to be our greatest comfort in trouble or danger to know that God's loving eye is always upon us-that he is our Keeper. He is not distant, distracted, disinterested, or deficient.

God will never fail to help you. He cannot fail. Our utterly powerful, wise, and loving helper is the Lord Almighty. He is our faithful guardian. It is good to foster a sense of gratitude for God's help and for the knowledge that he stays close to us and guards our lives. Praise him for his kind and faithful help!

Psalms 121 provides a paradigm for life's journey. Lift up your eyes to the one and only sure source of help. The Lord hears the prayers of his people and is ready to answer in ways that will showcase his glory and shape us into the likeness of his Son. No trouble, no loss, no hardship, no disaster will do us ultimate harm. Walk

in step with God's Spirit as he directs your going out and your coming in, so that all things mold you into the likeness of Christ and increase your joy in him "The Lord will keep you from all evil" (Ps. 121:7). God proved this, ultimately, in the atoning work of his Son. In Christ you are invincible. Written by: Carol Cornish

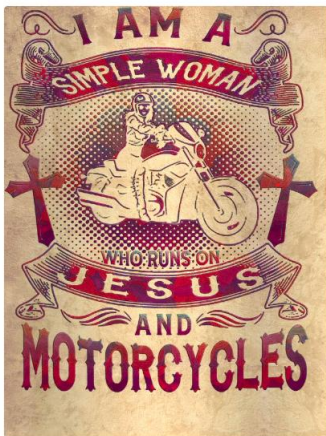
It is easy to get discouraged when it feels like this life is taking one pop-shot after another at you. You get hit, and then hit again, and hit again. You start to feel like it is just never going to let up. You survive one crisis only to get hit with another. But if only we could keep our focus on the blessings and have an attitude of gratitude; these crises start to feel more like minor inconveniences.

Remember to start your day by counting your blessings. Put everything you are grateful for front and center. God shows up in everything positive, your thoughts, your feelings and your experiences. He is always there. Praying you all have more blessings than you can count! Much love to you all!

Amy D Machado

Vice President, Highway Disciples

Always Dancing and Motorcycling 😊



Devotional

The DNA of the Faithful

What does it mean to be truly faithful? What does it look like to be a faithful minister of the gospel—a spiritual gold medalist in the race set before us?

Scripture makes it clear: the first and foremost mark of faithfulness is this—**teach the truth.**

When Paul wrote to Timothy, his son in the faith, he emphasized this calling again and again. The letters of First and Second Timothy, along with Titus, are often called the *pastoral epistles* because they provide God's direct instruction to His shepherds. While seminaries may train pastors in languages, theology, and church history, these epistles are the *God-breathed manual* for ministry. They are not to be judged by our institutions—rather, they must be the standard by which every ministry is measured.

If Paul were asked to name the foremost duty of a faithful minister, his answer would be unmistakable: *teach the truth of God's Word*. By frequency and emphasis, this command rises above all else. A faithful servant of Christ—whether pastor, parent, spouse, friend, or evangelist—must be saturated with Scripture. God's Word must dwell richly within, flowing out in speech, in counsel, and in love. Faithfulness is not defined by personality, charm, or even presence. Faithfulness is defined by speaking the very words of God.

We may ask: is not our love itself a power that changes lives? The Word of God gives us the answer—*no*. Love in itself is not the power of transformation. Rather, love prepares the soil of the heart to receive the seed of truth, for it is the Word that carries divine power. As Romans 1:16 declares: “*The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.*”

Consider this picture: in a car, gasoline provides the power to move forward. But that power cannot be accessed without a key to unlock the door and turn the ignition. In the same way, truth is the power—the fuel. Love is the key that opens the way for truth to be heard and received. One without the other leaves us stranded. Truth without love is like giving someone a car full of gas, but with the doors locked. Love without truth is like handing over the keys to an empty tank. Both are essential, each serving its God-ordained purpose.

Therefore, we are to be both loving and truthful. Connecting to the source of truth and presenting it in love is the formula. The power is in the Gospel, the transmission is through personal relationships, and the result is Glory to God, the Father. This is why we do what we do for Christ!

Taken from a sermon of pastor Jason Wolin, Cypress Bible Church

Blessings,
Jack (JT) Clark
Chaplain, Highway Disciples
December 2025





December Time

We are now into the last month of 2025, commonly called December, but we could also call it Jesus's Birthday Month (at least celebrated, so no debate needed here)! It's a time of celebration, spending time with friends and family, and giving, both in gifts and our time. It is indeed one of the busiest months of the year.

That brings up an interesting question, "**How** are we going to spend our time this month?" And some follow-up questions, how can I use my time this month, not just to celebrate Jesus and His birth, but to incorporate my time, actions and giving, to bring glory to God? Who do I need to contact? Who might I need to forgive? What relationship do I have that needs healing? How can I volunteer and use my time to serve God and others?

If you truly spend time in prayer and ask God to show you ways to use your time wisely this month, He will definitely show you. Once you have been obedient to what He has shown you, consider some of the events our Highway Disciples calendar (elsewhere in this Newsletter) lists.

Don't miss opportunities to bless others and spend quality time with other members of our chapter. We have a Toy Run on December 7th, Wreaths Across America on December 13, our Highway Disciples Christmas Party on the night of the 13th, and finally our annual "Rolling of the Tacos" where we hand them out to the Fort Bend Gypsy's prior to their Toy Run on the 21st.

All good causes, all good ways to give of your time, and minister to others along the way. People need to hear about our Savior, and His Birthday Month is the best time to tell them! Changing the world, one heart at a time!

Chris "Cowboy" Nightingale
Highway Disciples Road Captain



The Ultimate Quick and Easy Holiday Party Snacks

1-10 oz. bag Peppermint Crunch Andes Baking Chips

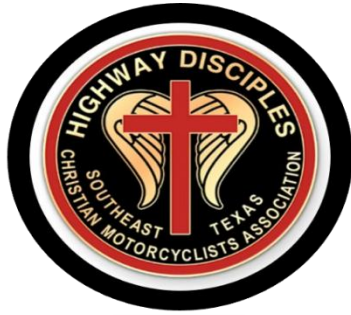
1-11.4 oz. bag of Peanut Butter M&M's.

1-11.4 oz. bag of M&M's.

1-16 oz. bag of Snyder Snaps Pretzels

1-8 oz. pouch of Rolo Minis

- 1. Preheat oven to 225-degrees.**
- 2. Spread the Snyder Snaps Pretzels out on a cookie sheet.**
- 3. Sprinkle the Andes Baking Chips on top of half of the pretzels.**
- 4. Place a Rolo on top of the other half of the pretzels.**
- 5. Bake for approximately 5 minutes.**
- 6. Remove from the oven and press a Rolo onto half of the pretzels, and sprinkle M&M's on the other half.**
- 7. Cool and enjoy!**



CMA HIGHWAY DISCIPLES LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dirk Smith
Chapter President



Amy Machado
Chapter
Vice President



Chris Nightingale
Chapter
Road Captain



J.T. Clark
Chapter Chaplain



Alvin Keen
Chapter Secretary



Michelle Clark
Chapter Treasurer

Calendar of Events

Dec. 6	Chapter Meeting @ Rudy's BBQ, Katy, Texas 8:30am breakfast / 9:00am meeting. Officer Elections – Fellowship Ride	All Chris
Dec. 7	NW San Jacinto High Rollers Toy Run , Honda of Houston, 10039 Huffmeister Rd, Houston, TX. 77065. Meet at the Shell (1807 W. Grand Parkway N, Katy. Intersection of Franz and Grand Parkway) at 10:45 with KSU at 11:00, or just meet at Honda of Houston ~11:30. KSU for Toy Run at noon	
Dec 11	West Houston Bike Night. Meet at Mancuso Harley-Davidson Crossroads at 6:00 pm with KSU at 6:30 pm, or just meet at 2920 Roadhouse Restaurant Bar & Grill (21835 FM 2920, Hockley, TX 77447) at 7:00 pm.	
Dec. 13	Wreaths Across America Escort Ride . Meet at Valero, 20203 Katy Fwy, Katy, TX 77450, at 5:05 am, with KSU at 5:15 am.	All
Dec. 13	Christmas Party 6 pm at the Clark's house, 14210 Islandwoods Dr., Houston, TX 77095	All
Dec. 20	Bike Night at Texas Traditions, 5321 Highway Blvd, Katy, TX 77494, 6 pm	All
Dec 21	Breakfast Taco Rolling Party, Amy Machado's, 3023 Madison Elm St., Katy, 77493, 7:00am	All
Dec 21	Fort Bend Gypsy's Toy Run , Wild West Motorplex, 22515 Katy Fwy. Gate opens at 9:00 am. KSU at 11:00 am.	All
2026		
Jan. 3	Chapter Meeting @ Rudy's BBQ, Katy, Texas 8:30am breakfast / 9:00am meeting. – Fellowship Ride	All Chris
Jan ??	Athena Gun Club RFS Fundraiser. 10814 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77043 Start at 5:30 pm	All
Jan. 17	Bike Night at Texas Traditions, 5321 Highway Blvd, Katy, TX 77494, 6 pm	All
Feb. 7	Chapter Meeting @ Rudy's BBQ, Katy, Texas 8:30am breakfast / 9:00am meeting. – Fellowship Ride	All Chris
Feb. 21	Bike Night at Texas Traditions, 5321 Highway Blvd, Katy, TX 77494, 6 pm	All
Feb. 28	Slow Ride Class. Kingsland Baptist Church (20555 Kingsland Blvd., Katy TX 77450) at 9:30 am. Parking lot behind the church.	All
March 7	Chapter Meeting @ Rudy's BBQ, Katy, Texas 8:30am breakfast / 9:00am meeting. – Fellowship Ride	All Chris
March 13 & 14	Seasons of Refreshing at Parkway Baptist Church (1501 Southwest Pkwy, College Station, TX 77840)	
March 21	Bike Night at Texas Traditions, 5321 Highway Blvd, Katy, TX 77494, 6 pm	All

Events in “BOLD” are chapter focused events w/officer or member contact to the side

**Be sure to check your e-mail on a regular basis for new events
that may not appear on the calendar and for any changes to the events listed.**

Please go here to sign-up/register for CMA SE Texas events <https://www.cmasetx.com>

Officers’ Meetings –3rd Monday of Every Month 6:00 pm at Rudy’s

Any member can attend.

Please contact an officer if there is something you want added to the agenda.

Other Ministry Opportunities:

Please let us know if you have a ministry event or opportunity that needs to be added

CMA Highway Servants

Meets at Schobels Restaurant in Columbus – Third Saturday Monthly / 8:30am

Schobels is located at

2020 Milam St.

Columbus, TX 78934

CMA New Testament Riders

Meets at Waller County Line BBQ – Third Saturday Monthly / 9:00 am

Waller County Line BBQ is located at

20727 FM 362

Waller, TX 77484