

“Advent III - Hope”

John 1:8

December 14, 2008

By Rebecca Enney

Toquoia and Latishia are the two poor little potatoes who live in Harrisburg. Maybe you remember that once in a great while Elizabeth plays with them, when she sees them at the playground when she goes with her daddy to deliver stuff to the Food Pantry.



This family is very poor. Their daddy doesn't have a job and their mommy works part time cleaning offices. That makes them so poor that they could not afford the payment for fuel oil to heat the house they rent. So Toquoia and Latishia are huddled together under a blanket in a very, very cold house! Their mommy asked them not to turn on any lights or use the TV to save on their electric bill.

“What can we do?” asked Latishia. “It's getting boring under this blanket. I'm losing hope for Christmas.”

I know! We can play ‘pretend’.” said Toquoia. “Lets pretend that it is a warm sunny day and we are at the playground and that nice little giraffe girl comes to play!”

“Oh yes!” said Latishia. “Elizabeth! She is our best friend! We can pretend we are playing tag.” Having said that, Latishia jumped out from under the blanket and started to run around the room. Toquoia ran too and running warmed them up and they were having fun.

There came a loud knock at the door. (KNOCK, KNOCK) They both became suddenly quiet and stood very still. No one ever knocks at their door. At least no one except bill collectors. Their mommy is at work and their daddy is asleep upstairs.

“I don't think we should answer it.” said Toquoia, using her big sister voice. “I agree.” said Latishia. The knock came again. (KNOCK, KNOCK) Toquoia tiptoed over to the window and peeked out to see if she could tell who was there.

“Oh my goodness!” squealed Toquoia. “It's Elizabeth and her Daddy! Yippee! Open the door!” Elizabeth and her father came in with bags and bags of groceries!

“Oh! Mommy will be so happy!” they said in unison. They unpacked the bags and found lots of good food. There was even an ice box with a turkey in it and boxes of cookies and spices and canned goods. Then Elizabeth handed the last bag to them and said “Here, this is for the two of you for Christmas.”

The two little sisters looked at each other. They were so excited that they could hardly open the bag! When they opened it, they squealed with delight! Look! It is two giraffe dolls and a flashlight! Toquoia and Latishia jumped up and down with delight!

“What’s all the racket?” boomed an angry voice from upstairs. “Keep it down!” And their father came down from upstairs. He was startled to see Mr. Mawakasunga and Elizabeth in his house. But then he remembered that Mr. Mawakasunga had called earlier to say he was stopping over. Mr. Mawakasunga handed him an envelope.



Toquoia and Latishia watched as their father opened the envelope. It has a lot of money in it! After a long silence, he finally said, with extreme gratitude “Thank you. This will pay the fuel oil company.” And he picked up his two little girls and whirled them around in the air and said “We will not have to be cold for Christmas or the rest of the winter!”

Then he vigorously shook Mr. Mawakasunga’s hand and said “Thank you! God bless you! A Blessed Christmas to you and your family! Praise the Lord!”

Sometimes, the world can be a dark and cold place. Jesus brings light and hope and calls us to do the same.
THE END