

CHRISTMAS 2ND TIME AROUND

STEVE DUNN HANSON



Back in 1978, the young women and young men in a Latter-day Saint ward in southern California were planning their Christmas party. One of the kids said, "Why don't we help somebody this year instead of having a party?" That got everybody excited, and that's what they did. They prayerfully selected a disadvantaged family to provide them an unforgettable Christmas.



It was a single woman who lived with her three children and her own mother in a small house. They didn't have much furniture, and the family's only source of entertainment came from a small black-and-white television set. Remember, this was 1978. The woman worked nights to support her family, and she couldn't afford a Christmas tree or presents for her children or her mother.



The young people in the ward wanted to go all out to help the family. They decided that they were going to try to earn all the money they would need to make this the best Christmas their special family ever had. And that's what they did.



They bought a Christmas tree.



They bought food for a wonderful Christmas dinner with a turkey and all the trimmings.



Then they got really nice presents for all of the children, the woman, and her mother.



The kids took the beautifully wrapped gifts and the tree and the food to the family a few days before Christmas. The young people who did this would never forget it.



But the giving experience was not over.



Late Christmas morning, Steve, a member of the bishopric, was getting in the car with his family to go over to his brother's for Christmas dinner. Ron, the ward Young Men's leader pulled up in front of their house and walked over to where Steve was standing.

"Did you hear what happened to the family our kids provided the Christmas for?" Ron asked.



“While the mother was working Christmas Eve, someone broke into the house and stole all the Christmas presents we gave them. They even took their old TV set.”

Ron pointed over to his car.



It was filled with presents!

“This is the second batch of presents going over to that family this morning,” Ron said. “When we found out about the robbery, we called a few kids in the ward, and before we knew it, they had contacted others. All these kids and their families are giving their own Christmas presents to our Christmas family. And one of our young men got that TV for Christmas and is giving it to our family.”



Bob left and Steve got into his car. One of the kids yelled, “What was that all about Dad?” For a few seconds Steve just sat there. Then with some emotion said, “Let me tell you a Christmas story.”

YES! THIS REALLY HAPPENED

IT WAS 1978 AND THE PEOPLE WHO DID THIS WERE IN THE TUSTIN 2ND WARD OF THE ORANGE CALIFORNIA STAKE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS. THE YOUNG MEN'S LEADER WHOSE CAR WAS FILLED WITH PRESENTS WAS RON SAUNDERS, AND THE BISHOPRIC MEMBER WAS STEVE HANSON. THE YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN INVOLVED HERE WERE AGES 12 TO 18 AT THE TIME. NOW, IN 2026, THEY WOULD BE 60 TO 66 YEARS OLD. GRANDPARENTS!! WONDERFUL MEMORIES!! THEY WERE FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST.

AND **HE** IS ALL ABOUT GIVING!



MERRY CHRISTMAS