



A Winter Christmas

NED—24

Friends on Vacation

Written by Chariane Quille

Illustrated by Fleur Celeste

Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!



It was winter time, where Ned, Tony and Teddy lived. Instead of green grass outside and green leaves, everything was white and cold. The white of snow covered the ground. Snow was everywhere, and Ned was ready to play.

Ned put on his red snow boots and his dark blue snowsuit and his warm, wooly hat, and some mittens. His brothers Tony and Teddy were helped into their warm snow suits, also, and were off to play.

Some of the neighbor children were also out playing in the lovely white, but very cold snow.



Ned suggested, “Let’s have a contest, who can make the biggest snowman!” Everyone agreed and Ned with his brothers began their snowman. They started rolling a ball of snow and adding to it more snow, then adding more. They made the base of the snowman first, and then the rest.

When they were done they all felt pretty cold, but they were happy for their snowman. They could see into their neighbour’s yard and saw they had done a nice job too.

“Nice snowman!” Tony called out to compliment them.

“Your is too!” they called back.

Ned asked their daddy to please come and take a picture of it so they could remember it when the snow melted.



When the boys were ready to come back indoor to warm up, their Mother said, “I’ve got a nice, warm snack for you.”

She paused when she saw that the neighbour children had heard and it seemed they wished they could visit then, too. Mother added, “Your friends could come to the kitchen also, if they like.”

So the cold by friendly neighbour children ran inside to ask their older adult sister who was watching over them, since their mother was in the hospital and their father had to work. She agreed and let them visit to have the warm snack.



The visiting children were very happy and grateful. Everyone was glad to take off their wet snowsuits and gloves and warm up with a snack. There was something the children noticed also—the Christmas decoration, and manger scene of Baby Jesus.

Though these children celebrated Christmas each year, it seemed they didn't know the full meaning of what it was all about, until now. They were looking around at all the meaningful decorations, and asking questions.

Mother got an idea, then whispered something to Ned when he came to get a refill of his warm drink.



“Maybe this would be a good chance you could talk to the visiting children about Jesus. You could tell them the Christmas Story, and how Jesus loves them. Maybe they would like to pray with us to receive the best Christmas gift ever.”

Ned nodded and whispered, “It would be wonderful if they could go to Heaven with us too.”

Ned brought a plate of extra snack nibbles to the table and offered it to all the visiting children, then sat beside Ralph. Ralph was the eldest of the children there.

“Ralph, do you want to read a story together?” Ralph looked with interest.



Ned got a story book off the shelf that showed the true story of Christmas, and told briefly of the life of Jesus. Ralph had never seen that before. That was a new storybook and a new story for him.

So Ned began to read it aloud, and all the children listened while they were sipping their drinks.

When he finished the story, Ned motioned for his Mother to please come over and he whispered,

“Can you help me know what to say so we can pray with the children to receive Jesus as their Saviour, so they can go to heaven too?”



Then Mother said, “Ned wants to offer you a very special Christmas present. Would you like to have it?”

All the children said, “Yes.”

Ned said, “I want you all to be able to go to Heaven, and live forever with Jesus.”

Tony helped explain what Heaven was, and how only the people with permission from God, their Heavenly Father, could go in there. But it was sure going to be a lot of fun, and no one that liked fun should miss out on it. They would be glad forever to be there!

Since the children didn't know how to get there, they said, "How do we get to Heaven?"

Ned said, "Well," then he looked at his Mother and she whispered in his ear, "Just tell them to pray with you—just to ask Jesus to let them go there, later on."

Ned said, "You just have to ask Jesus, and He will let you go to Heaven because He loves you."

Mother helped explain, that because Heaven was such a nice place, that only people who never did anything unkind or wrong would normally be allowed to go there. But that would mean nobody could go.

Since everyone did wrong things sometimes, and so then couldn't be allowed in Heaven, God would miss everyone and be sad. God instead chose a way to forgive people for the wrongs they did, and to then let them come in to Heaven anyway. And a way for them to learn how to give love.

God said that people who were sorry for their wrong doings, and would let Jesus Christ, God's Son, take a very big punishment for them instead, could come in to Heaven. Jesus would help them to be loving and kind, and nice.

Since Jesus has taken this punishment already, people now just need to know that He did this for us, and we need to thank Him for it, and to ask to be forgiven.



Ned said, “To talk to Jesus is called praying. Would you like to pray and ask Jesus for this free gift of living in Heaven forever?”

The children nodded. They wanted to feel happier, and they wanted to get a good present. And they wanted to get to know Jesus better. He could help them. He could help their sick mother. He could give them something really nice to look forward to later on.

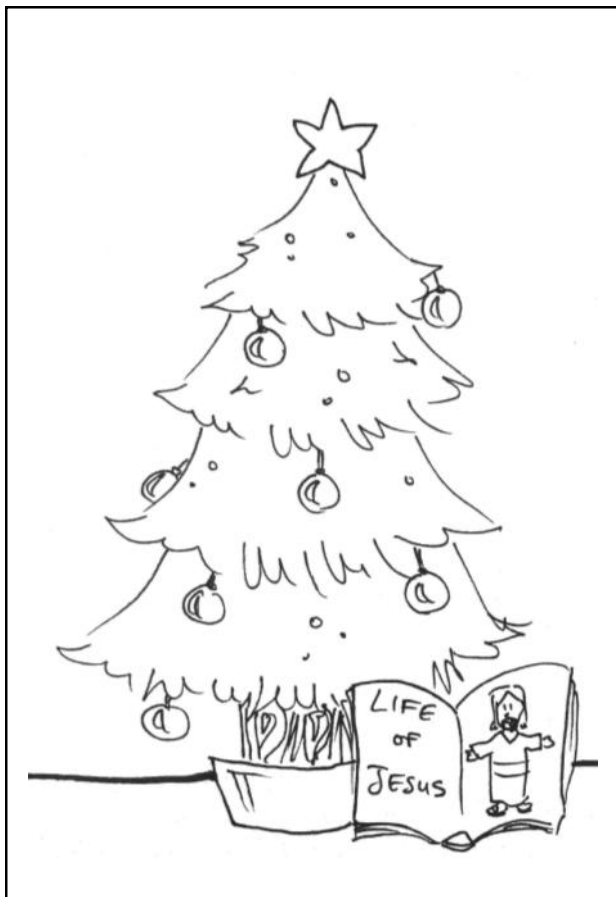
So Ned led them in a prayer that said:

“Jesus, please come into my heart. Forgive me for being bad. Thank you for giving me eternal life in Heaven.”

Ralph suddenly felt very happy and said,
“Wow! That’s the best Christmas gift you can give us,
to be able to go to Heaven. Tell us more about what
Heaven is like?”

So Ned and his brother Tony started to talk about
some of the many fun things they could get to do in
Heaven.

The children wanted to learn more about Jesus and
read more stories with Ned and Tony. Mother said they
could come back for a snack and story time the next
day, if they wanted to, and their parents agreed.



When the children left they were very happy and said, “Thanks for that beautiful gift and thanks for the snow play.”

“Good-bye. Maybe we’ll see you tomorrow,” said Ned and Tony, as the children put back on their jackets and headed home. The smiles on their faces showed they had a nice time.

