

# Changing Times

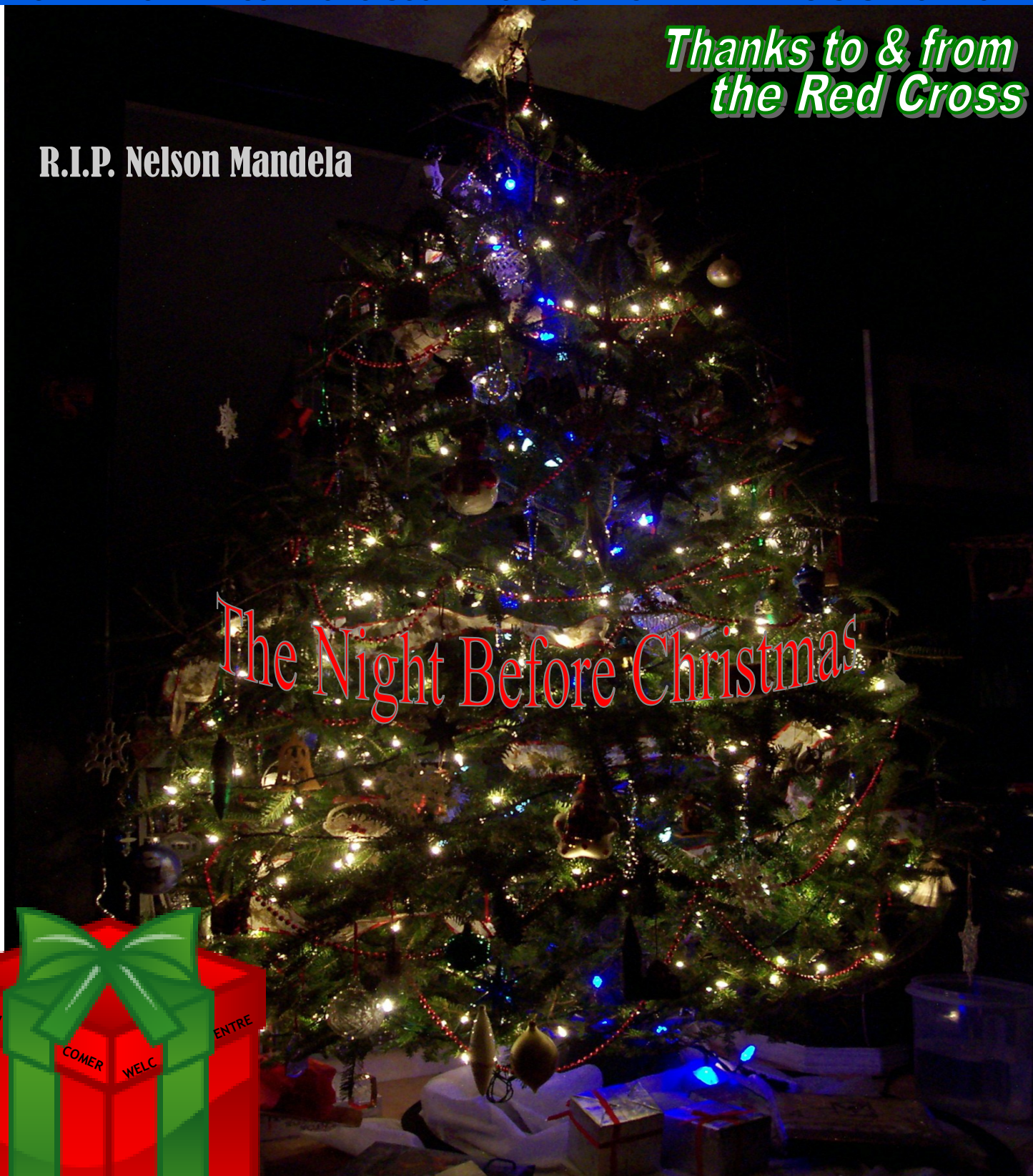
A MAGAZINE FOR NEWCOMERS TO SOUTHWEST SASKATCHEWAN

2013 CHRISTMAS EDITION

*Thanks to & from  
the Red Cross*

**R.I.P. Nelson Mandela**

*The Night Before Christmas*





**TRADITION SAYS . . .** *On Christmas Eve, a poor boy could not give a gift to the Holy Child. The boy knelt and prayed outside the house of God, about how he wanted to give a gift but could not. When the child got up, a green plant with beautiful red flowers came from the ground. His prayer was answered; he now had a beautiful gift to give to the baby. Ever since then, Poinsettia has been abundant, and a symbol of the Christ Child's birth.*

# The World Says Goodbye

Here are some interesting facts about, and quotes from, Nelson Mandela.

On December 5th, 2013, a leader,



a rebel, a prince, a ninety-five year old, an advocate for peace, a freedom fighter, a lawyer, a free-market champion, a father, and an inspiration died. Nelson Mandela.

Though he was imprisoned

for twenty-seven years, he never once wavered from his dream of a global end to racism, and democracy in his native homeland, South Africa.

He was born on July 18, 1918, and after his father died when he was twelve years old, he became the ward of Jongintaba the King of the Tembu Xhosa, the tribe Mandela to which Mandela belonged.



Mandela enjoyed a close friendship with Michael Jackson.

Mandela visited Canada three times. To date, he is the only non-head of state to address Canadian Parliament. On his third visit, in 2010, Prime Minister Chrétien bestowed honorary citizenship on Mandela, the first living person to receive that honour.

*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*

Bill Fletcher, the former president of the Trans-Africa Forum, which played a leading role in pressing for U.S. sanctions on South Africa during Mandela's imprisonment comments that while everyone is heaping accolades on Mandela, we risk only remembering a sanitized version of Nelson Mandela – one that is agreeable to everyone. If that happens, we risk forgetting what made him one of the most important leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries. For example, Nelson Mandela was fundamentally opposed to the US and its foreign policies. *“If there is a country that has committed unspeakable atrocities in the world,”* Mandela said, *“it is the United States of America.....they don't care for human beings.”* He was also unconcerned about what the USA thought of his dealings with regimes the USA had black-listed. After being released from prison in 1990, one of the first things Nelson Mandela did was visit Cuba to express his admiration and respect for Cuban leader Fidel Castro. *“You trained our people, gave us resources, helped so many of our soldiers, our doctors,”* said Mandela, embracing Fidel in Havana.

(cont. next page)

*There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.*

Perhaps the reason he could get away with verbalizing his strong opinions on such a powerful nation as the USA was because he believed, *"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner."*

Mandela did not finish his first Bachelor of Arts degree as he was expelled from the University College of Fort Hare for participating in a student protest, possibly the beginning of his political activism.

He was not so naive to believe that only the white minority in power was the source of South Africa's problems. *"I detest racism, because I regard it as a barbaric thing, whether it comes from a black man or a white man."* He also had a wry sense of humour. *"In my country we go to prison first and then become President."*

*A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.*

*To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.*

On 12 August 1988 he was taken to hospital where he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. After more than three months in two hospitals he was transferred to a house at Victor Verster Prison where he spent his last 14 months of imprisonment. He was released from its gates on Sunday 11 February 1990. Lung ailments was ultimately the cause of his death.

*It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.*

Even after his death, controversy and racial problems dogged Mandela. Afrikaners (those in power during the Apartheid era) were excluded from memorial services marking his death. Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of the Anglican Church in South Africa described Mr Mandela as a "nation builder" who "went out of his way" to include Afrikaners after the end of apartheid. "We were amiss in not being as inclusive as Madiba [Mandela's clan name] would certainly have been," he said.

Released in November 2013, shortly before his death, Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom is a biographical movie of Mandela's life.

**Rest in Peace, Nelson Mandela. Your impact on the world will never be forgotten.**

*It always seems impossible until it's done.*

While the strongest advocator for peace in his later years, Mandela was also prepared on all fronts. In 1962, using the adopted name David Motsamayi, Nelson Mandela secretly left South Africa. He travelled around Africa and visited England to gain support for armed struggle. He received military training in Morocco and Ethiopia

*After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.*

Throughout his imprisonment he rejected at least three conditional offers of release.

*There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.*

# A VISIT FROM St. NICHOLAS

Two hundred years ago, the idea of Santa Claus as an old jolly man with a beard and pipe did not exist. And then in 1823 along came Clement Clarke Moore. More was a professor and had the inspiration to write a poem about Ol' Saint Nick for his children. Though he published it anonymously, and it didn't have a title per se, it has gone on to be one of the most famous Christmas poems, and is the basis for many of the ideas we have about Santa and his reindeer.

So the story goes, on Christmas Eve night, while his wife and children sleep, a noise from outside wakes up a man. Looking out the window, he sees St. Nicholas in an air-borne sleigh pulled by eight reindeer. After landing his sleigh on the roof, Santa enters the house through the chimney, carrying a sack of toys with him. The man watches St. Nick filling the children's Christmas stockings hanging by the fire, and laughs to himself. They share a moment before the saint bounds up the chimney again. As he flies away, Saint Nicholas wishes everyone a "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

Here is the poem printed below. Learn a stanza or two and you're well on your way to being a Canadian!

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar plums danc'd in their heads,  
And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap —

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,  
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below;  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:  
"Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer and Vixen,  
"On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Donder and Blitzen;  
"To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!  
"Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of toys — and St. Nicholas too:

And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound:  
He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys was flung on his back,  
And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack:

His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples: how merry,  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.  
He had a broad face, and a little round belly  
That shook when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly:  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laugh'd when I saw him in spite of myself;

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And fill'd all the stockings; then turn'd with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.  
He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle:

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight —

**Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!**



# New Arrivals

of a different sort



IN AUGUST, SWIFT CURRENT SAID HELLO, FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, TO TWO ... NEW ... TWINS!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO AGNESE VILDE, OUR INFORMATION SERVICES ADVISOR, AND HER HUSBAND MATT JARRET, ON THE BIRTH OF TWIN DAUGHTERS, AIJA AND LEILA. BIG BROTHER, THOMAS, IS ALSO PLEASED AS PUNCH TO HAVE NOT ONE, BUT TWO NEW SISTERS.



Also newly arrived are an additional two employees at the Newcomer Welcome Centre. Deanna (L) and Allie (R) are our new employees in the SWIS (Settlement Workers In Schools) program. SWIS is a Canada-wide program to aid in the transition of newcomer kids into the education system.



(left) These *Mortals Join[ed] the Happy Chorus*. Students of the ESL program at Great Plains college sing at the Christmas Tree lighting evening, Nov. 21st.

(below) Randy Morales is reunited with his brother, Jobert, and family. (L-R) Niece Allie, sister-in-law Millet, and Randy.



Merry Christmas!

What's been happening!



Both newly arrived, and reunited. The Bermudez family (four right-most) arrived in Canada just in time for the cold! Rowena Bermudez, centre, was pleased to be reunited with her sister, Rhoda.



Reomides Genova was over the moon with the arrival of his wife Joyce (R), and daughter Aurea (centre).

Well over \$20,000 was raised at the Newcomer Welcome Centre, when the Red Cross fundraising drive was held November 19th, for funds to help the Filipino victims of Typhoon Haiyan. We would like to offer a very big, and sincere

**THANK YOU** to all who donated!!