

December 22

LOCAL CONFERENCE ADVANCE

Christmas. Christmas is a beautiful and emotional time of year. As we think of cards and decorations and gifts and family gatherings, and for some the lovely whiteness of the snow, we can't help feeling a warm glow in our hearts. At the same time, we recognize that for some it can be a time of sadness and loneliness if we recently lost a loved one or are confined to a bed or wheelchair. It would be well if we were to seek out those who have special needs and find ways to bring them cheer and remembrance.

“Brethren and sisters, while you are devising gifts for one another, I would remind you of our heavenly Friend, lest you should be unmindful of His claims. Will He not be pleased if we show that we have not forgotten Him? . . . He suffered even unto death, that He might give us eternal life.

“It is through Christ that we receive every blessing. . . Shall not our heavenly Benefactor share in the tokens of our gratitude and love? Come, brethren and sisters, come with your children. . . and bring your offerings to God according to your ability. Make melody to Him in your hearts, and let His praise be upon your lips” (*The Adventist Home*, p. 480).

Might you consider giving to our heavenly Friend today through our Local Conference Advance, which includes Christian education, local evangelism, Vacation Bible School, and other special needs of our conference? What wonderful ways to express our gratitude to Him!