



## Pastor's Page

### “An Unbelievable Christmas?”

I was on my way to the home of a church member when I saw Santa's sleigh! I was saddened to see that it had broken down and was sitting bereft on the back of a recovery vehicle! I then noticed Santa himself standing on the pavement with a few motor mechanics juggling with some jolly jump leads! As I drove on, not having time to stop and help poor Mr Claus, I pondered on the role of this merry old Festive figure at this time of the year.

Christians differ regarding their attitudes to Santa. Some view him as a serious distraction to the true meaning of Christmas (namely the coming of the Son of God to planet earth) whilst others take a more liberal view seeing him as a fun figure who captures something of the spirit of Christmas. However, perhaps the most interesting claim is that Father Christmas is credited with the attributes that Jesus in the incarnation seems to have laid aside! Allow me to explain;

**Omniscience** (knowledge of all things) – Santa ‘knows’ all the addresses of the millions of children (not including children of Hindu, Muslim Jewish Buddhist religions whom he doesn't appear to visit) he visits on Christmas eve. He ‘knows’ who's been good and he ‘knows’ just what they want!

**Omnipresence** (Being everywhere at the same time) Santa has about 31 hours of Christmas (thanks to the different time zones) to work. It has been estimated that his sleigh would have to move at a speed of 650 miles per second (3,000 times the speed of sound) to get the job done. This accounts for how he can be almost everywhere at the same time!

**Omnipotence** (Unlimited power) Travelling at this speed and carrying toys the size of an average size Lego set for each child, Santa would be pinned to the back of the sleigh by 2,315,015 pounds of force. This would instantly crush his bones and organs reducing him to a quivering blob! Only an omnipotent Santa could survive!!!

Now the truth of Christmas is that Jesus Christ, the eternal son of God, the one who has these very attributes, laid them aside 2000 years ago and became a tiny baby. Paul writing to the Philippians says; ***“Christ Jesus, who being in very nature God did not consider equally with God something to be grasped but made himself nothing taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness....he humbled himself and became obedient to death”*** One of my favourite quotes regarding the incarnation is; ***“God couldn't have made himself bigger to impress us so he made himself smaller to attract us”*** In becoming a man Jesus lived the perfect life and died the sacrificial death required to bring us back to our Heavenly Father. Only an all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving God could do this.

Now here's something worth celebrating. Here's a Christmas message worth believing. ***“Oh, Come let us adore him Christ the Lord”***. Happy Christmas.

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