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Executive Director
(Josh, Luke, Lori, Jonathan, Jordan)

A Holiday Message to All from All of Us

WHEN GOD TOOK OFF HIS ROBE

Max Lucado tells a story about the son of a rabbi who suffered from severe emotional problems. One day the boy went into his backyard, removed all his clothing, assumed a crouched position, and began to gobble like a turkey. He did this, not just for hours or days, but for weeks. No pleading would dissuade him. No psychotherapist could help him.

A friend of the rabbi, having watched the boy and sharing the father's grief, offered to help. He went into the backyard and removed his clothes. Then he crouched beside the boy and began gobbling, turkeylike. This went on for days, but nothing changed. Finally the friend spoke to the son. "Do you think it would be all right for turkeys to wear shirts?" After some thought and many gobbles, the son agreed. So the two put on their shirts.

Days later the friend asked the boy if it would be acceptable for turkeys to wear pants. The boy nodded. Eventually, the friend redressed the boy. And, in time, the boy returned to normal.

As incredible as this story is, even more incredible are the actions of Jesus. Two thousand years ago He took off His heavenly robe, put on skin, hunched down on two legs, and began speaking our language to save us from our own insanity. Philippians 2:7-8 puts it like this: "He set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process" (Msg).

Why would God go to such lengths? There is only one possible explanation—love. You and I matter to Him.

It was this outpouring of holy love that compelled Paul to make similar sacrifices. He wrote, "I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. . . . I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some" (1 Cor. 9:19-23, NIV). Paul did whatever was necessary short of sinning to reach others with the gospel.

This is what Christmas is all about, and this is what evangelism is all about—taking Christ to where people are and not expecting them to come to where we are. Such is costly, requiring great sacrifice on our part just as it did His, but apparently He thought it well worth while. I'm glad, aren't you?

Rejoicing in the Savior,

Jeff

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*Photography by Kelly Dobson – 734.377.1150
Design by Powers & Co. – 734.741.8081*

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2006



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