

Positively Speaking

By Mark Wilson

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Bleak Midwinter Opportunity

"In the bleak midwinter, snow, on snow, snow on snow." That's how the old song goes, and peering out the picture window, I identified completely.

"Arrgh!" I grumbled to no one in particular, "fourteen inches of obligation!"

My kids looked out the same window.

"Yippee!!" they shouted, and rushed to put on their snow clothes.

For them it was fourteen inches of opportunity!

Same snow -- two completely different perspectives. I wish I could be more like my kids.

I wish my first response to winter would be snow angels rather than shovels.

When severe adulthood squeezes out childish play, the snow becomes an unpleasant burden.

Snow, on snow, on snow.

The other day I muttered something about "bleak midwinter" to my wife Cathy. She rebuked me gently. "It's not so bleak, honey. In fact, it's like a beautiful post card out there! Just look, the snow sparkles like diamonds!"

I guess it is true that beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder.

Bishop Tutu observed that each day is a gift, and that is why it is called the present! Whatever the day brings is part of the gift, and that includes snow!

As we enter the New Year, it would do us well to remember this -- focus on the opportunity, rather than the obligation.

Whether you look for the positive or the negative -- either way -- you'll find it.

Joy comes with gratitude. Misery accompanies grumbling and complaint. "In everything", the Bible says, "give thanks." That includes the bleak midwinter!

Today, I'm going to surprise my kids and make a snow angel!

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