

BAPTIST FEATURES

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CHILDREN'S PAGE

WINTER HOMES

By Gladys Cleone Carpenter

God has given many of his creatures the wisdom to find snug sleeping quarters for the winter.

When snow comes the bear is sound asleep in a hollow tree, in a den which he has dug, or in a cave.

The chipmunk especially likes a den among the rocks, although he'll have a nest under logs, in a stump, or at the base of a tree. He sometimes comes forth for a short time during mild weather.

The groundhog is the soundest sleeper of all. His burrow is usually in the side of a hill or hillock.

Porcupines and skunks stay closely in their burrows except in very mild weather.

The mourning cloak butterfly sleeps under a piece of bark on a tree trunk.

Among the pond creatures seldom seen in winter are the beaver and the muskrat. Their snug homes have underground passageways.

The toad and the mud turtle sleep in underground burrows.

It seems wonderful that creatures are so endowed that they know how to cope with their winter needs. Wisdom, of course, is very important as we know from learning that Solomon asked for it above all other things. It is wise for us, too, to pray for wisdom. God has promised: "But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)

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JOLLY MR. WINTERS

By Gladys Cleone Carpenter

The weather was cold, so Mr. Winters hadn't melted one bit. Mr. Winters was the big fat snow man. He stood in the yard where Tommy and Sharon lived.

Bill and Beth, their next door neighbors, had helped them make the snow man.

Now the four children were together.

"I wish we could stay up tonight," said Bill. "It's New Year's. Mother and Dad and Sister will have a party."

"Yes, our mother and father and Big Brother are going to their party," said Sharon.

"Oh, I don't care," said Beth. "Let's have fun now. Let's fix up Mr. Winters."

Mr. Winters did look a bit shabby. He had looked all right for Christmas, but now his trimmings were faded and torn.

"What can we do to make Mr. Winters look like New Year's?" asked Bill.

"We could make him a new hatband," said Sharon. "And put the date on it."

The snow man had a tall, black hat. They made a white band for it. On the front of the band, they put the figures 1956.

Then the children got some bright colored paper. On it they wrote "Happy New Year." This they put across the snow man's chest.

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"What else can we do to make him look like New Year's?" Beth asked.

"Bells are for New Year's," said Tommy.

"Yes, they ring while we're asleep, and everyone's having fun but us," said Bill.

"That's grown up fun," said Sharon. "It wouldn't be fun for us. This snow man is our kind of fun."

They decided to shape a hand bell from snow. And put the bell in the snow man's hand.

"There! He's all ready to start the New Year," said Beth.

Mr. Winters looked very fine and he also looked very pleased. The children had made his mouth turn up at the corners as if he were smiling.

"Now let's go over to our house, and write what we'll try to do next year," said Beth.

Inside the house Sharon wrote down what each one decided to do. The list was like this:

IN 1956

I will try to:

1. Smile like Mr. Winters --Sharon
2. Be patient like the snow man--Beth
3. Be friendly--Tommy
4. Not beg to stay up late--Bill

Suddenly Sharon exclaimed, "Listen!"

Now they could hear a bell ringing.

Sharon ran to the window and looked out. There was a big hedge between the houses so she couldn't see anything.

"It sounds as if the snow man is ringing his bell!" said Tommy.

But the bell kept right on ringing merrily.

"Let's go see!" said Bill.

They put on their wraps, and away they went! Soon they reached the snow man.

"Look!" exclaimed Tommy.

For there in the snow man's right hand was a real bell-- a metal bell.

"Someone has put the snow bell we made in Mr. Winter's left hand, and this bell in his right hand," said Bill.

Sharon noticed that someone had shaped a pocket on the snow man's chest. And in this snow pocket was a note. She took it out and read it to the others.

It said:

Dear Friends:

Thank you for making me look so nice. I'm always the best dressed snow man in town.

I want to r pay you, so look under my hat.

Happy New Year!
Mr. Winters.

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"Oh, let's see what's under the hat!" cried Beth.

Tommy was the tallest, so he was the one to look. He took off the snow man's hat, and felt on top of his head.

Someone had hollowed out some of the snow at the top of the snow man's head and had fitted in a sack. Tommy took out the sack.

The others crowded around as he opened it. They wanted to see what was in it.

The sack was filled with little cookies. They were bell-shaped, and were iced in several different colors. What fun!

"Who did all these things?" asked Bill.

"I'll go see!" said Sharon, and she rushed into the house.

"There's no one at home!" she said when she came back.

The four children never found out who left the cookies and the bell. They asked their parents and their older sister and brother, when they got back home, but they wouldn't tell.

So it was fun to make believe --to pretend that the snowman rang the bell, wrote the note, and put the cookies in his hat, all by himself.

Good old Mr. Winters!

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PRAYER OF THE SEASON

By Dorothy Dill Mason

Thank you for the start of spring
When tiny buds unfold.
Thank you for the summertime
All blue and green and gold.
Thank you for the painted hills
When autumn's bright leaves fall,
But for the first frail snowflake,
God, thank you, most of all.

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A DISH FROM A GRAPEFRUIT

By Erma Reynolds

A pretty little dish can be made from a grapefruit shell.

After the fruit has been eaten, remove the white, inner skin from the shell. Let the shell dry in the sun for a number of days and when it is thoroughly dry, sandpaper inside and out.

To decorate the dish, cut designs from old greeting-cards or gift-wrapping paper and paste these on the inside and outside of the fruit shell.

So that the dish will last, paint it inside and out with a coat of waterproof varnish.

Use it full of nuts or candy as a gift to some shut-in.

It helps us to love people more if we do things for them. This is one of the ways God has provided for us to make life sweeter and our characters stronger.

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