

# Who Delivered Your Christmas Gift?

By Barrington H. Brennen, December 23, 2003

Do you believe in Santa Claus? Was it Santa who delivered your gift on Christmas day? Does Santa come to the Bahamas? We do not have many chimneys in the Bahamas, hence, Santa would not have his traditional way of entering the homes while the children are sleeping.

Based on my research, if Santa is real here are some logical points and mathematical figures that would cause us to think a second time. First, there are some basic assumptions: (1) Santa delivers no gifts to naughty children. This would reduce the figure greatly. There is a tradition in some areas of the world that a naughty child receives a lump of coal. (2) Only **one** Santa distributes all of the gifts. Multiple Santas would make it easier but the legend has it that there is only one Santa. (3) The percentage of households in which there is at least one child who has not been naughty, but was nice, is 90%. According to calculations, Santa would deliver 677 million gifts on Christmas morning. (4) Santa loads all of the presents before starting his journey. i.e. he does not return to the North Pole periodically to reload. How would Santa take all those gifts on one trip around the world?

## THE FACTS

It is said that Santa takes his 677 million gifts on Christmas morning. If every toy averages two pounds, the sleigh would have to carry about one billion pounds or 500,000 tons of cargo for the children. The payload would occupy a space of 100 million cubic feet. Santa would visit perhaps 1,000 homes per second. The average speed of the sleigh would be on the order of 3.6 million miles an hour. This would be a sufficient speed to allow travel to the moon in about four minutes, except that the reindeer need a steady supply of oxygen. The acceleration and deceleration loads on the reindeer, Santa and the sleigh would be astronomical.

## THE GIFT FOR BAD CONDUCT

It is certainly clear that Santa does not exist. There is only One who can match and surpass these astronomical calculations. That One is Jesus. According to tradition, Santa delivers millions of gifts each year based on good conduct. The truth is that only one gift was delivered to earth two thousand years ago in Bethlehem of Judea. This gift came in the form of Baby Jesus. This Gift was not based on good conduct. Instead, it was based on bad conduct. This Gift was sent to all humans because we lost connection with the Gift Giver, the Heavenly Father. We behaved badly and lost the skill how to talk to the Gift Giver.

This One Gift transforms lives. While Santa's gifts bring short-term satisfaction, the Greatest Gift brings eternal joy and peace. Although Christmas is passed, it is not too late to be reminded that there is a Gift waiting at your door today. That Gift is Jesus. When our families experience this Gift, there will be transformation of hearts, minds, and lives. We will have a better Bahamas. This Gift is outside your door right now.