GOOD FRIENDS ARE GIFTS FROM GOD

by Rick Founds

Drawn as if by a magnet, the little Santa bobbled forward through the crowd until he was standing directly in front of the band. There he was, just under three feet small, with arms straight down at his sides. He began to bounce up and down, his little legs keeping perfect time to the band's rocking rendition of Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer. Intently staring with wide, barely blinking eyes, he was captivated by the sound and sparkle of Ed's shiny red accordion. Gradually his gaze widened to take in Becky, as she sang and played her bass guitar. He then stepped a bit closer to take long look at Jim's fingers flying across the frets, in the creation of a flurry of lead guitar notes. A big grin gradually stretched across his face, as he began to figure out, that the wonderful, thundering, crashing, pounding sounds that were making his little frame dance, were emanating from the white drums, the wooden congas, and shimmering brass cymbals, so skillfully smacked and whacked by Mark and Paul. He continued his visual journey across the stage, watching with great curiosity, as Debbie's hands turned multi-colored knobs, adjusting sound levels to the PA system.

After several moments of anxious searching, a frantic mom finally located her wayward little Santa… hanging out with the band.

Sadly all good things must end.

This story is just one of so many countless others that are safely stored away in my treasure chest.

For several years now, I've had the opportunity to provide music for Christmas parties, given for the families of our deployed military personnel. I chose this memory to share, because it features people that I love. Friends that I truly cherish spending time with. Friends who never hesitate to share their gifts and talents with those in need; friends who have discovered the priceless joy that only comes through serving others.

God's word tells us that a friend of this caliber can be closer than a brother. A friend that you can call on any time, day or night, and if at all possible, they will drop whatever they are doing and come to help. If you can count friends like this on one hand, you possess great wealth.

Good friends are like beautiful trees. If you water and cultivate them, over time they will grow ever stronger, ever greater.

Cherish your friends. They are God's special gifts to you!