



December 21, 2018

### *The "W" in Christmas*

Five year old Kara was excited for the "Winter Program" at her school. The class had been practicing their song for weeks. The day of the program finally arrived. The parents and grandparents settled into their seats, and each class, accompanied by their teachers, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the school had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas", those in the audience didn't really expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment – songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when Kara's kindergarten class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," those watching were slightly taken aback. The class was aglow, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters and bright snowcaps on their heads.

Those in the front row, came center stage, and held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, with each child holding up his letter, so that one by one there was the complete message "CHRISTMAS LOVE."

The performance was going smoothly, until Kara held up her letter, the letter "M". But, unknown to her, the letter was upside down, so instead of an "M" it appeared as a "W". The adults in the audience began to murmur. The rest of the students 1st through 5th grade, not so subtle, began to snicker. But Kara had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued—until the last letter was raised, and all saw what it said together. A hush came over the audience and all the students' eyes widened. In that instant, it became clear to those gathered why they celebrated the holiday in the first place.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

**"CHRISTWAS LOVE"**

And, he still is.

*--from a mother who was present*

In Christ's grace,  
*Pastor Deb*