

## **\*\*CHRISTMAS SPIRIT UNDAUNTED\*\***

It was the Friday night before our big Merry Christmas Kings Mountain food and toy distribution. Many folks had worked long hard hours packing toy boxes and preparing bicycles, tagging them for families to pick up at our annual event on Saturday morn. Several church families had purchased the bikes and toys and were anxiously awaiting the smiles that would be upon the faces of over 180 children.

Saturday morning was cold, overcast. First sleet then a lake effect snow began to fall. I arrived early to the warehouse and looking with anguish, the roll up door was forced open. Eight bikes and ten toy boxes were stolen. My first reaction was to lay hands suddenly upon someone without invoking the name of Jesus. I probably would have, but who do I grab?

As our church volunteers filtered in to begin the distribution, disbelief, anger and various theories on the theft were voiced. No matter. We had over 300 hundred families to service. So we proceeded. During the process someone suggested calling someone in the media. I knew a reporter for our local ABC affiliate so I had my wife call, but Ken Lemon did not work week ends. But they did take the report. And wow, since then every news outlet in this entire area has asked for interviews and put our story all over T.V. and print media. The results have been amazing. From Charlotte, Gastonia and Shelby, Mint Hill and other communities, folks touched by the story have responded. We not only have recouped our losses but have product to bless families we were not able to help before. What the devil meant for evil, God has turned into a blessing. There are still more good people around than the greedy, grinchies who tried to steal some folks Christmas.

Heartfelt thanks to Almighty God and all who have responded to boost the Christmas Spirit. And thanks to the news media who kept this story before the public. You are too numerous to name, but you were special. That Spirit comes from the one who loved us and GAVE himself for us. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Cor. 9:15).

**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!**

**Roger R. Woodard**