



## MESSAGE ON THE OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS FROM HEIDI WORKMAN

President Ronald Reagan is one of our greatest presidents. As I thought about an appropriate Christmas message to send you in our troubled times, an idea came to mind. What did President Reagan say about Christmas in the first year of his historic and consequential presidency?

I found President Reagan's message powerful, so I've included excerpts from his December 23, 1981 message here:

"Tonight, in millions of American homes, the glow of the Christmas tree is a reflection of the love Jesus taught us. Like the shepherds and the wise men of that first Christmas, we Americans have always tried to follow a higher light, a star, if you will. At lonely campfire vigils along the frontier, in the darkest days of the Great Depression, through war and peace, the twin beacons of faith and freedom have brightened the American sky. At times our footsteps may have faltered, but trusting in God's help, we've never lost our way. ...

"A few months before he took up residence in this house, one of my predecessors, John Kennedy, tried to sum up the temper of the times with a quote from an author closely tied to Christmas, Charles Dickens. We were living, he said, in the best of times and the worst of times. Well, in some ways that's even more true today. The world is full of peril, as well as promise. Too many of its people, even now, live in the shadow of want and tyranny. ...

"Christmas means so much because of one special child. But Christmas also reminds us that all children are special, that they are gifts from God, gifts beyond price that mean more than any presents money can buy. In their love and laughter, in our hopes for their future lies the true meaning of Christmas."

President Reagan's sentiments are timeless. More than 40 years after President Reagan's first Christmas address, once again we find ourselves living in times of great opportunity and tremendous peril.

In closing, God bless you and your family, every one.

Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Workman".

Heidi Workman