



## Monday Matters

December 24, 2012

### Love in Action

Linda J. Nelson

Have you ever milked a cow by hand? It's a curious little adventure that is harder than it looks. Years ago that is how cows were milked...twice a day. Dairy farmers worked hard at making a living, but most would never exchange it for a different kind of life.

In 1955, Pearl Buck wrote a farm story. The name of the story is "Christmas Day in the Morning." It's about an elderly man, Rob, who remembers a particular Christmas morning from his youth. Rob was never sure about how much his father loved him. They were hard workers and focused on making life work each day, and they did not often express or confirm their love for each other in words. One day Rob overheard his father telling his mother how he hated waking Rob up at 4 a.m. every morning to milk the cows. He felt Rob was growing and needed his rest. At that point Rob understood his father's deep love and care for him.



Click on Video below



Christmas Flash Mob by  
Journey of Faith  
at South Bay Galleria

### Quote of the Week

"Christmas is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."

~Dale Evans~

Rob had limited means, but he imagined what would be a gift he could give his father that would show his great love for him in return. "The thought struck him like a silver dagger." He would get up earlier than 4 a.m. and milk the cows for his father. He had a restless sleep that night, because he did not want to miss getting up early. At 2:45 a.m. he got up, quietly went downstairs and made his way to the barn. Before the usual milking time, he milked the cows - his gift to his father. He returned to his room and crawled back into bed. His father came into Rob's room at 4 a.m., woke Rob and headed for the barn. In about 10-15 minutes later he returned to Rob's room. "His father was laughing, a queer sobbing sort of a laugh." He clutched Rob in a great hug. And he said to Rob, "Son, I thank you. Nobody ever did a nicer thing."

"Milking for once was not a chore. It was something else, a gift to his father who loved him." "Ah, that was the true joy of life, the ability to love!" Giving love for Christmas births the kind of joy in one's heart that gives life-long memories. Christmas time can be simple...simply showing love to one another - within the family or reaching out to those who are truly unloved and needy. The connection of love is powerful. Put away your fear, your pride, your lack in whatever way - love more.

**Make a Christmas memory of love.**



The Nelson's are missionaries to the natives in Alaska. Read about the update to "Saving Fingers - Saving Souls" at: [NelsonNews.org](http://NelsonNews.org)

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We at Monday Matters want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of cyberspace world this past year. We have enjoyed sharing some small nuggets each week to help your Mondays be a bit easier.

Ron and Linda Nelson