**Who Could That Be?**

When the doorbell rang, I quickly ran through the short list of people that could be ringing the doorbell. I was so surprised when I opened the door because I only found a huge box. It was filled with hand-selected gifts for my children...actually really nice ones. You see, it was only a few days before the arrival of this box that I had been praying for provision; rent, groceries, gas for the car, and something for the kids to open at Christmas. We were in need and had no margin for error.  
  
Later that week, we heard the doorbell ringing again. But this time, it was accompanied by some sort of commotion outside. The kids and I rushed to the door, and there was a huge group of people. They began caroling while the kids and I held each other close. Provision after provision came in that challenging year; even the landlord brought a few gifts for the children.   
  
Most of the time, no one rang our doorbell and sang carols to us. And most of the time, we didn't get a box at the front door with anything. This was a time when we just had each other and a roof over our heads. Yet, I could see the hand of God's provision very clearly.  
  
What I took away from those times was that the Lord would use His people to minister to our family.  He intimately knew what we were going through and brought blessing upon blessing to our family. He placed our family in those people's hearts because only He knew the depth of what we were going through. The Lord is good like that. He knew what it would take to minister to us and how much it would mean to us.  
  
This year may have been a crisis year for you as well, or it may have been a year of healing and new beginnings. Whatever happened this year, I pray that you will spend time reflecting on the good gifts that the Lord provides. James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." He is a good Father that will not give us stones when we need comfort or snakes when we need joy. God is so good, and He knows what we need. He can be trusted in your most challenging moments and most difficult trials.

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