

Merry Christmas .

This year I brought my nearly 3yr old grandson an event Calender, starting on Dec 1st a small box is opened which contains a treat and every day till Dec 25th you have one treat and then it is Christmas day .

When right across Australia people stop and remember, buy each other gifts, have special family time and eat yummy Christmas food that the reason for the season, this celebration, this brake in our Calender, is the birth of Jesus Christ.

Actually it was the birth and life of Jesus that became the basis for the Calender as we know it. BC is the English abbreviation for '*Before Christ*' and the term *Anno Domini* is Medieval Latin, translated as '*In the year of the Lord.*'

We will soon be welcoming 2013AD, and possibly never give BC a thought, unless someone gets the "Ice Age 4" DVD in there stocking.

Many Christians have their own BC/ AD time line in their personal life calendars, for me previous to 1989 was BC *before Christ* I lived for myself and often by myself, I could be lonely, confused a sad victim of many consequences. Then in early 1989 I had the realization of Jesus Christ *my year of the Lord.*

Scripture then showed me I have friend in Jesus who is closer than a brother, that I will not be left or forgotten by Jesus ever, he is always with me. I am no longer a victim but rather victorious because Christ himself strengthens me, and best of all that I am not left to face the consequences that I truly deserve , but rather Jesus took the weight of all my sin and died on the cross.

I ask the question about your life Calendar, are you BC or AD are you going it alone or had the realization that Jesus did all this for you.

I believe that the real Christmas story may be found in one verse in the bible in the book of Romans Chap 5 verse 8 were it says "*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*"

May Gods great provision of Jesus Christ be a blessing to you this Christmas!

Ps Jill Hyatt

Mackay Christian Family Church .