



The Traveling Treadle Machine

By Beula Postlewait, Communications Representative

My older sister loves to sew, do embroidery work, and make quilts. Thirty years ago, she mentioned to me that she would love to have a treadle sewing machine. One of my friends had a treadle machine she wanted to sell. I bought the machine with the idea that I would give it to my sister for Christmas. I was so excited that I had found something she said she wanted. My husband, Jim, made sure the machine was working well. We planned to take the machine to her home (about 25 minutes from our home) on Christmas Day.

Unexpected Change of Plans

Guess what? On Christmas Day, we woke up to a foot of snow! It was almost exhausting to just shovel the driveway. We debated about driving to my sister's house for Christmas lunch. I was adamant that I wanted to surprise my sister with my gift to her on Christmas Day.

Jim tried to reason with me. The highway was barely cleared. We might not find the residential streets cleared of snow. The treadle machine would not fit in the trunk with the lid closed; we would need to tie down the lid of the trunk. If it snowed while we traveled, there would be snow on the machine and in the trunk of the car. We could wait another day when the snowstorm had stopped.

Jim knew how much I wanted to surprise my sister with that machine, so he acquiesced. We loaded the treadle machine in the trunk of the car and headed for my sister's house. It was so much fun to see the look of surprise on my sister's face when she saw the machine.

My sister kept the machine for many years, but eventually she gave it back to me when she moved into a smaller home. I kept the machine for awhile until Jim's sister-in-law said she would like to have the

treadle sewing machine. She already had two sewing machines, so she traded with me one of her current electric machines for the treadle machine.

Jim's sister-in-law kept the machine for several years until her daughter wanted the machine. Her daughter lives in New York, so the treadle machine is now housed in that state.

Lessons Learned

1. Patience on my part would have been the better choice. I could have waited another day or two before delivering the machine.
2. It is a joy to give a gift of something you have to someone who desires it.
3. God was faithful and protected us during our driving through the snow that day. However, we could have been in an accident with serious injuries. No delivery of a gift is worth injuries to a person or damage to a vehicle.
4. The best gift we could ever receive is the gift of God's Son whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. We become so accustomed to exchanging gifts that we can neglect the true meaning of Christmas. The best gift ever is Jesus, God's Son, our Savior.

I pray that you and your family will have a meaningful Christmas as you celebrate Jesus' birth.

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