



Dear Friends

It is so easy to forget the real meaning of Christmas in all the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations. There are many legends and myths surrounding Christmas and so I thought I'd share this legend about the humble candy cane.

“Legend has it that in 1670, the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany handed out sugar sticks among his young singers to keep them quiet during the long Living Creche ceremony. In honour of the occasion, he had the candies bent into shepherds' crooks.

In 1847, a German-Swedish immigrant named August Imgard of Wooster, Ohio, decorated a small blue spruce with paper ornaments and candy canes. It wasn't until the turn of the century that the red and white stripes and peppermint flavours became the norm.

In Indiana, a candy maker wanted to make a candy that could be a reminder of Jesus Christ, so he made the Christmas candy cane. He started off with a stick of pure white hard candy. The white colour symbolized the virgin birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and the hard candy symbolized the solid rock which was the foundation of the church, and firmness of the promises of God. The candy maker made the candy in the form of a J, which represented the name of Jesus and the staff of the Good Shepherds. He then stained it with three stripes which showed the scourging Jesus received, and symbolized the blood shed by Christ on the cross. When you break the cane, it reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for us.”

At this Christmas time, let us remember God's love for us as is written in John 3:16,17 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

May this Christmas be a time of blessing for you and your loved ones.

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Michael Crawford sings a beautiful Lullaby.

[Joseph's Lullaby - YouTube](#)

Mary, are you sleeping?
Mary, I'm afraid
Mary, can I live up to
The choice that God has made?
Jesus, can You tell me
Here upon my knee

What kind of father will I be?
What can I give to You
You, made from miracles
That God has given me to keep?
I can't give much to You
You, made from miracles
But I can hold You as You sleep

What can You learn from me
You, made from miracles
When I've so much to learn from You?
What can a man like me
Offer the miracle
Who taught me miracles come true

Tell me how to guide You
Tell me what to say
Tell me how to show You how
To show the world the way
How to please the angels
Watching from above
When all I have to give You is love
But if it's love You need
You, made from miracles
Then take my hand and hold it tight
And I will give You love
Sweet, little miracle
That God has given me tonight
Sweet, little miracle
Oh, what a miracle
That God has given us tonight