

**Squeeky says...  
Pokey & Me Celebrating Christmas**



Hi Every-  
body... I'm  
so excited!  
Christmas  
is coming  
and I've

got three friends to share the holiday with; Peanut, PJ, and Pokey. I don't think Pokey knows any squirrels so that will be a new experience for him. Peanut said we could meet at his tree house because he and PJ wouldn't be able to get through the door at my place.

I love Christmas because it reminds me to be kind and generous. When Jesus gave His life so people could be forgiven of their sins, it was the best gift ever given.

Now I want to think of special gifts for my friends, things that will convey my love for them and show them how much I appreciate their friendship.

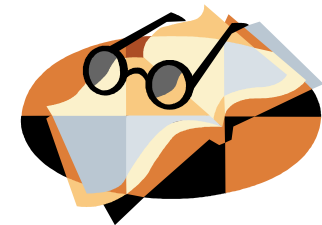
I'm going to give Pokey a very special gift this year that he won't even know about. I'm going to quit complaining about him being so slow. Just because I hop all over the place at break-neck speed doesn't mean he is wrong because he takes his time. Boy! This gift for Pokey makes me feel good, too.

TABERNACLE COMMUNITY

1616 Ferndale Avenue Melbourne,  
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TIDBITS  
December  
2008

**Learning to love GOD  
And one another**



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*John 13:34-35*

# Increasing our appetite for GOD... tidbits from Don & Linda Lees

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Dale & Patricia Cann

The Canns were lifelong residents of Illinois till they moved to Florida a little over a year ago. Responding to a strong urging from God to relocate to Brevard County, they left family and friends to start on a whole new adventure.

Patricia and Dale have been married 37 years and have four sons, three still living. Since they have been at the Tab, they have been actively involved in praying for people and helping wherever they can. Their special mission is to pray for the Elders and their families.

Dale especially likes to encourage others to believe God for bigger things than they have in the past and find the joy that comes from exercising their faith.

Patricia has recently become involved in The Skate Park ministry in South Melbourne. This ministry provides a place for children and youth to have fun skateboarding while learning Christian values, such as respect for others, integrity, discipline and love for God.

## The Body of Christ—Don

December has always been a favorite time for me. I can remember the excitement of anticipating Christmas morning when, hopefully, I would receive the special present I was longing for. Little did I know back then that my special present for Christmas in 1958 would be to marry the love of my life. This year on December 20, Linda and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary.

Early in our marriage we didn't have much time for each other due to the demands of college, career and raising children. We began drifting apart.

When we had been married about 20 years, my career became more demanding with travel and new projects. I was shocked to watch several of my associates go through divorce and I grew concerned about our marriage. At that point Linda and I decided to invest more time with each other. What we discovered surprised us both. We were carrying unspoken deep wounds of judgment towards each other and holding each other in bondage with selfish expectations.

As we worked through our problems, we discovered a new intimacy with God and each other. In Mt. 7:1, Jesus said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." We found that when we stopped judging one another, God blessed our relationship more than we could ask or think. This Christmas let Jesus give you the peace that comes from not judging one another, but esteeming one another.



## Practical Suggestions—Linda

I still remember my wedding day. I was 17 years old and full of hopes and dreams. Everything looked rosy and I just knew we would always be madly in love.

Then reality hit. Because of circumstances, we were apart for long periods of time. I was the only one with an income in those early days so my parents were gracious enough to let us live with them. But I longed for a home of our own. After Don graduated from college, we were able to buy a house. Then the traveling and long hours started and I was alone a lot of the time with the children. That was not exactly what I had in mind for our marriage.

I will always be grateful to God for Don's desire to work on our relationship. The process was painful but the benefits were worth it.

Now, 50 years later, we are soul mates and still in love. It just wasn't automatic. We had to work at it!

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