

TEEN PAGE

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FEED THE WORLD -

DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMASTIME?

Those are the words of the first Band Aid song.

BAND AID was the first time ever that a mass of top bands got together for a big humanitarian aid fundraising event. It was also the name of a well known sticking plaster. In those days everyone in the UK knew what Christmas meant and they gave a huge amount of money for overseas aid. Worldwide \$24,000,000 was raised. Band Aid was started in 1984 by Bob Geldof and Midge Ure to raise money for anti-poverty efforts in Ethiopia. Everyone was singing the lines of the chorus "Feed The World - Let Them Know It's Christmastime".

THIRTY YEARS ON-

DO WE STILL KNOW IT'S CHRISTMASTIME?

This year BAND AID 30 celebrates thirty years of celebrity fund raising and the Ebola crisis is being targeted. The song has the tragic line *Where a kiss of love can kill you – and there's death in every tear*. The spirit of Christmas lives on but it's life-blood is ebbing away. Newspapers were soon criticising Band Aid 30 for being 'damaging to Africa' and some stars would not join in. In some places Christmas is being called 'Winter Celebrations' or 'Winter Holiday' - no birthdays. Many schools no longer teach the story of Christmas, and the traditional nativity play depicting the birth of Jesus has been supplemented by other characters such as Elvis, footballers, celebs and references to several religious festivals.



BAND AID 30 - 2014

Can the Christmas spirit survive without Christ? Can you be sure **you** really know it's Christmas?

TV, Newspapers, Social media and radio commentators often say that Christmas is about peace, acceptance and tolerance, family, presents, food, etc. but all those things depend on one essential element that is often left out. You can't go on giving, accepting, tolerating etc. without a good **reason to do it**. The truth is that when Jesus was born a group of shepherds were actually **told** what the birth of Jesus was all about by a host of angels and it wasn't about giving, accepting, tolerating eating etc. It was just an announcement. "... I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." It turned out that the Saviour was named Jesus. Simple. But there is more "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." These two things, a saviour and goodwill from God to all people, are unique among all religions. God announced goodwill to all people and then Jesus lived a life demonstrating goodwill to all people both friend and foe. God's word made into a man - neat. That announcement of Christmas was so amazing: Free forgiveness of wrongdoing, Goodwill (kindness) to everyone both friend and enemy, and **no fighting**. **That's the reason to celebrate!** So go on then....



get the presents,



Make new friends, forgive people,

and don't fight over them.



and sing carols!

[†]Luke 2:14 on. KJV