

**Editor's note:** Thanks to Karen Weller for calling our attention to this piece, originally an e-mail, and thanks to Keegan Hartman for giving us permission to use it. The introduction is by Karen, but the body is just as written by Keegan, with no editing. Enjoy!

Each of us is called to bridge the separation between people and God, to stand in the gap with Christ. Christ laid down his life for others in ways that made God's grace real. We are called to make God's grace real to others. PASS IT ON!

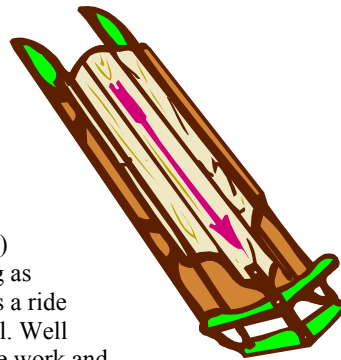
This was written by Keegan Hartman, after he returned from a mission trip this summer to Chicago, where he and several others from the Ithaca UMC youth group had the opportunity to serve others for a week, in an at-risk neighborhood, in inner city Chicago.

## THE SLED

WRITTEN BY: KEEGAN HARTMAN

In my time of living through Christ i have found that life is like a sledding hill. We grab our sleds and walk.... and walk... and walk. Finally at the end of the walking it is time time to sled down the hill, oh what joy. Now you may start to think that I am a

little weird because how can you relate life (something filled with plenty of sin) to something as wonderful as a ride down the hill. Well here it is. We work and work on getting up the hill right, just like we do in life, working and working to be more Christ like. Well we finally get up there and we feel great, we have christ and it feels like nothing can go wrong. Well, sledding hills are usually crowded at the top right? So is this one, crowded with sin. Sin is up there encouraging us to hop on the sled and take a joy ride. Well we as humans give in. We say hey, what is a little sin going to hurt and we get on. Before you know it, all of that joy of riding down the hill is gone, and it is time to ! climb back up.



Sin can be joyful sometimes, but it always has an end. Let me tell you that there is a joy that wont end. GOD. He is there to give you eternal life and let you have the wonders of living in a place better than you could ever imagine. Heaven. And there is one thing that can get you there. Jesus. Jesus was put on the cross and he filled the gap between

man and God. He is like a bridge that only the Christians who have him can see. All of the others are still trying to jump fly or are just giving up. Well dont be one of those people.

Now before you delete this, then just let me say something. Someday when your life has passed and you stand in front of the Lord for your acceptance in heaven, dont tell him you never had the chance. All you have to do is say a simple prayer asking christ into your life. Ohh, and if you are one of those people who think christ believers are just zany and have too much energy, it is just because after you have got christ, you are bursting with so much energy. And they arent afraid of what others think, it only matters what the Lord thinks.

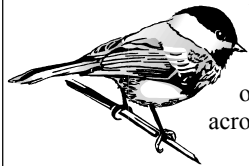
Live your life the way you want to live it, just make the right decision about where you want your after-life. Now i am not going to end this like all of those "If you send this to others then you will have good luck for the rest of life" emails. I just want to say that if you say well i have already got christ and delete it then you arent doing a good job. Send this to others so u will give them a chance to recieve the joy.

Thanx to all of my Christian friends who call on me for help and encourage me in times of need. Please all pass this along, for you know what it is like to have the joy, now is your chance to give others that. Thanx.

## BURDENS GIVE US WINGS

FROM E-MAIL MINISTRY

An old legend relates that long ago God had a great many burdens which He wished to have carried from one place to another on earth, so He asked the animals to lend a hand. But all of them began to make excuses for not helping: the elephant was too dignified; the lion, too proud; and so on. Finally the birds came to God and said, "If you will tie the burdens into small bundles, we'll be glad to carry them for you. We are small but we would like to help."



So God fastened upon the back of each one a small bundle, and they all set out walking across the plain to their destination. They sang as

they went, and did not seem to feel the weight of their burdens at all. Every-day the burdens seemed lighter and lighter, until the loads seems to be lifting the birds, instead of the birds carrying the burdens. When they arrived at their destination, they discovered that when they removed their loads, there were wings in their place, wings which enabled them to fly to the sky and the tree tops.

They had learned how to carry their burdens, and their ads had become wings to carry them nearer to God. Burdens we carry for others may become wings of the spirit, to lift us into happiness such as we have never known.

-- Author Unknown



## UPDATE FROM THE TODDS

After almost 4 months of not eating, our daughter Jolynn is finally going to be having surgery. She is still full of infection, but the doctors involved with her feel it is time for this to happen. Please pray for Jolynn (and us) as we prepare for her upcoming surgery. The surgery will be at Sparrow Hospital on October 23 at 2 P.M. Thank you for the outpouring of love you have shown us as we have traveled on this journey.

God Loves You and So Do We  
Joel and Julie Todd

**Editor's Note:** Unfortunately, this newsletter did not get published before Jolynn's operation. We have an update to the update. The operation went as expected, and Jolynn is out of intensive care. The pancreatitis has returned, but the medical team had anticipated it, and is dealing with it. Jolynn is at a critical point, but is stable. She will remain in the hospital for about another week. Please continue to pray for Jolynn, but also for Joel and Julie and the whole family.