

DAY 24

LIN, CHRISTMAS WILL COME AGAIN THIS YEAR

by Linda Idoine

Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. (Proverbs 16:24)

Like you, probably, I have experienced many losses in my life. My mother died when I was 16, and my beloved father, at 28. My best girl friend died just a few years later.

But a different loss came when my first husband, the father of my three children, left us one fall. The kids were three, seven, and eight, and I needed to care for them while going back to school. Yes, this loss was different – and created a very dark time in my life. My younger brother, Dan, always the goof-ball of the family, surprised me by knowing just what to

say: “Lin, Christmas will come again this year.” Despite the new void in my life, I still had the support of faith and family, and that made all the difference.

When you go bowling, sometimes the pins get so disarrayed that the automatic machine can’t get them back in order. Then you press the RESET button by the ball return, and the whole mess gets cleaned up and put right again. Christmas is God’s RESET button for lives in a mess, and a world in disarray. Just when you need it most, Christmas restores our faith, re-centers our lives, and revives our lagging spirits.

Advent puts us in the mood to recognize our condition, face our problems, and acknowledge that we can’t make it all right again by ourselves. We need God’s Holy RESET, and we will welcome it, especially, because Christmas will come again this year.

DEAR FRIEND AND PERFECT PARENT, RESTORE AND REVIVE US THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON.