

# Angela's Christmas Wish

In a small village, there is a family of three. Angela is the daughter, Maria is the mother, and Joseph is the younger brother of Angela. The father recently died and left them poor. Maria sells flowers by the church to make a living and to support her two children but does not make a lot of money. They live in a shack but they are happy even though they do not have enough food to eat everyday. One night, before going to bed, Angela prayed and wished that this coming Christmas, the family would have enough food to eat and share with them. Her mother heard her prayers which was why she saved and put money in a jar of glass after she sold flowers to fulfill Angela's wish.

On the day before Christmas, Angela and her brother Joseph were playing outside. Maria grabbed the glass jar full of coins that she saved for the food that she would buy for the Christmas feast. But all of a sudden, she heard a noise because her house is divided only by the thin wall of her neighbor. She went to her neighbor's house, knocked, went inside, and she saw and found out that the old couple are very sick and needs some medicine. Maria, without hesitation, went to the village pharmacy and bought medicine and food. Maria arrived at home before sunset with her children so excited to see what was inside her mother's bag. Angela was shocked. Inside the bag there was two big loaves of bread, cheese, and medicine. "Mama," Angela asked, "Where are the fruits and ham? And why did you buy bread and cheese, our usual everyday food? It's Christmas, Mama, Christmas!" Maria was speechless. She started to explain to her children, "I found out that our neighbor was

very weak and ill, so with the money that we saved for our feast, I bought medicine for them and the remaining was for our food. Angela was so upset and angry. Her mother explained what Christmas was all about. "Christmas is not about new clothes, gifts, delicious foods, and toys. It is about love of God and his son Jesus. It is about sharing, kindness, and helping those in need. Be grateful, Angela. At least we have our family, food to eat every day, and we have shelter." Angela cried and hugged her mom and said, "Thank you for teaching us to value love and be selfless. You are more than a gift that I wish this Christmas." The whole family went to their neighbor, gave the medicine, shared their food, and celebrated Christmas. Angela learned a lesson that Christmas is all about love and family.

**Kirsten S.**