

December 5, 2025



ALL OVER THE WORLD

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.”

PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN

Reflection

Where have you celebrated the holidays? I have had occasion to celebrate all over the globe: Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada, Japan, Morocco, Algeria, and Niger, to name a few places. One memory stands out for me, in part because as a child everything is an adventure, and as a military brat, you never know where and when you are going to move.

Twenty-one days from our departure from Honolulu, where my dad was stationed at Pearl Harbor, we disembarked to begin a new life in Japan. We docked in Yokohama, and because there was no dependent housing available,

we took up residence at the Yokohama Hotel. It was getting close to Christmas when we arrived and there were Christmas trees posted at various locations around the hotel. We shared the holiday with a significant number of homeless dependent families; it was a joyful albeit different sort of Christmas.

Us kids congregated together and set out on expeditions to explore portions of the large city adjacent to our makeshift housing. We were shepherded by our respective babysitters, who were teenagers and very responsible. The older kids had gained their responsibilities on board the ship, which allowed our mothers to play canasta in the afternoons.

As we journeyed away from the hotel, Japanese script dominated the urban signage, small foreign vehicles and larger autos from the States traveled on the left-hand side of the road, and the sound of the Japanese language and music coming from televisions or radios sounded mysteriously discordant to our Western ears. Televised Sumo matches, which could be viewed from store windows, particularly captured our attention as we watched very large men in their oddly shaped underwear grunt and growl as they smacked their feet on the ground preparing to enter battle. What a joy to be witness to a variety of celebrations all over the world!



For Pondering

- What wonders have you witnessed during an unusual holiday time?
- What spiritual gems have you uncovered along the way?
- How has God met you along your path of discovery?

For Prayer

*Sacred Constant and Unfolding Presence,
thank you for the surety and steadfastness in the celebration of the season.
Open my eyes to the wonders and the transformative potential
of experiencing life in all of its expressions.*

*I ask for foresight and flexibility and to be the light of Faith, Hope and Love
to everyone I am blessed to meet along the way.*

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