

**WITH EVERY
CHRISTMAS CARD
I MAKE**

by Benjamin Martin



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PRODUCTION NOTE

From a writer's point of view, the two dangers of a Christmas pageant are cliché and schmaltz. The challenge is to portray the power of the Christmas message in a fresh format while addressing a variety of talents and age levels. *With Every Christmas Card I Make* was written in response to this challenge, and its humor, as a result, carried an element of risk.

The seeming "sarcastic" shell of the play risks offending those who do not discover its reverent heart. For me, it achieves a celebration of the season, pokes fun at the human element in all our Christmas traditions, offers a chance for all to participate and at poignant moments, breaks through to a message I hold dear.

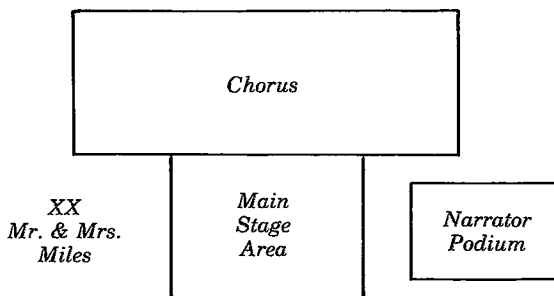
Having grown up in a strong fundamentalist church, I understand that the mixing and matching of Christmas traditions with the Christian story can be offensive. I recognize the license taken with scriptural stories can invite censorship rather than create the opening of a "What if . . ." approach. It is my hope that churches of all denominations will accept this script in this spirit, making whatever minor amendments may be necessary to keep it appropriate to one's own denominational persuasion.

Benjamin H. Martin

PRODUCTION NOTES

With Every Christmas Card I Make was written for and performed by a Sunday school of fifty children of ages ranging from three to eighteen. It was written so every participant had at least one speaking part.

A chorus is used throughout the presentation and includes everyone who is not a principal in a particular skit. Below is a suggested stage layout.



- Mr. and Mrs. Miles are used to tie one skit into the next. They are seated Stage Right of the main stage area in a living room area.
- As stage changes are made, it is recommended that the accompanist play transitional segments of Christmas songs. Recommendations are made as to where a song should be inserted and what song could be used.
- For each skit, it is noted which ages performed the skit in the original production but the skits are such that they can easily be adapted to different age groups.
- Something that works well is to assign each pre-K participant a Junior or Senior High buddy to help them with their cues and stay with them Backstage before the performance. Also alert pre-K parents that after the "Attending Animals" skit it is permissible for their children to join them in the audience.
- Members of each skit step out of the chorus into the main stage area of the action then return to the chorus when the skit is finished.
- The chorus stands to sing.

INTRODUCTION

SETTING: MR. BRIAN MILES and MRS. SUZANNE MILES are seated in their living room, dressed for bed. MR. MILES is reading a paper and MRS. MILES is going through a box of Christmas cards.

MRS. M: Around December first, when I get Emily's five-page, single-spaced Christmas message, saying how smart and tidy everyone in her happy family is, I say *next* year I'm going to write everyone a card — even Emily. But then the snowball starts.

MR. M: Snowball?

MRS. M: Yeah, you know — in June, Mary Kay says, "Would you mind helping the women's group put on a little shindig around Christmas?" "Sure," I say — Christmas seems so far away and she did say a *little* shindig. Then in July, Julie Ann says that the PTA is planning a Santa's Workshop at school and wonders if I can help out. How could I say no to Santa? And then in August, Marlene has this great idea of having a little Christmas gathering of all the city's residents with the last name of Smith and wants to know if I'd mind co-hosting the event. So what started out as a little shindig in June has snowballed into a Mt. Everest of a month. By November first, I'm usually chilled out just by the thought of Christmas and refuse to write a blessed word to anyone — even Santa. But this year is different. This year I'm going to make my cards.

MR. M: Make them?

MRS. M: Make them.

MR. M: And write them?

MRS. M: Make them and write them.

MR. M: I'll donate seventy-five dollars for a box of cards already signed.

MRS. M: No, I'm going to make them *and* I'm even going to send one to Emily and her tidy family.

MR. M: But how will you make them?

1 **MRS. M:** Easy, I'll use old Christmas cards and combine them
2 with some new ideas.

3 **MR. M:** Two thousand years of Christmas cards and you
4 think you can come up with an original idea.

5 **MRS. M:** Well, maybe not, but at least it will be personal
6 and come with a little bit of myself in the envelope.

7 **MR. M:** But what will you say? What will your message be?

8 **MRS. M:** Well, I'll look through these and get some ideas. Ah,
9 here's one, a beautiful snow scene. Nothing more
10 beautiful than a Christmas card of a white Christmas.

11 **MR. M:** You mean, nothing more ridiculous than a white
12 Christmas. If Mary and Joseph had a white Christmas in
13 Bethlehem, you can bet it was a hail storm. Judea wasn't
14 Maine or New Hampshire.

15 **MRS. M:** A white Christmas and angels — that would make a
16 perfect Christmas card.

17 **MR. M:** Perfect, if you say so. How can I disagree?

18 *(Lights out.)*

19 **ANGLES IN THE SNOW**

20 **AGE:** Pre-K through kindergarten

21 **PROPS:** Children can be dressed in winter hats, scarves and gloves.

22

23 **If I lie back in the crunchy snow**
24 **and swoosh my arms up as far as they'll go**

25 *(Raise arms above head)*

26 **and then scoop that snow down to my sides,**

27 *(Bring arms to sides)*

28 **I always get a big surprise.**

29 **For when I stand up and look to see,**

30 **I find an angel was lying under me.**

31

32 **SONG:** Suggestion — "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" (*Pre-K's*
33 *sing first verse by themselves then the chorus joins in on a second*
34 *time through.*)

35 *(Lights out.)*

SOMETHING FUN

(Lights come up on MR. and MRS. MILES.)

MRS. M: I *could* do something fun that's associated with the season — like decorating the tree or making Christmas cookies.

MR. M: Decorating the tree; now that's a fun thought. Why, I have only joyous memories of decorating the tree. Memories like, "Where is that stupid burnt out bulb anyway? I'm about to rip this whole set off and torch the tree." Or "Who sat on the angel?" or, "If anyone so much as lays a hand on one sliver of icicle, I'm going to punch their lights out."

MRS. M: Hmmm. Maybe you're right. Maybe I won't do the Christmas tree. How about a card of Christmas cookies — that might be fun.

(Lights out.)

CHRISTMAS COOKIES

AGE: Makers — first graders; Readers — second graders.

STAGE: Set up a card table with cookie-making utensils such as spatula, sprinkles jar, bowl, cookie trays and cardboard cookies. Have cookie makers pretending to decorate cookies while a group of readers gathers around the makers.

READER 1: If I could be a Christmas cookie.

I'd want lots of sprinkles all over me.

With sparkles of greens and shimmers of red

I'd want lots of frosty icing spread,

oozing across my oven tanned shape.

Not an inch of batter would I want to escape.

READER 2: I'd want to be a frosted Christmas tree

with sweet silver beads placed all over me

or a chewy wreath with a bow of red hots

or a big, jolly Santa Claus with lots

of candied pieces and raisins for a sack

with an icing beard and boots, food-colored black.

READER 3: Whatever my shape, I'd be decorated to kill

1 for I'd not only have tummy but eyes to fill.
 2 I might rather be a pointed star glazed white
 3 with glittering reds and greens shining bright.
 4 'Tis the season to be jolly and I say what better way
 5 than a frosted Santa dashing in a sprinkled red sleigh.

6 *(Cookie makers offer readers a cookie and then readers take a bite.)*

7 **READERS 1 - 3:** *(In unison)* Yum, yum, yum.

8 *(Lights out.)*

9 **PEACE AND QUIET**

10 *(Lights come up on MR. and MRS. MILES.)*

11 **MR. M:** Maybe it would help if you thought about who you
 12 want to send your cards to.

13 **MRS. M:** You mean, personalize the message to whomever
 14 it's going to?

15 **MR. M:** Yeah, something like that. Um . . . think of our favorite
 16 neighbors down the street — the Waldons. I'd like to
 17 combine the Peace on Earth message with the Silent
 18 Night message and title the card, One Night of Peace and
 19 Quiet — then, please in parentheses, followed by an
 20 exclamation point.

21 **MRS. M:** Don't be ridiculous. The message of the card is not
 22 to get across your gripes but to express the heart of the
 23 season.

24 **MR. M:** But really, noise *is* the heart of the season. You can
 25 sing "Silent Night" all you want, but how silent was it?

26 *(Lights out.)*

27 **THE BARN — PEACE AND QUIET**

28 **AGE:** JOSEPH and MARY — Junior High up.

29 **STAGE:** Manger on Stage Right with JOSEPH and MARY sleeping
 30 Centerstage. A scarf might be used to identify MARY and a
 31 shawl for JOSEPH.

32 **CHORUS:** *(Assign different animal noises to sections of chorus.*
 33 *Animal noises.)*

34 **JOSEPH:** Mary, are you asleep yet?

35 **MARY:** Are you kidding? With all this noise. How about you?

1 JOSEPH: Not with all this noise — and my body aches from
 2 the trip. I look forward to the day when we can just write
 3 our tax stuff down on a scroll and send it to the tax
 4 bureau. Wouldn't that be nice?

5 MARY: It sure sounds wonderful. I know I could have skipped
 6 this trip. What a journey! And then to have our baby born
 7 so far away from home and in such a "Not So Best Eastern"
 8 hotel.

9 JOSEPH: So far away from the special crib I made for him.

10 MARY: Born into *this* noisy world. We even had to empty the
 11 animal food out of the manger so he'd have a place to rest.

12 CHORUS: (*Animal noises.*)

13 JOSEPH: Funny — a carpenter's son ends up in a crude
 14 manger. I won't tell, if you won't.

15 MARY: With that huge light hovering over the stable I doubt
 16 if we can keep it a secret.

17 JOSPEH: Probably not. Oh well, the promise of his birth was
 18 a surprise and the style in which he will arrive a surprise.
 19 My guess is that we're in for a few more surprises before
 20 it's all over.

21 MARY: I think you're right.

22 CHORUS: (*Animal noises.*)

23 MARY: It's funny, all the noise I hear still can't compete with
 24 all the deep silence I feel.

25 JOSEPH: Noisy surroundings, but a beautiful night of quiet
 26 peace.

27 SONG: "Away in a Manger" — CHORUS

28 (*Lights out.*)

29 **GENERIC CHRISTMAS**

30 (*Lights up on MR. and MRS. MILES.*)

31 MR. M: I have an idea for a card.

32 MRS. M: What is it dear?

33 MR. M: A generic Christmas card.

34 MRS. M: Oh, Brian, I thought you were being serious.

35 MR. M: I am. It could read . . . "Extra costs of colors and

printing have been avoided. This card is suitable for everyday Christmas season use. Its appearance, depending on the post office, may vary. It may appear before Christmas or arrive sometime immediately thereafter. Happy Holiday slash Holidays."

MRS. M: Now, I'm totally serious about this and you are messing me up. When you think of it, the most fun part of the season is the presents. I could decorate each card to look like a present.

(Lights out.)

PRESENTS

AGE: Assign smaller lines to younger children and more complicated lines to older children. Can include pre-K on up to high school.

STAGE: CHORUS remains in position. The NARRATOR comes to the podium to read the lines. Members with lines stand and speak them from where they are seated.

NARRATOR: Presents

ALL: Presents

NARRATOR: It's not what they are, as much as what they might be.

READER 1: Maybe it's a puppy.

READER 2: A ten-speed bike.

READER 3: An ant farm.

READER 4: A drum set.

NARRATOR: Presents

ALL: Presents

NARRATOR: It's not the thought of the giver that counts so much, but the thoughts of the receiver that keeps on counting.

READER 5: I bet it's five GI Joes[™].

READER 6: Maybe twenty-five Nintendo[™] game tapes.

READER 7: I bet Mom spent fifty dollars on Shirley and a whopping five dollars on me.

READER 8: Mary has seven, Jimmy ten and I only have four.

- 1 **NARRATOR:** Presents
- 2 **ALL:** Presents
- 3 **NARRATOR:** It's not getting what you want so much, as
- 4 finding it before they wrap it.
- 5 **READER 9:** Under the bed of course.
- 6 **READER 10:** In the attic. I nearly killed myself.
- 7 **READER 11:** In my dad's sock drawer ... I don't want it
- 8 anymore.
- 9 **READER 12:** I know it's in the trunk. I just can't find the key.
- 10 **NARRATOR:** Presents
- 11 **ALL:** Presents
- 12 **NARRATOR:** The Wise Men brought them and so it has
- 13 seemed a wise idea from the beginning to give presents?
- 14 **READER 13:** If Aunt Mable gives me another plastic souvenir
- 15 from North Dakota, I'll just die.
- 16 **READER 14:** This year I want something educational like my
- 17 own VCR so I can watch National Geographic specials
- 18 before I go to sleep. Of course, if the *Goonies* is in the
- 19 video store, I might rent it and watch it after I finish the
- 20 specials.
- 21 **READER 15:** Maybe I could give Dad the newest game. If he
- 22 doesn't want to play it, I'm sure I could get David to play
- 23 with me.
- 24 **READER 16:** Since it is more blessed to give than to receive, I
- 25 won't be selfish this year. I'll let others have the blessing
- 26 — they can give to me and I'll bear the burden of receiving.
- 27 **NARRATOR:** Presents
- 28 **ALL:** Presents
- 29 **NARRATOR:** Presents come with different meanings from
- 30 different people with different definitions.
- 31 **READER 17:** Present — something you say to let them know
- 32 you're here.
- 33 **READER 18:** Present Tense — that nervous feeling over
- 34 what's currently inside the box.
- 35 **READER 19:** Presents of Mind — the present you just can't

1 stop thinking about, like the CD player and color TV
2 console you want at the foot of your bed.

3 **READER 20:** Present Past — the tie you keep giving your
4 dad. Even though it changes patterns and sometimes the
5 color, goes in the same box with same ribbon on it and
6 he always says the same thing, “Oh sweetheart, you
7 shouldn’t have.”

8 **NARRATOR:** Presents

9 **ALL:** Presents

10 **NARRATOR:** The presents of the Magi were a way to say I
11 recognize that this birth is the birth of the Christ. And so
12 our presents continue to this day to say, I recognize the
13 divine in you, the good you bring to me throughout the year.

14 **READER 21:** I made it myself.

15 **READER 22:** It took all of my allowance and then some, but I
16 knew it was just what you needed.

17 **READER 23:** I was afraid you wouldn’t like it, but I risked
18 it anyway.

19 **READER 24:** It’s not much but it took all I had and said
20 everything I wanted to say.

21 **NARRATOR:** Presents

22 **ALL:** Presents

23 **NARRATOR:** Presents come in all shapes and sizes and all
24 sorts of price tags but they still seem to speak with one
25 voice, one message.

26 **ALL:** I love you.

27 **SONG:** Suggestions — “Nuttin for Christmas” or “We Wish You
28 A Merry Christmas” (*Have one or two soloists sing main verses*
29 *and CHORUS join in on refrains.*)
30 (*Lights out.*)

31 **CHRISTMAS BY COMMITTEE**

32 (*Lights come up on MR. and MRS. MILES.*)

33 **MRS. M:** Presents aren’t a bad idea, but then there are so
34 many beautiful nativity scenes with the angels, the
35 crèche, the shepherds.

1 **MR. M:** That's it. We could send a card showing "Christmas
2 by Committee". You could have little elves and the like
3 in different groups with the subtitles, Long Range Paper
4 Committee, Christmas Council Wrap Up, Christmas
5 Editing Committee, the Communication Committee.

6 **MRS. M:** Sure, what a sweet, thoughtful message — "How
7 many committees does it take to wrap a present?" You're
8 making me tired, Brian.

9 **MR. M:** But really Suzanne, when you think of it, Christmas
10 was done by committee. There was the Publicity Committee
11 of angels, the Welcoming Committee of shepherds, the
12 Attending Committee of animals and the Gifting Committee
13 of the Magi.

14 **MRS. M:** So you think of a title like Christmas by Committee
15 — the Publicity Committee and then a picture of the
16 angels, huh?

17 **MR. M:** Not a bad idea when you think about it.

18 *(Lights out.)*

19 **CHRISTMAS BY COMMITTEE — PUBLICITY**

20 **AGE:** Junior High up.

21 **STAGE:** Angels with halos are seated in four chairs. Two chairs
22 are on either side of an easel. Page on the easel has the title,
23 "Publicity Committee".

24 **ANGEL 1:** OK guys, we've got a virgin birth here with the
25 Son of God ready to arrive any day and we still don't have
26 a good marketing plan. How are we going to get the word
27 out?

28 **HIGGINS (Angel 2):** How about a thirty-second spot in front
29 of the temple with the announcement: Your lives are
30 about to change for the good.

31 **ANGEL 3:** You've got to think of your audience, Higgins. The
32 last thing you want to do is threaten the religious leaders
33 with competition. We've got to reach the right people
34 with the right message.

35 **ANGEL 4:** How about a spontaneous series of miracles?

1 **ANGEL 1:** But how will the people connect the miracles to
2 the birth of this baby?

3 **HIGGINS:** (*Stands up.*) How about a search torch that sweeps
4 the sky with its light and a red carpet to the plush inn
5 where the special couple is staying.

6 **ANGEL 4:** Higgins, where have you been? Didn't you hear
7 that their reservations got mixed up and there's no place
8 for them to stay but in a stable.

9 **HIGGINS:** Stable? (*Sits down.*) Good God! (*Realizes shouldn't have
10 said it.*) Excuse me. We can't do a big promotional pitch for a
11 baby born in a stable. We'd be laughed out of the marketplace.

12 **ANGEL 3:** Precisely, that's the whole reason we got this
13 project dumped on us. No big shot angel would touch it.
14 It's tricky business. Gabriel had the easy part, now we've
15 got to figure out a way to reach the hearts of the people
16 without becoming the laughing stock of the industry *and*
17 without threatening the king or the Pharisees.

18 **ANGEL 1:** I really like the torch light idea associating it with
19 a world class première. Something never seen before.

20 **HIGGINS:** But don't you see, it's not just another Moses
21 Speilberg production. This is a low budget event that, on
22 the other hand, will change the course of human history.

23 **ANGEL 3:** We could take some clouds, shape them into letters
24 and then color them with the sunset announcing the King
25 has been born!

26 **ANGEL 1:** Too unreliable. I've got it. (*Draws star on easel.*) How
27 about a star that is brighter than any star man has seen,
28 and we essentially hang it over the stable where the baby
29 is to be born. Those who understand the heavenly message
30 will immediately know what has taken place . . . those
31 who are not ready to know will only be impressed with
32 the brightness of the light and take no destructive action.

33 **ANGEL 3:** Brilliant idea, Archibella. No pun intended. We
34 could pass out leaflets saying a star is born this night in
35 Bethlehem.

- 1 **ANGEL 4:** No, no, no! This has got to be full of quiet significance.
2 The child must have space to grow and man must have
3 time to make room in his heart.
- 4 **HIGGINS:** But we still have got to reach the people somehow.
- 5 **ANGEL 4:** If it's a stable you've got, you'll only get stable
6 keepers to come.
- 7 **ANGEL 3:** That's it. We'll go to the people who will understand
8 the beauty of a birth that takes place among the animals.
9 We'll go to the shepherds and tell them.
- 10 **ANGEL 1:** Yes, that's it. But don't tell it, let's sing it.
- 11 **HIGGINS:** Oh, not me. I took harp lessons just so I wouldn't
12 get stuck singing at every heavenly event.
- 13 **ANGEL 3:** I'm afraid we're all in this together, Higgins. But
14 let's come up with our jingle. What is it we really want
15 to say?
- 16 **ANGEL 1:** I've got it. Something like . . . (*Suggest singing a line*
17 *or two from "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" or a similar*
18 *Christmas song.*)
- 19 **ANGEL 3:** No, no, Archibella. He's not here to make man
20 worry about whether they've been good or not. He's here
21 to bring the highest peace they can know — peace of the
22 heart.
- 23 **HIGGINS:** That's our message then. Glory to God in the
24 highest and on earth peace to men upon whom his favor
25 rests.
- 26 **ANGEL 1:** OK, I like that. But maybe I should go ahead of you
27 and let the shepherds know the whens and wherefores
28 and then we'll all cluster together and sing our song.
- 29 **ANGEL 4:** What a wild promotional idea! Take it to the
30 shepherds and let them pass the word along.
- 31 **ANGEL 3:** It will be a grass roots movement!
- 32 **ANGEL 4:** We're not pitching this to the sheep, you know.
- 33 **ANGEL 3:** Very funny. But the fact remains, tell it simply to
34 the simple at heart and the message will be heard around
35 the world.

1 **HIGGINS:** What a strategy and now I've got to practice my
2 voice. (*Sings*) Glo - - - - - r-ia!

3 **ANGEL 3:** By Gadfrey, Higgins, I think you've got it!

4 **SONG:** Suggestion — "Hark! the Herald Angles Sing" — CHORUS
5 (*Lights out.*)

6 **FAR SIDE**

7 (*Lights come up on MR. and MRS. MILES.*)

8 **MR. M:** How about a "Far Side"™ card.

9 **MRS. M:** Now that surely captures the season.

10 **MR. M:** It could be a Santa Claus and he could be coming
11 down the church aisle and he could be . . . (*Person dressed*
12 *as Santa comes down the aisle carrying four or five hoes and*
13 *starts shouting, "Hoe, hoe, hoe — Merry Christmas," and hands*
14 *out the hoes to people in the audience. Suggestion: recruit Santa*
15 *for pictures after performance.*)

16 **MRS. M:** (*After Santa leaves.*) I think I like your Christmas by
17 Committee idea better than your "Far Side" idea.

18 **MR. M:** You mean my Welcoming Committee idea of shepherds?

19 **MRS. M:** Well, it's an improvement over your "Better
20 Gardening" Santa Claus.
21 (*Lights out.*)

22 **SHEPHERDS**

23 **AGE:** Fourth and fifth graders.

24 **STAGE:** NARRATOR is at podium. Manger is Stage Right while
25 SHEPHERDS enter carrying puppet lambs and/or shepherd
26 staffs. Cowherder (JOHN JEHOSEPHAT) wears a cowboy hat
27 and begins the skit by hiding behind a tree, e.g., cowherder
28 holds piece of shrub.

29 **NARRATOR:** A story not often told, but well known among
30 those who are in the know, is the story of the three good
31 shepherds. (*SHEPHERDS raise arms like champions.*)

32 **CHORUS:** Yeah!

33 **NARRATOR:** And the one evil cowherder. (*Cowherder raises*
34 *arms.*)

35 **CHORUS:** Boo! Hiss!

- 1 **NARRATOR:** You see, when the shepherds were tending
 2 their sheep that fateful night, John Jehosophat was
 3 spying on the shepherds.
- 4 **JOHN JEHOSEPHAT (Cowherder):** *(Hidden behind tree)* I've
 5 got it. I'll beat them to the stable and I will be known
 6 through the ages as the cowherder who greeted the
 7 newborn King.
- 8 **CHORUS:** Boo! Hiss!
- 9 **SHEPHERD 1:** Now, I don't think we should rush over there,
 10 boys. The mother's probably tired out and we need to
 11 spend a few days coming up with a special welcoming
 12 message.
- 13 **CHORUS MEMBER:** Oh no! Can you imagine singing, "A
 14 cowherder in the field where he spied?"
- 15 **NARRATOR:** As the evil cowherder got up to leave, the
 16 shepherds heard a crackle. *(SHEPHERDS put hands to*
 17 *ears.)* While most human beings would not have heard
 18 the noise, this was a band of the best *herders* in the land.
 19 They instantly knew that old Jehosophat had heard the
 20 news as well.
- 21 **CHORUS:** All right! Go shepherds, go!
- 22 **SHEPHERD 2:** We can't wait now guys. No cowherder is going
 23 to moo-ve faster than us. Because, when it comes to
 24 delivering messages, we're baaa-d.
- 25 **SHEPHERD 3:** Let's get going. *(SHEPHERDS and JEHOSEPHAT*
 26 *start circling stage.)*
- 27 **NARRATOR:** Jehosophat ran his heart out but the three
 28 good shepherds were right behind him.
- 29 **JEHOSEPHAT:** I'm the best, so I'll get there first.
- 30 **CHORUS:** Boo! Boo!
- 31 **NARRATOR:** But the first was to be last and the last was to
 32 be first, for there was a plan.
- 33 **CHORUS:** All right!
- 34 **NARRATOR:** The evil cowherder got to the stable first.
 35 *(Cowherder stops here and faces manger.)* But his mind froze

1 at the door and he was struck with what he was. He was,
2 as they say, struck dumb.

3 JEHOSOPHAT: What will I say? "Four score and seven years
4 ago." No! No! How about, "When in the course of human
5 events." No! No!

6 SHEPHERD 1: Remember the message boys! (*Pushes cowherder*
7 *to the side.*)

8 NARRATOR: The shepherds walked past a confused Jehosophat
9 and walked to where Mary and Joseph and the baby were.
10 (*SHEPHERDS fall to knees.*) They fell to their knees and said;

11 SHEPHERD 3: We have heard the glad tidings. We make room
12 in our hearts. Peace and good will to all.

13 NARRATOR: With that, Jehosophat knew there was nothing
14 he could do but return to his cows. For there was no real
15 message in his herder heart — only bull.

16 CHORUS: That's right!

17 NARRATOR: And so unto this day, it's the shepherds welcome
18 we recall, when they raced to the stable and told Mary
19 and Joseph what the angels had said. The world's greatest
20 moment touched their lives and so their rejoicing
21 continues to this day.

22 SONG: Suggestion — "Angels We Have Heard on High"
23 (*Lights out.*)

24 **CHRISTMAS BY COMMITTEE —**
25 **ATTENDING ANIMALS**

26 (*Lights come up on MR. and MRS. MILES.*)

27 MR. M: Really, this Christmas by Committee is an inspired
28 idea. You could have a collectors' series and every year send
29 a different committee. You know, like the first year is the
30 Publicity Committee, the next year is the Welcoming Com-
31 mittee and then the third year is the Attending Committee.

32 MRS. M: Why do I think I'm not going to get to do my cards
33 until you unload all the sarcasm you can onto my ideas.
34 So an Attending Committee of animals, is it?

35 (*Lights out.*)

ANIMALS

- 1
2 **AGE:** Keeper — Junior High up who has rapport with pre-K children;
3 Animals — pre-K children. NOTES: Optional, use animal ears
4 for each animal. Add or subtract animals as you have participants.
5 **KEEPER:** OK, OK let's get these committees together. Where's
6 the Attending Committee? (*Animals raise hands.*) All right,
7 you guys know what job number one is, right?
8 **ALL:** Right! We must keep the baby safe.
9 **KEEPER:** Right. Now what are we going to do if a robber
10 tries to break in and hurt the baby? (*Animals raise hands*
11 *to answer.*) Mrs. Cow.
12 **COW:** I have horns, I'd run after the robber.
13 **KEEPER:** Mrs. Pig.
14 **PIG:** I have sharp teeth, I'd chew their pants off.
15 **KEEPER:** Mrs. Sheep.
16 **SHEEP:** I could scold them and tell them how baaad they were.
17 **KEEPER:** Mrs. Bird.
18 **BIRD:** I could peck on their heads.
19 **KEEPER:** Mrs. Chicken.
20 **CHICKEN:** I could squawk in their ears.
21 **KEEPER:** Mrs. Horse.
22 **HORSE:** I would say, nay, nay and kick them with my shoes.
23 **KEEPER:** Mrs. Mule.
24 **MULE:** I would be brayayayve and stomp my feet and say no.
25 **KEEPER:** Mrs. Camel.
26 **CAMEL:** I would say, hump it out of here.
27 **KEEPER:** Mrs. Goat.
28 **GOAT:** I would take my horns and butt them with my head.
29 **KEEPER:** OK, should we try it?
30 **ALL:** (*Animal sounds*)
31 **SHEEP:** I have an idea. Instead of scaring bad people away
32 with mean sounds, maybe we could bring good people to
33 the baby by singing special songs.
34 **KEEPER:** Not a baaad idea, Mrs. Sheep.
35 **SONG:** "Do You Hear What I Hear?" (*Lights out.*)



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P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011
customerservice@christianpub.com