

LETTERS FROM SANTA

by Gail Gaymer Martin



CHRISTIANPUBLISHERS

Copyright Notice

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Christian Publishers. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Christian Publishers. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: *Produced by special arrangement with Christian Publishers.*

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Christian Publishers.

Letters from Santa

A Christmas program about
the truth of Christmas

by Gail Gaymer Martin

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Santa (Adult or teen male)

Santa's Helper

Child 1 (Girl)

Child 2 (Boy)

Child 3

Child 4

Child 5

Child 6

Child 7

Child 8

Child 9

Child 10

Unlimited Singers

PRODUCTION NOTES

Letters from Santa stresses the importance of Jesus' birth, even through Santa's eyes. As Christians, we might prefer to ignore Santa's importance at Christmas and some families do, but Santa has become a symbol of Christmas giving, and he is part of the holiday for many children. This program helps children understand that even Santa can worship and praise Jesus.

As eager and materialistic children request the latest and trendiest Christmas gifts, sad Santa loses his "ho, ho, ho." Then he comes up with an idea to help the children understand what is even more important. He provides the children with unusual gifts that symbolize aspects of Jesus' birth. As the children begin to understand, Santa's happiness grows, and he gets his "ho, ho, ho" back.

This short play requires the suggestion of a setting. A small decorated slim-line or tabletop Christmas tree stands onstage with a few wrapped gifts beneath or beside it. Nearby is a chair where Santa sits and a small table on his right where a stack of opened "Dear Santa" letters are piled. He holds one letter in his hand at the opening. The lines for Santa and Santa's Helper may be written on the children's letters so they have access to them. Each can wear a lavalier microphone or they many use one microphone that can pick up both voices.

In the opening scene with Santa, the children's lines are brief and could be memorized, but when each child has a scene beside the Christmas tree, most of the child's lines are read from Santa's letter so little memorization is needed. Each letter begins with "Dear" and each child will use his or her own name so the letter sounds personalized. One microphone on a stand can serve all of the children in their individual scenes.

The few props needed are supplied by Santa's Helper, who hands the appropriate prop to Santa. As Santa watches from behind the tree, Santa's Helper will provide Santa with the next gift needed in the script, and Santa will place it on the pile of wrapped gifts. The gifts with notes may be placed on a small table behind the tree so they are not seen by the audience.

If a smaller or larger cast is needed, some of the children in line to see Santa could be added or cut, making sure the two children with lines remain part of the cast. Many children can

participate in singing the Christmas song. More Santa's Helpers could be used and the dialogue shared.

The letters from Santa read by the children include a paraphrasing of the Christmas story with verses from Luke 2: 10-20, New International Version. The song the cast sings at the end uses one of two familiar Christmas tunes, "O Come, Little Children," or the traditional Cradle Song melody of "Away in a Manger." Both carols have the 11. 11. 11. 11. rhythm. The original lyrics were written by the playwright. The final page holds the lyrics which may be copied for the children. The tunes may be found in most music books of carols.

To add length to this program, you may add an opening and closing carol and prayers. A short commentary about how commercialism has caused the true meaning of Christmas to be lost could be written and shared by an adult or teenager.

Playing time of the script and song is approximately 20-25 minutes.

PROPS

"North Pole" sign, lighted tabletop or slim-line Christmas tree, boxes wrapped as Christmas presents, one small table, Santa's chair, stack of open "Dear Santa" letters on table, children's Christmas storybook about Jesus, candy cane, key with a note attached, lamb with a note attached, angel with a note attached, star with a note attached, candle with a note attached, 8½ x 11 card stock posters (see Advent Activity).

COSTUMES

Costuming is minimal. Santa should be dressed in a typical Santa suit, and he may be played by an adult or an older teen male. His helper will need an elf's cap and any pants and shirt with Christmas colors. This part may be played by a male or female. When visiting Santa at the department store, the children wear everyday clothes. In the Christmas tree scene, the children may dress in pajamas and slippers or in children's play clothes.

ADVENT ACTIVITY

During Advent, the children have an opportunity to prepare for Christmas by making the 8½ x 11 card stock posters they will display at the end of the program as they sing the song. One is needed for each child. The front of the poster will display the “meaning of Christmas” message and the back will hold the words to the Christmas song, “The True Christmas,” for them to look at as they sing. The children may create the short message on the individual posters or be given a message, such as: Christmas Is Jesus, Jesus Is Born, The True Christmas, Jesus Is Love, Jesus Is Salvation, The Gift Is Jesus, or Jesus Is the Gift. You may be creative and use other messages you have found in this short play. The poster provides not only a visual message for the performance and for the children to take home, but it also serves as a way to help them remember the lyrics when singing the song.

These posters will work best on card stock, since it is heavier than paper. Pastel colors can be used. The children can use colored markers as well as glitter. The drawings can be some of the Christmas symbols used in the play or other Christmas symbols that remind us of Jesus’ birth.

An added activity is to cut and decorate small card stock messages that may be distributed by the children to those in the congregation as they arrive or as they leave the service or children’s program.

1 *(The scene is Santa's workshop, with a sign reading "North Pole."
2 Small tabletop or slim-line Christmas tree stands nearby with
3 wrapped gifts beneath [used for next scene]. SANTA sits in a
4 chair, looking depressed. A stack of opened letters is on a small
5 table beside him. SANTA'S HELPER stands beside the table.)*

6 **SANTA:** *(Shaking head as he looks at the floor)* **No, no, no.** *(He
7 looks at the letter he's holding and sighs.)* **No, no, no.**

8 **SANTA'S HELPER:** *(Looks concerned.)* **What's wrong, Santa?
9 Where's your ho, ho, ho?**

10 **SANTA:** *(Selects a letter from the stack on the table.)* **Look at this.
11 (Gives letter to HELPER.)**

12 **SANTA'S HELPER:** *(Looks at letter.)* **Amy wants an iPhone. (He
13 is confused.)** **Is that bad?**

14 **SANTA:** **Every year I put gifts under Christmas trees all
15 around the world — iPods, Wiis, Xboxes.**

16 **SANTA'S HELPER:** **They're expensive.**

17 **SANTA:** *(Looks at his helper.)* **Yes, but it's not that. Did you see
18 what happened yesterday when I was in the
19 department store? *(SANTA rises, moves the chair forward,
20 and sits as five children line up to his left. He is unenthusiastic)*
21 **Ho, ho, ho. What would you like for Christmas?****

22 **CHILD 1:** **I want a Kindle.**

23 **SANTA:** **So you like storybooks?** *(SANTA'S HELPER hands him
24 a children's Christmas book.)* **What about a book like this
25 that tells the story of Jesus' birth?**

26 **CHILD 1:** *(Shakes her head no.)* **I just want a Kindle.**

27 **SANTA:** *(Discouraged)* **A Kindle. OK.** *(CHILD 1 is nudged out of
28 the way by CHILD 2. CHILD 1 exits.)*

29 **SANTA:** *(Unenthusiastic)* **Ho, ho, ho.**

30 **CHILD 2:** **I want a new dirt bike. A good one.**

31 **SANTA:** **I'll add it to my sleigh, but here's a candy cane for
32 now. See, it's shaped like a shepherd's crook, and when
33 you turn it upside down, it's a J, and it stands for —**

34 **CHILD 2:** *(Turns his back.)* **I just want a dirt bike. (Exits.)**

35 **CHILD 3:** *(Steps forward.)* **I want a Nintendo _____. (Insert
36 latest Nintendo gadget. Turns and walks away.)**

37 **CHILD 4:** *(Steps forward.)* **I want a laptop. (Turns and walks
38 away.)**

- 1 **CHILD 5:** *(Steps forward.)* **I want a life-size robot.** *(Turns and*
2 *walks away.)*
- 3 **SANTA'S HELPER:** **I see what you mean, Santa.**
- 4 **SANTA:** *(Picks up the stack of letters.)* **They're missing the true**
5 **meaning of Christmas, and I haven't helped them**
6 **understand. And some parents haven't told them the**
7 **true meaning, either.**
- 8 **SANTA'S HELPER:** **What is the true meaning?**
- 9 **SANTA:** **I want parents to teach their children about Jesus'**
10 **birth, and I need to help them learn who I really am.**
11 *(Rubs his forehead as he looks through the stack of letters. He*
12 *smiles and stands.)* **I have an idea.**
- 13 **SANTA'S HELPER:** *(Excited)* **What is it?**
- 14 **SANTA:** **Just wait and see.** *(SANTA and his helper remove the*
15 *chair, table, and stack of letters, then go behind the Christmas*
16 *tree to watch the CHILDREN on Christmas morning. As each*
17 *CHILD approaches, SANTA places an unwrapped gift with a*
18 *note attached with the others, then hides. The first gift is a key.*
19 *CHILD 6 tiptoes forward, looking at the tree and the gifts.)*
- 20 **CHILD 6:** *(Calls out)* **Mommy, Santa came.** *(CHILD 6 notices the*
21 *key and sees the note.)* **Santa wrote me a letter!** *(Reads.)*
22 **Dear___,** *(Insert CHILD 6's real name.)* **I am giving you a**
23 **gift that tells you about Jesus who was born so that you**
24 **would have the gift of eternal life. The Bible says a**
25 **young man named Joseph went from his town of**
26 **Nazareth to Bethlehem because he belonged to the**
27 **house and line of David. He went there to register with**
28 **Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was**
29 **expecting a child. While they were there, the time came**
30 **for the baby to be born, but they couldn't find a room. A**
31 **kind innkeeper let them stay in his stable. Mary gave**
32 **birth to her firstborn son, Jesus. She wrapped him in**
33 **cloths and placed him in a manger. When you look at**
34 **this key, remember that Jesus didn't need a key**
35 **because he was born in a stable, and most of his life he**
36 **traveled, telling people about God's love for them. He**
37 **didn't have a home. He came to earth to give you eternal**
38 **life.** *(CHILD 6 looks again at the key.)* **Jesus was born in a**

1 **stable, and he was born for me.** (*As CHILD 6 exits, SANTA*
 2 *adds a lamb to the other gifts. CHILD 7 comes forward and*
 3 *sees the packages.*)

4 **CHILD 7: Hey, Dad! Santa was here.** (*He spots the unwrapped*
 5 *gift and picks it up. It is a lamb. Then he notices the letter.*)
 6 **Wow! A letter from Santa!** (*Reads.*) **Dear____,** (*Insert*
 7 *CHILD 7's real name.*) **I am giving you a gift that tells you**
 8 **about Jesus who was born so that you would have the**
 9 **gift of eternal life. The Bible tells the story of Mary and**
 10 **Joseph, who went to Bethlehem to register for the tax,**
 11 **and while they were there, the time came for their baby**
 12 **to be born. Because there was no room for them in the**
 13 **inn, Jesus was born in a stable, and Mary placed him in**
 14 **a manger. And there were shepherds living out in the**
 15 **fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night,**
 16 **and an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the**
 17 **glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were**
 18 **terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid."**
 19 **So when you see the lamb, remember that lowly**
 20 **shepherds were the first to hear the news that Jesus**
 21 **was born, and because of him, you do not have to be**
 22 **afraid. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, because when you**
 23 **are confused and lost, he will guide you back to his**
 24 **arms and will take care of you.** (*CHILD 7 looks at the*
 25 *lamb.*) **Jesus is my Good Shepherd. He loves me and**
 26 **watches over me. I don't have to be afraid.** (*He calls out*
 27 *toward Off-Stage, as if to his father.*) **Dad! Look what Santa**
 28 **gave me.** (*As CHILD 7 exits, Santa slips an angel with a note*
 29 *attached on the other gifts. CHILD 8 enters, goes to the tree,*
 30 *and picks up the angel. The child looks at the note.*)

31 **CHILD 8: A note from Santa!** (*Reads.*) **Dear____,** (*Insert CHILD*
 32 *8's real name.*) **I am giving you a gift that tells you about**
 33 **Jesus who was born so that you would have the gift of**
 34 **eternal life. The Bible says that when Jesus was born,**
 35 **an angel appeared to the shepherds, and the glory of**
 36 **the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.**
 37 **But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring**
 38 **you good news of great joy that will be for all the**

1 people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been
 2 born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to
 3 you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in
 4 a manger.” When you look at this angel, remember that
 5 the angel told the shepherds that Jesus was their
 6 Savior. He came to earth to save all people from sin and
 7 death and to give them eternal life if they believed in
 8 Him. *(CHILD 8 hugs the angel.)* Jesus gave me eternal life.
 9 *(As CHILD 8 exits, Santa adds a star with a note to the other*
 10 *packages. CHILD 9 enters, goes to the tree, and picks up the*
 11 *star. The child looks at the note.)*

12 **CHILD 9:** Dear____, *(Insert CHILD 9’s real name.)* I am giving
 13 you a gift that tells you about Jesus who was born so
 14 that you would have the gift of eternal life. The Bible
 15 tells the story of Jesus’ birth and how an angel
 16 appeared to shepherds in the fields, and suddenly a
 17 great company of the heavenly host appeared with the
 18 angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the
 19 highest, and on earth peace to men on whom he favors.”
 20 When the angels had gone into heaven, the shepherds
 21 said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this
 22 thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us
 23 about.” When you look at this star, remember that along
 24 with the stars, the sky was filled with angels
 25 announcing Jesus’ birth and praising God that Jesus
 26 offers you eternal life. Just as a star guided the wise
 27 men to Jesus, the stars and angels filled the sky that
 28 night, and you are reminded that Jesus is your Savior
 29 and your path to heaven. *(CHILD 9 holds the star up.)*
 30 Jesus gives me the gift of heaven. *(As CHILD 9 exits,*
 31 *SANTA adds a candle with a note to the other packages.*
 32 *CHILD 10 enters, goes to the tree, and picks up the candle.)*

33 **CHILD 10:** *(Looks at the note.)* A letter from Santa! *(Reads.)*
 34 Dear____, *(Insert CHILD 10’s real name.)* I am giving you a
 35 gift that tells you about Jesus who was born so that you
 36 would have the gift of eternal life. The Bible tells us the
 37 story of Jesus’ birth and how an angel appeared to
 38 shepherds in the fields, and when they were gone, the



Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

LETTERS FROM SANTA

by Gail Gaymer Martin.

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011

customerservice@christianpub.com