

ARE YOU COMING?

*by Phil Gilbreath
& Steve Markovich*



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

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.

Are You Coming?

A contemporary play for
the Christmas season

by Phil Gilbreath and Steve Markovich

The Scripture quotation in this publication is from The New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

BOY

A twelve-year-old boy full of excitement and joy, yet with an underlying sadness about him. (NOTE: Although this character displays considerable sadness, he *does not* pout.)

MRS. JONES

A harried mother in her mid-thirties.

MISSY JONES

An eight-year-old girl who is generally sweet.

CAROLERS

Three strolling singers who let nothing stand in the way of their quest to spread merriment.

REV. TOM

A middle-aged pastor who is distracted by his duties.

CHUBBY

A stout young man intent on having a really good time.

VICKY

Chubby's clingy girlfriend who has succeeded in wrapping Chubby around her finger.

PARTY PACK

Three friends of Chubby and Vicky who are eager participants in the quest for revelry.

GRANNY

A bustling elderly woman whose call in life is baking cookies.

MORRIS

A snappish mail carrier who only wants to finish his rounds and kick up his feet.

CALVIN

An obnoxious pre-teen kid whose only goal is to “cover all the bases” when it comes to his Christmas gifts.

SIMON

A young father and husband who is out for a quiet walk.

CURTIS

A small boy of five or six.

PASTOR

Your pastor says a few words at the end of the drama to summarize its message.

PRODUCTION NOTES

SUMMARY

The invitations have been sent and the decorations put up. Now, a twelve-year-old boy (whose identity becomes apparent as that of Jesus) waits for his guests to arrive at his birthday party. But as one person after another acknowledges the day in his or her own fashion while rejecting the invitation, the boy begins to despair that no one has truly remembered the *meaning* of Christmas. Finally, a small boy seated in the congregation comes forward and simply exhibits more understanding of the significance of Christmas than any of the others before him.

SCENE

The scene is a modern-day birthday party, complete with a table, two to three chairs, and appropriate decorations (Christmas themes and/or colors OK).

COSTUMES

The Boy should be dressed as a normal twelve-year-old boy, though nothing too “showy” or “trendy.” Everyone else should be dressed for the Christmas season, with the Carolers especially decked out in all their holiday glory. Morris should be dressed as a mail carrier.

PROPS

A birthday cake with a cutting knife, paper plates, and plastic forks

Christmas packages and shopping bags

Caroling books

A stack of note paper

A large radio and a large ice chest

A batch of cookies

An over-full mailbag

A sealed envelope marked “Return to Sender”

A ridiculously long “wish list”

A pencil

An invitation

CASTING

The part of the Boy need not necessarily be played by a child. In our drama team, we often have adults portray adolescents and children. It is amazing how “childish” adult actors can be when called upon to do so. It is a demanding part, and a good adult actor should easily pull off the child-like qualities needed for the role.

The casting could be pared down in the following manner; Mrs. Jones could be a part of the Carolers with a quick costume change. Similarly, the Carolers could double as the Party Pack, or the Party Pack could be cut down to just Vicky and Chubby if need be. The careful placement of scarves and hats should obscure any obvious doubling up of characters.

PLAYING TIME

The approximate playing time is 20 to 30 minutes.

- 1 *(BOY enters with an armload of decorations. He dumps them*
 2 *on the table and quickly arranges a few things. When satisfied,*
 3 *he steps back and admires his decorated surroundings.)*
- 4 **BOY: There! Everything is ready for my party! I invited a**
 5 **bunch of people...I hope everybody comes! It'll be great!**
 6 *(He looks about expectantly, then goes to the table where he eyes*
 7 *the cake hungrily.) Yum! This looks really good! (He looks*
 8 *about furtively before dipping his finger in the frosting for a*
 9 *sample.) Mmmm...chocolate!*
- 10 **MRS. JONES: (Off-stage) Come on, Missy! I haven't got all day!**
- 11 **BOY: Oh boy! Someone's coming! (MRS. JONES enters Stage**
 12 *Right, loaded down with Christmas packages. MISSY follows*
 13 *closely behind, happily chattering away.)*
- 14 **MISSY: ...And a new dress, and new slippers! And then I told**
 15 **him I wanted a Super-Duper Karate-Babe action figure!**
- 16 **MRS. JONES: (She stops dead in horror.) Oh no!**
- 17 **MISSY: Yeah! A Super-Duper Karate-Babe action figure!**
 18 **They're neat!**
- 19 **MRS. JONES: Missy, you don't know how hard those are to**
 20 **find! Everyone wants one!**
- 21 **MISSY: (Happily) I know!**
- 22 **BOY: (Crosses to MRS. JONES and MISSY and says politely.)**
 23 **Excuse me...**
- 24 **MRS. JONES: (Looking around distractedly before seeing BOY)**
 25 **Yes? What is it?**
- 26 **BOY: Are you coming to my birthday party?**
- 27 **MRS. JONES: I'm afraid not. (She glances at MISSY.) It would**
 28 **seem I have some last-minute shopping to do.**
- 29 **BOY: (He gently stops MRS. JONES.) Didn't you get my**
 30 **invitation?**
- 31 **MRS. JONES: Yes, but I told you...it's not a good time.**
- 32 **BOY: But it's all set up over there. See? It'll be fun!**
- 33 **MISSY: (In wonder) Look, Mom! There's cake and everything!**
- 34 **MRS. JONES: (Firmly) I said we don't have time. Thank you**
 35 **all the same, but I can't stay.**

1 **MISSY:** Mom...

2 **BOY:** Well, then...could your daughter stay? She'd have a
3 great time!

4 **MRS. JONES:** I told you...I can't stay and neither can Missy.
5 But I promise we'll be thinking all about you *and* your
6 birthday while I tear apart the mall to find... *(She looks*
7 *back at MISSY and sighs)* ...the impossible. *(She exits Stage*
8 *Left.)*

9 **MISSY:** *(Shyly lagging behind)* I'd really love to stay for your
10 party.

11 **BOY:** Do you think your mom would really let you?

12 **MRS. JONES:** *(Off-stage)* Missy! Come on!

13 **MISSY:** *(Sadly)* I...um, I guess I'd better go before my mom
14 gets mad. Happy birthday anyway. *(She quickly exits.)*

15 **BOY:** *(He sadly follows MISSY to the edge of the stage.)* See ya
16 'round. *(BOY sighs heavily and looks at MISSY exiting Stage*
17 *Left as the CAROLERS enter Stage Right and make a silent*
18 *beeline for him. They form rank behind BOY, who jumps in*
19 *surprise when they begin.)*

20 **CAROLERS:** *(Singing quickly and boisterously)* We wish you a
21 merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, we
22 wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!
23 *(CAROLERS abruptly turn to leave.)*

24 **BOY:** Hey! Wait! *(CAROLERS stop and look back at BOY.)* Are
25 you guys coming to my birthday party? *(CAROLERS look*
26 *at one another in momentary confusion, shrugging and*
27 *shaking their heads. At the same time REV. TOM enters,*
28 *engrossed in a large sheaf of notes. CAROLERS see him and,*
29 *quickly turning their attention to him, pounce. REV. TOM's*
30 *notes go flying as the sudden noise startles him.)*

31 **CAROLERS:** *(Boisterously)* We wish you a merry Christmas,
32 we wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry
33 Christmas and a happy new year! *(CAROLERS look*
34 *guiltily back at BOY and quickly exit Stage Left.)*

35 **BOY:** *(Calling after CAROLERS)* Hey, wait! You didn't answer

1 **my question! Didn't you get my invitation?** (*BOY looks*
 2 *after CAROLERS curiously and then goes over to REV. TOM.*
 3 *He watches for a moment as the man scurries around collecting*
 4 *his notes, then taps him on the shoulder. REV. TOM*
 5 *immediately sets off another explosion of paper as he jumps up*
 6 *in surprise.*) **Need some help?**

7 **REV. TOM:** (*Frazzled*) **Beg your pardon?**

8 **BOY:** **With your papers. Do you need some help?**

9 **REV. TOM:** **Oh. Well...aren't you the helpful one.** (*He pats*
 10 *BOY on the head.*) **If you'd like.** (*BOY kneels and begins to*
 11 *help REV. TOM collect his papers.*)

12 **BOY:** (*As he works*) **I was wondering...**

13 **REV. TOM:** **Ummm?**

14 **BOY:** (*He gives the papers to REV. TOM as they stand.*) **I was**
 15 **wondering if you got my invitation to my birthday**
 16 **party.**

17 **REV. TOM:** **Oh. Well...yes I did, thank you. But I really don't**
 18 **have time to stay.**

19 **BOY:** (*Curiously*) **Why?**

20 **REV. TOM:** (*Caught off-guard*) **Uh...why?** (*He pauses to think.*)
 21 **Well, I'm very busy this time of year. I have a very**
 22 **important sermon coming up. The biggest crowd of the**
 23 **year will be at church for this sermon. Wouldn't want to**
 24 **disappoint anyone with a boring sermon.**

25 **BOY:** **But look, everything is set up already! Can't you just**
 26 **stay a little while?** (*Encouragingly*) **It's chocolate cake...**

27 **REV. TOM:** (*Sighs.*) **Well...I'm sure it's nice, but the Ladies**
 28 **Sewing Circle just shoved an entire tin of homemade**
 29 **fudge on me less than an hour ago. And there is my**
 30 **sermon...**

31 **BOY:** **But it's my birthday.**

32 **REV. TOM:** (*He pats BOY on the head again.*) **Well, then...have**
 33 **a wonderful birthday. If you're still here after I finish**
 34 **my sermon, I'll join you then. How's that?** (*He smiles*
 35 *insincerely and exits Stage Left. BOY shakes his head and then*

- 1 *hears the PARTY PACK chanting Off-stage.)*
- 2 **PARTY PACK:** *(Off-stage)* Party! Party! Party!
- 3 **BOY:** Oh, boy! Someone's coming! *(He begins bouncing around*
- 4 *excitedly as CHUBBY, VICKY and the PARTY PACK enter.*
- 5 *They are chanting and carrying boom boxes, snacks, and*
- 6 *various drinks.)*
- 7 **PARTY PACK:** Party! Party! Party! *(They snatch up BOY and*
- 8 *parade around the stage.)*
- 9 **BOY:** *(While being dragged about)* Hey!
- 10 **PARTY PACK:** Party! Party! Party!
- 11 **BOY:** *(Raising his voice)* Hey!
- 12 **PARTY PACK:** Party! Party! Party!
- 13 **BOY:** *(Finally shouting)* Hey! *(PARTY PACK stops abruptly and*
- 14 *looks around for the interruption to their merriment. CHUBBY*
- 15 *finally notices BOY.)*
- 16 **CHUBBY:** Did you say something?
- 17 **BOY:** *(Eagerly)* Yeah. Are you guys coming to my birthday
- 18 party?
- 19 **CHUBBY:** Uh... *(Looks around uncertainly.)* Well...
- 20 **VICKY:** *(Impatiently "whispering" in CHUBBY's ear)* Chubby...no.
- 21 **CHUBBY:** No! No. We're not here for your party.
- 22 **BOY:** But I heard you. You were saying... *(Imitating the group)*
- 23 Party! Party! Party!
- 24 **CHUBBY:** *(Excitedly)* Yeah! You got it! We're having a party.
- 25 **VICKY:** *(Interrupting)* But...we *aren't* celebrating your
- 26 birthday.
- 27 **BOY:** *(Confused)* But why? I mean, it's my birthday, isn't it? I
- 28 sent an invitation to each one of you.
- 29 **VICKY:** *(Indulgently)* Look, it may be your birthday, but we're
- 30 just going to have a party of our own. *(Loud agreements*
- 31 *come from the PARTY PACK.)*
- 32 **CHUBBY:** Yeah. I mean, there's a bunch of people already
- 33 celebrating your birthday, right?
- 34 **BOY:** *(Looking around)* Not really...
- 35 **CHUBBY:** Well, uh... *(Helpfully)* I bet they'll be here soon.

- 1 VICKY: We just thought we'd have our own party since so
2 many others throw *you* a party.
- 3 CHUBBY: Yeah! Just because we don't celebrate your
4 birthday doesn't mean we should be left out of all the
5 fun, does it?
- 6 BOY: *(Confused)* Well...
- 7 VICKY: *(Pats BOY on the cheek.)* You have fun now, 'Kay?
8 *(PARTY PACK begins chanting again and exits Stage Right as*
9 *GRANNY enters. She gives each one a cookie as he/she leaves,*
10 *then sees BOY across the stage.)*
- 11 GRANNY: *(Approaching quickly)* Oh! Aren't you a doll?
- 12 BOY: Huh?
- 13 GRANNY: *(Shoves a cookie in BOY's hand.)* Have a cookie!
- 14 BOY: Is this for my birthday?
- 15 GRANNY: *(Uncertainly)* What? Oh! Your birthday! Of course,
16 dear! Whatever you say!
- 17 BOY: Thanks. I was beginning to wonder if anyone was
18 going to accept my invitation. Would you like a piece of
19 birthday cake.
- 20 GRANNY: Oh, the cookie is yours to keep. You don't have to
21 give me anything!
- 22 BOY: I know. I just thought you might want to help me
23 celebrate my birthday.
- 24 GRANNY: What a doll! But sorry, my little lamb. I have to go
25 bake more cookies! I have thirty-seven grandchildren,
26 you know!
- 27 BOY: You could stay for just a little while, couldn't you?
28 Everything is ready! I thought you got my invitation.
- 29 GRANNY: Now, honey. Don't be difficult. I did get your little
30 invite, but my time is valuable. I have to bake more
31 cookies for all my grandkids. Just think of that as my
32 way of celebrating your birthday. *(MORRIS enters Stage*
33 *Left, rummaging through his mailbag.)*
- 34 MORRIS: Anybody here having a birthday?
- 35 BOY: *(Excitedly)* I am!

1 MORRIS: Here! *(He gives a large envelope to BOY.)* This is for
2 you.

3 GRANNY: See there? An R.S.V.P. You don't need *me* to have
4 a good birthday party! Have fun! *(GRANNY gives*
5 *MORRIS a cookie and then breezes out Stage Right. MORRIS*
6 *starts across stage to exit, but BOY stops him.)*

7 BOY: Aren't you staying for my birthday party?

8 MORRIS: *(Irritated)* Look, kid, do you realize what time of
9 year it is?

10 BOY: Yeah! My birthday!

11 MORRIS: And do you realize how much trouble that causes
12 me?

13 BOY: *(Taken aback)* Uh...

14 MORRIS: I work my feet to the bone this time of year! My
15 bag weighs three times what it usually does during the
16 rest of the year! I've got to lug around all these huge
17 boxes...all marked "fragile"! *(CALVIN enters Stage Right,*
18 *eyes the situation, and then goes to the table and grabs a chair.*
19 *He drags it to Center Stage and positions it carefully behind*
20 *BOY as MORRIS continues to rant.)* Do people think we
21 play catch with their precious packages or something?
22 It's not like we break them on purpose!

23 BOY: But...my invitation...

24 MORRIS: *(Haughtily)* Aren't you listening to me? I don't have
25 time to waste by coming to your birthday party!

26 BOY: *(Oblivious to CALVIN's presence)* But...

27 MORRIS: Listen, why don't you just open your card and
28 leave the rest of us alone? *(He turns and exits Stage Left.*
29 *CALVIN quickly grabs the card BOY is holding from behind*
30 *and tosses it on the table. He pushes BOY back into the chair*
31 *and plops down in BOY's lap.)*

32 BOY: *(Slightly alarmed)* Hey! What are you doing?

33 CALVIN: My name's Calvin, and I'm here to tell you what I
34 want.

35 BOY: Huh?

- 1 CALVIN: I got your invitation, so now I'm here to tell you
2 what presents I want. 'Tis the season, right?
- 3 BOY: Uh...I think you're a little confused, aren't you?
- 4 CALVIN: I know what you're thinkin'! But I already talked
5 to the other guy. Gave him my whole list. (*Produces a*
6 *ridiculously long list out of his pocket.*) I figured it couldn't
7 hurt to tell you what I want too, since I was here for the
8 party anyway.
- 9 BOY: But I don't...
- 10 CALVIN: (*Irritated*) Pipe down, will ya? I got a lot to cover
11 here. (*Consulting list*) First, I want a Super-Speed
12 Demolition Interstate Set. You know, the remote-
13 controlled kind. Next, I'll take a nineteen-inch color TV.
14 That's to go with the next thing...the Maxi-Alien-Blasto
15 Video Game. And then...
- 16 BOY: (*Firmly pushing CALVIN off his lap.*) Hold it! Hold it!
- 17 CALVIN: What? I haven't even gotten started on this list.
- 18 BOY: Don't you have things backwards?
- 19 CALVIN: (*Thinking, then brightening*) Oh, yeah! I forgot the
20 Maxi-Blasto Video System. Can't play the game without
21 the system. (*He pulls out a pencil and scribbles on his list.*)
- 22 BOY: No, no, no! That's not what I mean. I mean...it's my
23 birthday. Wouldn't it make more sense for you to hear
24 what I want?
- 25 CALVIN: (*He sits down in the chair and sulks.*) Oh, all right. I
26 can tell you'll never shut up until you get this off your
27 chest. So go on...shoot. Tell me what you want.
- 28 BOY: Well...more than anything, what I really want is for
29 people to remember my birthday.
- 30 CALVIN: (*Indignant*) Hey! I remembered your birthday! How
31 could a guy forget when you send out those invitations?
32 Besides, would I be here asking for stuff if it wasn't *that*
33 time of year?
- 34 BOY: No! I don't mean remember a date on the calendar! I
35 mean remember it in your heart! By the way you treat

1 others. By the way you love your neighbor. (*Quietly*)
2 Remember it by the way you love me.

3 **CALVIN:** (*He sits and ponders seriously for a moment, as if BOY's*
4 *words have struck home. Then he sighs quickly and resumes*
5 *his selfish manner.*) Well...OK, whatever. Now, back to my
6 list...

7 **BOY:** (*Exasperated*) Didn't you listen to me?

8 **CALVIN:** (*Stares angrily for several seconds.*) You know, you'd
9 be a whole lot easier to get along with if you'd just learn
10 that "Ho-ho-ho" thing. (*He exits Stage Left, muttering to*
11 *himself and trailing his list behind him.*)

12 **BOY:** (*Sitting dejectedly at the table*) Wow. Isn't anyone going to
13 accept my invitation to my party? (*He sighs heavily. After*
14 *fiddling with some of the decorations, he spots the card on the*
15 *table and picks it up with excitement.*) I almost forgot about
16 this. Maybe someone wrote to say they're coming. (*He*
17 *starts to open the envelope, but stops and stares at the front.*)
18 What's this? (*Reading*) "Return to sender?" I don't believe
19 this! They didn't even bother to open my invitation. (*He*
20 *sits down sadly, dips his finger in the cake icing, and tastes it.*
21 *Shrugging, he takes a knife and begins to cut a piece.*) No
22 reason to wait, I guess. Looks like no one is coming
23 anyway. (*He takes a small bite, chews and then grins slightly*
24 *to himself. He looks around furtively before cramming the*
25 *entire piece into his mouth at once. As he chews contentedly,*
26 *SIMON enters Stage Left and wanders across the stage. BOY*
27 *jumps up excitedly and rushes over to SIMON. BOY takes*
28 *SIMON's arm and tries to talk with a full mouth.*) Mmmph!
29 Hoo ou maunt oo ay or ome ake? Mmmph?

30 **SIMON:** (*Trying to understand*) Excuse me? (*BOY chews frantically*
31 *while gesturing at the decorations and cake.*) What? Do you
32 need help with something? Someone to clean up this
33 mess?

34 **BOY:** (*Gulping down the cake*) Whew! That was a mouthful. No,
35 I was asking you if you... (*Suddenly, from Off-stage, there is*

- 1 *a terrified wail. CAROLERS commence their manic rendition*
2 *of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and chase a terrified*
3 *CALVIN across stage from left to right.)*
- 4 **CALVIN:** *(Wailing as he crosses)* **Mommm!** *(He exits, followed by*
5 *CAROLERS. SIMON and BOY stare after them for a few*
6 *seconds before shrugging simultaneously.)*
- 7 **SIMON:** *(Turning back to BOY.)* **Anyway...did you want**
8 **something?**
- 9 **BOY:** **Yeah! Are you here for my birthday party?**
- 10 **SIMON:** **Birthday party?**
- 11 **BOY:** **Yeah! I sent you an invitation. Are you coming?**
12 **See...everything is set up.**
- 13 **SIMON:** *(Uncertainly)* **Well, I didn't really know anything**
14 **about a birthday party. I must have missed your**
15 **invitation somehow. I, uh...I didn't bring a gift or**
16 **anything.**
- 17 **BOY:** **That's OK! I just want you to help me celebrate. You**
18 **don't have to bring anything but yourself.**
- 19 **SIMON:** *(Skeptical)* **Ummm... That sounds awfully simple.**
20 **Sure there's not more to it?**
- 21 **BOY:** **Nope! Now, you want some cake?** *(He starts to cut a piece*
22 *of the cake.)*
- 23 **SIMON:** *(Obviously stalling)* **I think I have to go do something...**
- 24 **BOY:** *(Saddened)* **What?**
- 25 **SIMON:** **Um... (Trying to be nice) I really would like some cake.**
26 **It'd be great to celebrate your birthday. But first I have**
27 **to...um...I have to go... (He suddenly latches onto an idea.) I**
28 **have to go and get my family! You invited them too,**
29 **right? I'm sure they'd love to come to your party!**
- 30 **BOY:** *(Laying down the knife in disappointment)* **How long will it**
31 **take to get them?**
- 32 **SIMON:** **Oh, no time at all!** *(He starts to sidle off, Stage Right.)*
33 **I'll be back as soon as I find them. They're shopping, you**
34 **know.**
- 35 **BOY:** *(Sadly)* **Wait a minute!**



Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

ARE YOU COMING?

by Phil Gilbreath and Steve C. Markovich.

*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