

CHRISTMAS MORNING LIVE!

by Nancy Moore



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

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Christmas Morning Live!

A Christmas play for children

by Nancy Moore

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SAM THE SHEPHERD

MS. INNKEEPER

MR. INNKEEPER

MIRACLE SPRAYERS

Any number. They perform the commercials.

STARRY NIGHT

Newscaster.

ISAIAH PROPHET

MATTHEW FOLLOWER

Field reporter.

SHEPHERDS

Any number.

ANGELS

Any number, nonspeaking roles.

EVE CREATION

Field reporter.

LUKE FAITHFUL

Newscaster.

JESSE TREE

CARMELA

Jesse's wife.

ROSE STUMP

Jesse and Carmela's niece.

SHARON STUMP

Jesse and Carmela's niece.

ANGELA SING

Angel and hotline operator.

JOHN GOSPEL

Weatherman.

HOLLY DAZE

Investigative reporter.

WISE PEOPLE

Any number.

MARY

Nonspeaking role.

JOSEPH

Nonspeaking role.

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PRODUCTION NOTES

Synopsis:

No-nonsense anchorwoman Starry Night settles in for a special edition of *You Witness News*. She is hot on the trail of a story — the Messiah’s purported birth. On-site reporters Matthew, Eve Creation, and John Gospel supply some details of the events taking place in Bethlehem. All the while, the prophet Isaiah offers unsolicited predictions about what will happen. Starry thinks Isaiah is an annoying know-it-all, but he’s one step ahead of her with the inside scoop on the baby Messiah’s gender, name, and location. Even investigative reporter Holly Daze is no match for his amazing foreknowledge. This is a humorous look at the events of the first Christmas with a delightful blending of the traditional story with contemporary objects and scenarios.

Set:

The set may be as simple or elaborate as your budget will allow. The production works well in a sanctuary. All the Newscasters really need are lecterns or music stands to hold their scripts so their parts needn’t be memorized. There should be four total — one each for Starry Night, Luke Faithful, Angela Sing, and Isaiah. News desks with maps of Jerusalem are effective but not essential. They should be Stage Left and Stage Right, with the stable at Center Stage.

Carols:

The carols, which are optional, are useful for the entrances of the different characters. In the original production, gymnasts led in the cross and cast during the processional carol. Very young performers, especially, may be brought in during a carol and led out at the next carol. Some productions used dancers during a carol. Mary, carrying the baby, and Joseph, carrying the manger, may enter during a carol. The Field Reporters say their lines in the various aisles of the sanctuary, amid the congregation (as if on location). In one production, audience members followed the Wise People up to the manger with canned goods and nonfood items for our local community outreach center.

Costumes:

The Newscasters and Angels should be flashy dressers. What's an angel without a wand, tiara, and glitter? The Miracle Sprayers may be dressed alike in either biblical robes or contemporary clothing. The Shepherds should wear the typical biblical robes, headpieces, sandals, and hold shepherds' crooks. The Innkeepers, Jesse Tree, and family should also wear the biblical robes, sandals, and headpieces.

Props:

Angela Sing needs a cordless phone, and the Innkeeper needs a cell phone. The Field Reporters may hold microphones if desired or needed. Use a baby doll for Jesus, and place the doll in a simple manger. You will need aerosol cans — one for each Miracle Sprayer — with labels reading, "I Am the Answer Miracle Spray."

Notes for Director:

The director may add angels, animals, etc. if more parts are needed. The Bible does not state the number of wise people, so use as many as you like. You may also have camera operators milling about with video cameras to add to the atmosphere of a television studio. Voiceovers may be prerecorded or doubled. The roles of Shepherds, Angels, and Mr. and Ms. Innkeeper may be doubled if you're working with a smaller cast.

I used Today's English Version and the Revised Standard Version Bibles for my biblical research.

The length of the performance may be manipulated by how much music is used, but the usual time is forty to fifty-five minutes.

— Nancy Moore

1 *Processional Hymn: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (CAST may*
 2 *enter and sit in the first couple rows so they will be able to*
 3 *quickly enter and exit the stage area.)*

4 **VOICEOVER 1:** (*Off-stage*) **And now! From T-R-U-T-H TV,**
 5 **it's time for You Witness News! Welcome to Channel**
 6 **One — the best of the best, so forget the rest! Starring**
 7 **Starry Night, Angela Sing, Matthew Follower, Eve**
 8 **Creation, Luke Faithful, John Gospel, and our very**
 9 **own Holly Daze! With today's extra-special guest, Isaiah**
 10 **Prophet!** (*SAM THE SHEPHERD and MR. and MS.*
 11 *INNKEEPER enter and stand at Center Stage.)*

12 **VOICEOVER 2:** (*Off-stage*) **And we're at five, four, three,**
 13 **two, one, and action —**

14 **VOICEOVER 1:** (*Off-stage*) **But first, a word from our**
 15 **sponsor!**

16 **SAM THE SHEPHERD:** **Phew! What a terrible smell!**

17 **MR. INNKEEPER:** **But I've just cleaned the inn.**

18 **MS. INNKEEPER:** **We're expecting a lot of people, and**
 19 **we've cleaned all day long.**

20 **SAM THE SHEPHERD:** **Phew! What a terrible smell!**

21 **MR. INNKEEPER:** **Maybe it's coming from the stable.**

22 **MS. INNKEEPER:** **It's not the stable. I cleaned the stable**
 23 **while you washed the camels.**

24 **SAM THE SHEPHERD:** **Phew! What a terrible smell!**

25 **MR. INNKEEPER:** **Oh, no! There goes our business! We**
 26 **need a miracle!**

27 **VOICEOVER 2:** (*Off-stage*) **Are bad smells killing your**
 28 **business? Then use *I Am the Answer Miracle Spray!***

29 **MR. and MS. INNKEEPER and SAM THE SHEPHERD:**
 30 *(Together) I Am the Answer Miracle Spray? (MIRACLE*
 31 *SPRAYERS enter with aerosol cans.)*

32 **MIRACLE SPRAYERS:** (*Together*) **I am the answer!**

33 **I am the way!**

34 **Squirt me in your stable and**

35 **Spray! Spray! Spray!**

1 **Squirt me in the manger!**
 2 **Squirt me in the hay!**
 3 **Squirt me on your camels and**
 4 **Spray! Spray! Spray!**
 5 **MS. INNKEEPER: We'll take a case!**
 6 **MR. INNKEEPER: You've made our day!**
 7 **MR. and MS. INNKEEPER: (*Together*) We'll take this miracle**
 8 **and spray! Spray! Spray! (*SAM THE SHEPHERD and***
 9 ***MR. and MS. INNKEEPER exit.*)**
 10 **VOICEOVER 1: (*Off-stage*) And now, live from our newsroom**
 11 **in Bethlehem, it's *You Witness News!* (*STARRY NIGHT and***
 12 ***LUKE FAITHFUL enter and take their places at lecterns or***
 13 ***music stands.*)**
 14 **STARRY NIGHT: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen! I'm**
 15 **Starry Night, and you're not. Joining me is our special**
 16 **guest, Isaiah Prophet. (*ISAIAH enters and takes his place***
 17 ***at a lectern or music stand. He remains On-stage for the***
 18 ***entire performance.*) Welcome, Isaiah.**
 19 **ISAIAH: Thank you, Starry.**
 20 **STARRY NIGHT: Actually, I'd rather not.**
 21 **ISAIAH: First, let me say —**
 22 **STARRY NIGHT: More from you later, Isaiah. And now to**
 23 **the news. For the first time in many years, the tourist**
 24 **season in Bethlehem is flourishing — thanks to the**
 25 **crowds of taxpayers beginning to arrive for the**
 26 **mandatory census. All inns report full reservations,**
 27 **with rumors of overbooking. Most restaurants have**
 28 **standing lines. Residents in all parts of the city are**
 29 **renting out their yards for camel spaces. Sandal sales**
 30 **soar! We take you now to our field reporter, Matthew**
 31 **Follower. Come in, Matthew!**
 32
 33 ***Carol #1, "Once in Royal David's City" (*During the song,****
 34 ***MATTHEW and SHEPHERDS enter and stand part way up***
 35 ***one of the aisles.*)**

1 **MATTHEW:** (*Surrounded by SHEPHERDS*) Good evening,
 2 Starry Night! I'm here abiding with these shepherds,
 3 who are watching their flocks by night. As you can see,
 4 all are seated on the ground as silent stars go by.
 5 Perhaps it is the excitement brought about by the
 6 hundreds of visitors to Bethlehem, but the sheep are
 7 restless tonight. These shepherds tell me they've been
 8 hearing a strange sound, such as a reoccurring rushing
 9 wind. But not exactly a wind. Almost a wind.

10 **STARRY NIGHT:** Have you yourself seen or heard anything
 11 strange, Matthew?

12 **MATTHEW:** Not at this point, Starry Night, but I plan to
 13 spend the night here in order to witness any unusual
 14 events.

15 **STARRY NIGHT:** The citizens of Bethlehem and its suburbs
 16 appreciate your devotion to seeking the truth, Matthew.
 17 We'll check back with you later during this broadcast.
 18 (*MATTHEW and SHEPHERDS exit.*)

19 **ISAIAH:** In my book I talk about the great light and the
 20 royal line of David, and how a new king is to —

21 **STARRY NIGHT:** That sounds great, Isaiah. Later, all right?
 22 *You Witness News* now takes you to our on-the-road
 23 reporter, Eve Creation! Come in, Eve! (*EVE CREATION*
 24 *enters with JESSE TREE, CARMELA, ROSE, and SHARON*
 25 *and stands partway up one of the aisles.*)

26 **EVE CREATION:** Good evening, Starry Night! I've just been
 27 talking with this family whose members are descendants
 28 of David. It would appear that the census ordered by
 29 Caesar Augustus has brought about the first-ever family
 30 reunion of the Vine Family! These weary travelers have
 31 been on the road since five o'clock this morning.
 32 Fortunately, they have made arrangements to stay with
 33 relatives and don't need to find a place at the inn. Here
 34 with me now is Jesse Tree, his wife Carmela, and their
 35 nieces, Rose and Sharon Stump.

1 STARRY NIGHT: Aren't they worried about traveling in the
2 dark?

3 EVE CREATION: Actually, Starry Night, the stars in the
4 bright sky appear shinier by the minute. It's quite
5 beautiful to be standing here surrounded by thousands
6 of twinkling lights. In the distance we can see the town
7 of Bethlehem, illuminated within a golden glow.

8 STARRY NIGHT: Gee. I wish I could be there with you and
9 not stuck here at this desk with — but enough about
10 me. I — I — I think it's wonderful that the Vine family
11 is branching out!

12 EVE CREATION: It's absolutely divine!

13 LUKE FAITHFUL: What about some comments from Jesse
14 Tree and Carmela?

15 CARMELA: Well, for most of our journey we walked in
16 darkness, as though we were in a land of shadows, but
17 then we saw a great light.

18 JESSE TREE: It filled us with joy!

19 ROSE: We danced the rest of the way here!

20 SHARON: We feel so happy!

21 EVE CREATION: There you have it, Starry Night and Luke!
22 A light to lighten the way of the Vine family. And you
23 heard about it first right here on *You Witness News!*
24 (*EVE CREATION, JESSE TREE, CARMELA, ROSE, and*
25 *SHARON exit.*)

26

27 Carol #2, "The First Noel" (*ANGELA SING enters with cordless*
28 *phone and takes her place at a lectern or music stand.*)

29

30 LUKE FAITHFUL: Great story, Eve! Great interview.

31 ISAIAH: Actually, you heard about it first in the ninth
32 chapter of my book!

33 LUKE FAITHFUL: Please, Isaiah. Wait your turn. And now,
34 here on the local front, our *You Witness News* cameras
35 bring to light a social problem that is found not just in

1 Bethlehem, but has been documented in cities and
2 towns throughout the world as we know it. I am
3 speaking of unwed parents. We know for sure that at
4 least one unmarried couple arriving here for the census
5 is expecting a baby. The soon-to-be dad, Joseph, is a
6 descendant of the royal house of David, and therefore
7 is required to be registered. His lovely young fiancée,
8 Mary, appears to be in the early stages of labor. The
9 couple refused to be interviewed, since they are
10 desperately searching for a place to stay. The local
11 innkeepers claim there are no more available rooms.
12 But not to worry, Mary and Joseph! *You Witness News*
13 has set up a hotline, and anyone with an extra room is
14 asked to contact us at *Room for Truth*. Once again,
15 that's *Room for Truth* right here at *You Witness News*.
16 Let's show these two young people in need the spirit of
17 sharing that abides in our great little city of Bethlehem.
18 STARRY NIGHT: Awesome reporting, Luke. By the way, do
19 you know if they're hoping for a girl or a boy?
20 ISAIAH: It doesn't matter what they're hoping for, the baby
21 is a boy.
22 LUKE FAITHFUL: Excuse me?
23 ISAIAH: I said, the baby is a boy.
24 LUKE FAITHFUL: So what are you, a prophet or something?
25 How on earth would you know that the baby is a boy?
26 ISAIAH: Yes! I'm a prophet! That's what I do! Don't you
27 read? Don't you listen?
28 LUKE FAITHFUL: The world is full of prophets! What
29 makes you so special?
30 STARRY NIGHT: Now, now, gentlemen. Let's go to a
31 commercial while you pull yourselves together. (*SAM*
32 *THE SHEPHERD* and *MR.* and *MS. INNKEEPER* enter.)
33 *SAM THE SHEPHERD*: What a heavenly scent!
34 *MS. INNKEEPER*: Thank you! I've sprayed the entire inn
35 with *I Am The Answer Miracle Spray!*

- 1 **SAM THE SHEPHERD:** What a heavenly scent!
- 2 **INNKEEPER:** Even our animals smell good!
- 3 **MS. INNKEEPER:** That's because I sprayed the barn, too —
- 4 including the manger! (*MIRACLE SPRAYERS enter with*
- 5 *aerosol cans.*)
- 6 **MIRACLE SPRAYERS:** (*Together*) I am the answer!
- 7 I am the way!
- 8 Squirt me in your stable and
- 9 Spray! Spray! Spray!
- 10 Squirt me in your manger!
- 11 Squirt me in your hay!
- 12 Squirt me on your animals and
- 13 Spray! Spray! Spray!
- 14 **SAM THE SHEPHERD:** How clean is the stable?
- 15 **MS. INNKEEPER:** Clean enough for a newborn baby!
- 16 **MIRACLE SPRAYERS, MR. and MS. INNKEEPER, and**
- 17 **SAM THE SHEPHERD:** (*Look at each other, beat, and*
- 18 *smile, ad-libbing*) The hotline! Call the hotline!
- 19 **INNKEEPER:** (*Takes out cell phone and dials.*) Hello? Is this
- 20 the *You Witness News* hotline?
- 21 **ANGELA SING:** (*Off-stage ring. ANGELA SING answers*
- 22 *phone.*) *You Witness News, Room for Truth* Hotline. How
- 23 may I help you?
- 24 **INNKEEPER:** Yes, hello. I'm an innkeeper here in
- 25 Bethlehem —
- 26 **ANGELA SING:** And you have a room for our young
- 27 couple?
- 28 **INNKEEPER:** My rooms are full, but —
- 29 **ANGELA SING:** Oh, you wish to donate some food?
- 30 **INNKEEPER:** Actually, I wish to —
- 31 **ANGELA SING:** Sir, you have dialed the *Room for Truth*
- 32 number. Do you have a room or don't you?
- 33 **INNKEEPER:** There is no room at the inn, but —
- 34 **ANGELA SING:** Sorry, sir, but I can only speak with people
- 35 who have room for truth. (*Hangs up.*)

- 1 **INNKEEPER:** Wait! Don't hang up! Hello? Hello?
- 2 **MS. INNKEEPER:** Let me have that phone. (*Takes cell phone*
3 *and dials. Off-stage ring*)
- 4 **ANGELA SING:** *You Witness News, Room for Truth* hotline.
5 How may I help you?
- 6 **MS. INNKEEPER:** My name is Ruth Root. I am a descendant
7 of David, and I have Room for Truth! Write down this
8 address: One Zion Road. I own the Temple Inn. Send that
9 Joseph and Mary couple here at once. Tell them to look
10 for the sign. Hurry up!
- 11 **ANGELA SING:** Yes, Ms. Tree!
- 12 **MS. INNKEEPER:** Root! (*Hangs up.*)
- 13 **ANGELA SING:** Root! (*Hangs up.*)
- 14 **LUKE FAITHFUL:** And now, *You Witness News* takes you to
15 the hill of Zion, which overlooks the Temple Inn. *You*
16 *Witness News* has just received information through an
17 anonymous but reliable source that the Temple Inn will
18 be providing a room for Mary and Joseph. Good work,
19 Angela! (*JOHN GOSPEL enters and stands partway up one of*
20 *the aisles.*) Waiting there live in person at the hill of Zion
21 with the latest Bethlehem weather report is our very own
22 John Gospel. Are you there, John?
- 23 **JOHN GOSPEL:** I'm here, Luke. At least I think I'm here! You
24 know, this hill of Zion is known as God's holy hill, and
25 tonight only God can explain the incredible conditions
26 that are taking place. There is definitely something
27 blowing in the wind. First of all, the stars are so bright
28 that we did not need to set up our special lighting. In fact
29 — and this is the Gospel truth, Luke — that one star up
30 there seems to be aimed directly at — not the Temple Inn,
31 but the stable! Isn't that something? And take a loooong
32 look at those animals on the hill! Do you see the lion and
33 goats playing together? It's unbelievable, or my name's
34 not John Gospel! Are you there, Luke?
- 35

1 Carol #3, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

2

3 LUKE FAITHFUL: I'm here, John, but we seem to be
4 experiencing technical difficulties. Could you please
5 speak up?

6 JOHN GOSPEL: (*Yelling*) I'm sorry. What did you say? I
7 can't hear you! There's a tremendous noise coming
8 from the air, and the clear sky has now filled up with
9 clouds. Oh, wow! Not clouds, Luke — angels! Singing
10 angels! They're everywhere! As I speak, they are
11 gathering right above the group of shepherds guarding
12 their sheep! And there's one with a sash stating
13 "Messenger" coming across the mountains! I have
14 noooo earthly idea what's going on, but believe me, it's
15 more than a change in the weather, or my name is not
16 John Gospel, and that's the truth!

17 LUKE FAITHFUL: Are you able to make out what the
18 angels or the messengers are saying?

19 ISAIAH: The messenger is saying, "I bring you good news,"
20 and the angels are singing, "Glory to God in the highest
21 heaven."

22 JOHN GOSPEL: The messenger is saying, "I bring you good
23 news," and the angels are singing, "Glory to God in the
24 highest heaven." (*LUKE and STARRY NIGHT stare at*
25 *ISAIAH in amazement.*)

26 ISAIAH: Gotcha! Isaiah chapter fifty-two.

27 LUKE FAITHFUL: And there you have it, ladies and
28 gentlemen.

29 ISAIAH: No. There *I* have it! In my book! I tell all about the
30 messenger in chapter fifty-two! And the animals living
31 together in peace and the hill of Zion are in chapter
32 eleven. Don't you get it? Read my book! It's been on the
33 best-seller list for hundreds of years!

34 LUKE FAITHFUL: Isaiah, please chill out! We're trying to
35 report this fantastic story about angels and a night

1 that's full of light and weird-acting goats and some
2 strange guy running across a mountain, and here you
3 are ranting and raving about some old book! Get real!
4 *(To audience)* Sorry about that, folks —

5 **ISAIAH:** Real? Real? “Look around you, and see what is
6 happening. Your people are gathering to come home!
7 Your children will come from far away! You will
8 tremble with excitement!” That’s from chapter sixty of
9 my book (verses 4-5)! You want real? I’ll give you real!
10 How about, “We are the clay, Lord, and you are the
11 potter?” Isaiah chapter sixty-four, verse eight. How’s
12 that for real?

13 **LUKE FAITHFUL:** I don’t see what pottery-making has to
14 do with —

15 **ISAIAH:** Oh, you don’t, huh? Well, try this one on for size,
16 Lukey Dukey: chapter sixty-five, verse twenty-five:
17 “Wolves and lambs will eat together. On Zion, my
18 sacred hill, there will be nothing harmful or evil.” And
19 just where are those singing angels, may I ask?

20 **LUKE FAITHFUL:** On Zion, but —

21 **ISAIAH:** A-ha! Gotcha again! Am I right or what? And I
22 could go on and on! For instance, in chapter one —

23 **LUKE FAITHFUL:** How many chapters are in your book,
24 anyway?

25 **ISAIAH:** I’ve just finished writing chapter sixty-six.

26 **LUKE FAITHFUL:** This is a newscast, not a read-a-thon!
27 We’re running out of time!

28 **ISAIAH:** I agree that it’s later than you think. If you ever
29 think!

30 **STARRY NIGHT:** Enough, gentlemen. Enough! We’ve received
31 word through our *Room For Truth* Hotline that Mary and
32 Joseph are the proud parents of a baby boy!

33 **ISAIAH:** I know his name.

34 **STARRY NIGHT:** All of our field reporters are gathered
35 outside the Temple Inn. So far, we remain unable to

- 1 make contact with any of them.
- 2 **ISAIAH:** That's because they're not at the inn.
- 3 **STARRY NIGHT:** I beg your pardon?
- 4 **ISAIAH:** I know the baby's name.
- 5 **STARRY NIGHT:** OK, I'll bite. If they're not at the inn,
6 where are they?
- 7 **ISAIAH:** There's no room at the inn.
- 8 **STARRY NIGHT:** All right! There's no room at the inn.
9 Where are they?
- 10 **ISAIAH:** I'll tell you on one condition.
- 11 **STARRY NIGHT:** Fine! I accept your condition. Where are
12 they?
- 13 **ISAIAH:** First, my condition.
- 14 **STARRY NIGHT:** All right. But keep it short, Isaiah, because
15 if another station gets there before we do, I'm warning
16 you, I'll — I'll — *(Starts to sob.)*
- 17 **ISAIAH:** I want to prove I know his name.
- 18 **LUKE FAITHFUL:** Promise us it's not Isaiah.
- 19 **ISAIAH:** Good heavens, no. Of course it's not Isaiah. What
20 a silly idea. *(Beaming)* The name of the baby is Jesus.
- 21 **LUKE FAITHFUL:** Jesus.
- 22 **ISAIAH:** Jesus. He will be our ruler. He will be called
23 "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Parent,
24 Ruler of Peace." God calls him Emmanuel.
- 25 **STARRY NIGHT:** Which means?
- 26 **ISAIAH:** *(Does not read Scripture references in following lines.)*
27 Emmanuel means "God is with us." The people will call
28 him Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Child of the Living
29 God. Of himself, Jesus will say, "I am the bread of life"
30 (John 6:35). He will also say, "I am the vine, and you are
31 the branches" (John 15:5). Jesus will have disciples. He
32 will tell his disciples, "I am the good shepherd" (John
33 10:11). "I am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25).
34 John the Baptist will refer to Jesus as the "Lamb of
35 God" (John 1:29).



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