

Celebrating Jesus

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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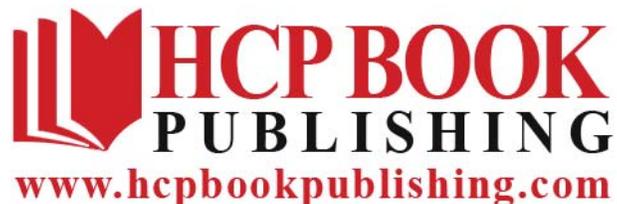


Table of Contents

Characters.....	4
Setting	5
The Story	6
Play Details	7
SCENE 1	9
SCENE 2	12
SCENE 3	19
SCENE 4	25
SCENE 5	30
SCENE 6	34
SCENE 7	38
SCENE 8	41
SCENE 9	44
SCENE 10	46

Characters

Joseph

Mary

Samantha

Regina

Mother

Miss Blair

Harold

Stewart

Ma

Jason

Setting

Several settings are used including various Living Rooms, Meeting Room at a Local Jail, Conference Room & Outdoors.

The Story

Celebrating Jesus is a collection of short stories for Christmas that begin as random and unrelated events that culminate at the Worship Center Church on Christmas Day. This Church is the only thing these characters seem to have in common.

We begin with a biblical setting with Joseph waking out of his sleep realizing that he has just received another visit from an angel telling him to flee to Egypt with his wife and young son. We then journey into a more contemporary setting with Samantha, a young teenage girl who finds herself being left at home alone. She is scared and confused and try to make sense of life through immorality, but she has a Christian friend who will change her life.

We then meet Jason; an incarcerated young man who is sitting in jail on a weapons charge. He struggles with the absence of his father and a mother whose love he may never understand.

Amid all this, a few executives meet to discuss making some of their workers redundant just before Christmas. The Human Resource Manager struggles with her responsibility to bear the bad news to the unfortunate ones who have been randomly selected from a list.

How do we celebrate Jesus when our lives are falling apart, and we can find no peace? What role or significance does His birth have in changing the course of our lives? At the end of the day, we realize that we have no control over circumstances and situations, but we have the power to choose how we respond to it.

Play Details

Length: 60-90 Minutes

Cast: 5 Males, 6 Females

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Biblical & Contemporary Drama

THE SCRIPT



SCENE 1

SETTING: In a stable

LIGHTS UP

Joseph jumps from his sleep. He wipes sweat from his brows. He looks beside him where Mary his wife and baby are still sleeping.

He gets to his feet. Mary stirs and opens her eyes.

MARY: What is it, Joseph?

JOSEPH: Try to get some sleep, Mary.

Joseph takes off his coat and covers them with it.

JOSEPH: We have a long journey ahead of us, and I think we need to leave tonight.

MARY: Why? We just got here, and the baby needs to sleep.

JOSEPH: I saw him again.

MARY: Who?

JOSEPH: The angel who confirmed your pregnancy. He visited me just now.

MARY: What's wrong?

JOSEPH: We have to leave for Egypt tonight. He says some people would want to see harm come to this child.

Mary looks at the sleeping baby.

MARY: Isn't He amazing Joseph?

JOSEPH: I can't believe He's here already.

MARY: Everything just happened so quickly since the angel came to visit me. It still feels like a dream. He really is the Messiah.

JOSEPH: I think it was confirmed by all those people who came to worship Him last evening.

MARY: Words cannot begin to express.

JOSEPH: Mary, please try and get some rest for the journey we have ahead of us.

Mary relaxes.

MARY: I'm sure we have time.

JOSEPH: Get some rest.

Mary closes her eyes.

Joseph walks away a bit looking up to the heavens.

JOSEPH: I don't understand this. *(pause)* When the angel appeared to me the first time and told me to take Mary as my wife, I did not hesitate, I knew people would say terrible things, but I did what You asked. Now the angel tells me that King Herod wants to kill this child. When will this end? *(looks back at his sleeping wife and baby)* He has to be the Messiah. Why else would all those people travel so far to see an ordinary baby boy? How can someone want to kill an innocent child? Look at us! We are sleeping in a stable with filthy animals! *(pause)* The Shepherds spoke about peace on earth and goodwill to all men. *(begins packing his bags)* There was no goodwill to us on this journey, and if the angel is right, which he usually is, then we are still yet to see the worst of humanity. Now we have to run for our lives. Peace on earth! How can this ever be? We will never see peace as long as this evil ruler has his own way.

Mary again wakes up.

MARY: Why are you pacing back and forth talking to yourself?

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JOSEPH: You are supposed to be sleeping.

MARY: How can I sleep when my love is so troubled?

JOSEPH: I thought we were past the worst, but it seems to only be the beginning.

MARY: We both knew this would not have been a walk in the park.

JOSEPH: I'm packed. I think we should hit the road.

Joseph takes the baby and helps Mary to her feet.

JOSEPH: Can you walk?

MARY: Do I have a choice.

They begin to exit.

VOICEOVER: For to us a child is born, to us, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Segue into "HE IS NOT JUST A MAN"

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 2

SETTING: Living Room

LIGHTS UP

Samantha sits at her laptop with some open books sitting beside the laptop (Use a Projector to project the contents of the laptop on a screen to make this scene more interesting).

Mother walks in.

SAMANTHA: Can't you knock?

MOTHER: This is my house.

SAMANTHA: This is my room.

MOTHER: I pay all the bills.

SAMANTHA: I wash the dishes. I think that entitles me to some privacy.

MOTHER: Samantha, did you turn the radio off again?

SAMANTHA: I'm trying to study, Mom.

MOTHER: You are on the computer--- (*comes around and looks at the screen before Sam can hide it*) ---and you are talking on messenger.

SAMANTHA: Regina is helping me to study.

MOTHER: What does LOL and BRB have to do with mathematics?

SAMANTHA: Give me a break, Mom.

MOTHER: I will be going out for a few minutes, and I want to make sure you are hitting

the books before I go, so get to it.

Mother exits.

SAMANTHA: *(typing)* My mother is riding me like crazy. *(hears the radio come back on)* And she turns on the radio blasting this cheesy Christmas music all through the house.

RESPONSE: I like Christmas music.

SAMANTHA: *(types)* You like everything with Jesus in it. Do you believe this is the most wonderful time of the year?

RESPONSE: Yeah.

SAMANTHA: What makes this month so different than all the others? The only good part is that my parents buy me stuff.

RESPONSE: That's Cool LOL

SAMANTHA: Dad feels so bad about divorcing us that he keeps getting me stuff to make me happy. Not even sure what to ask for this year.

RESPONSE: LOL

SAMANTHA: I already have a iPhone, a Mac, a Wii and an iPod. Do you think I should ask for a car LOL

RESPONSE: You are 14

SAMANTHA: So, I have been doing things that 21-year-olds do since I was 12.

RESPONSE: You mean, you and Charlie have done it...LOL

SAMANTHA: Of course. I wouldn't lie about that.

RESPONSE: How was it?

SAMANTHA: It was gross, but who cares. I hate him. He broke up with me and started dating Lindsay like a day later.

RESPONSE: Lindsay Lohan?

SAMANTHA: Have you seen her profile pic????

RESPONSE: Nope

SAMANTHA: Its gross...I hate her too.

RESPONSE: Do I really need to be hearing all this?

SAMANTHA: Regina Simmonds, you're my BFF so you have to like me no matter what I say or do *SMILE*

RESPONSE: Are you sure this is how you want to live your life?

SAMANTHA: Why are you asking me all these questions? Gosh, you sound just like my mom.

RESPONSE: Where did you and Charlie hook up?

SAMANTHA: We were at my house, and for the record we were bored.

RESPONSE: Where was your mom?

SAMANTHA: In her room. She doesn't care what I do. It's no big deal...she had me when she was 15.

RESPONSE: Were you in love with Charlie?

SAMANTHA: NO....it was just something to do. I think that's why I like being your Friend, "Was I in love with Charlie," you say the cutest things.

RESPONSE: Just curious.

SAMANTHA: You are probably the only girl in school who hasn't...you know. You could definitely play the Virgin Mary in the Christmas play LOL. I would have to play the devil hahahahaha

RESPONSE: Come with me to the Youth Group meeting.

SAMANTHA: Will Jaden be there?

RESPONSE: Yeah SMH

SAMANTHA: You know that's the only reason I come...Just don't know why he won't go out with me. He's probably scared of me...LOL...he is scared because I'm not a Christian and I will corrupt him LOL.

RESPONSE: My mom asks for you again. She wants you to come over for Christmas dinner.

SAMANTHA: Your mom is too nice. Tell her I will come. Anything is better than eating my mom's food. It's horrible. Dad was the real cook around here.

RESPONSE: You should try being a little more grateful.

SAMANTHA: Whatever. Why does your mom keep inviting me around? Isn't she afraid I'm going to corrupt her little baby?

RESPONSE: I guess she is hoping that I corrupt you LOL

SAMANTHA: I bet your family just sit around the Christmas tree drinking hot chocolate while your dad reads the Christmas story LOL.

RESPONSE: Something like that.

SAMANTHA: Your dad is this amazing Christian. I find it hard to believe he was involved in anything illegal in his past.

RESPONSE: He was. We were not born at the foot of the cross.

SAMANTHA: Must have been some magic transformation.

RESPONSE: Ask him when you see him. He loves to tell that story. Do you know the Christmas story?

SAMANTHA: Of course I do. What do you take me for? Some heathen LOL, Christmas is about getting presents from Santa Claus...

RESPONSE: Really

SAMANTHA: Just messing with you. I know it's about Jesus coming to earth. Tell me why He had to come anyway.

RESPONSE: He came to prove His love to us.

SAMANTHA: I sin every day and twice on weekends...I find it hard to think that God would love me after all that.

RESPONSE: He loves you.

SAMANTHA: Sometimes I think my own parents hate me.

RESPONSE: I am sure they don't.

SAMANTHA: Then why am I alone most of the time. What good is believing in Jesus for someone like me? I believed a lot of things, and nothing ever changes. My father is still not here. You can trust Jesus all you want because your life is perfect, but mine is messed up.

Mother walks into the room

MOTHER: Samantha, I told you to shut down that laptop.

SAMANTHA: You really should knock before you barge in.

MOTHER: You are supposed to be studying. You are going to repeat this year if you don't get those grades up. Log off now.