



The Heart of a Christian Playwright

Miracle Baby

An Original Stage play
By
Cleveland O. McLeish

SYNOPSIS

Spanning a course of two years, a Christian wife on the verge of losing her marriage seeks God for a miracle.

Her husband is an atheist and is confused as to why she embraces her belief in God, but God is about to come through for them and in the true spirit of Christmas they will receive the gift of a miracle baby.

In the same way Jesus was born into this earth to save mankind. This miracle baby will save not just a failing marriage, but the soul of an unbeliever.

CHARACTERS

JOHN

Melony's husband. He is an atheist, and though he loves his wife he finds her obsession with God to be ridiculous. He really wants a child, and struggles with not being able to become a father.

MELONY

John's wife. She is a devout Christian who trusts in God to fulfill His plan for her life. She wants a child even more than John. But, she also trusts that God works in His own time.

SETTING

Melony and John live in a larger city in the United States of America.

TIME

Modern time, spanning about a year. There are two Christmases that pass during the time of this play.

ACT I

Scene 1	Bedroom.	Late November.
Scene 2 Scene 1.	Bedroom.	The day after
Scene 3 Scene 2.	Melony's Daycare.	The same day as
Scene 4 Scene 2s & 3.	Bedroom.	The same day as
Scene 5	Bedroom.	February

Act II

Scene 1	Bedroom.	March
Scene 2	Bedroom.	April
Scene 3	Bedroom.	April
Scene 4	Bedroom.	December 24 th
Scene 5	Hospital.	December 25 th , a

little over a year after Act I Scene 1.

ACT [I]

SCENE [1]

(John enters stage right, and is seen pacing around. There is a door located stage left, and he keeps looking towards it. There is a bed located against the wall.)

JOHN

(Pacing back and forth in front of the bed.)

JOHN (Continued)

How long does it take? It's not a complicated process.
(He stops pacing and glances at the door, but nothing happens. He continues to pace)

JOHN (Continued)

I mean, it's not like it's a blood test or anything. They wouldn't give you a test to take home if it was something complicated.
(He turns toward the door again.)

JOHN (Continued)

Melony? Hello?

(A voice is heard from beyond the door at stage left.)

MELONY

Will you just hold your horses? Just sit down and relax or something.

JOHN

Relax? How can I-

MELONY

John. You're making me nervous.

JOHN

Alright, alright.

(He sits down on the bed, and his knees is bouncing up and down. He stands up

again, takes a few steps, then returns to the bed.)

JOHN (Continued)

How am I supposed to relax?

(He sits down again.)

(Melony enters through the door stage left. She is holding a pregnancy test in her hand.)

JOHN

(Gets up immediately, having just sat down.)

JOHN (Continued)

So?

MELONY

Will you just calm down? I don't know yet.

JOHN

But you just did the test.

MELONY

It takes a little bit before we get a result.

(She sits on the bed, and puts the test in her lap. She motions for John to sit next to her.)

JOHN

I don't want to sit.

(He paces back and forth in front of Melony.)

MELONY

John.

JOHN

What?

MELONY

Sit.

JOHN

Okay.

(He sits down immediately on the bed next to her, defeated by the authoritative tone in her voice.)

MELONY

Good boy.

(She chuckles and nudges John playfully.)

JOHN

I'm just nervous.

(He begins to fidget with the blankets on the bed, pulling them up and bunching them in his fist, then letting them go.)

MELONY

Me too. Will you stop that?

(She puts a hand on John's, ceasing the fidgeting.)

JOHN

Sorry. Do we know yet?

MELONY

Maybe...

(She grabs the test and brings it closer to her face.)

MELONY (Continued)

There's a result!

(She stands up.)

JOHN

What is it?

(He stands up to join Melony.)

MELONY

(She looks at him, smiling, but as she looks back at the test, her smile fades quickly. She holds the test out to him, hanging her head.)

JOHN

Is that good?

(He takes the test out of Melony's hands and moves a few steps away. He turns around to Melony again.)

JOHN (Continued)

One line is positive, right?

MELONY

No, John.

(She shakes her head and sits down on the edge of the bed. She looks defeated.)

MELONY (Continued)

One line is negative. It's negative. We're not pregnant.

JOHN

Are you sure? Maybe you should take one more, just in case.

MELONY

I'm sure. We're not having a baby, at least not yet.

JOHN

What do you mean not yet?

(He turns away from his wife.)

JOHN (Continued)

We've been trying to have a baby for three years now, and not once have we had even the smallest glimmer of hope. You say not yet, I say not ever.

MELONY

John!

JOHN

Don't scold me.

(He throws the pregnancy test across the room, toward the door at stage left. It lands against the wall and he turns away in disgust.)

JOHN (Continued)

We've been trying so long I can't even remember the excitement we first had at the prospect of being parents. It's the same story every time: you think you're pregnant, and take the test, and "ta-da"...not pregnant. Surprise surprise.

MELONY

Oh, so it's my fault?

(She stands up, facing her husband.)

JOHN

I didn't say that-

MELONY

You might as well have.

(There is hurt, but also anger, in her voice. She points at him.)

MELONY (Continued)

You probably think I'm the reason we can't have a baby. Well I tell you what, Mr. Perfect, you're not all fine and dandy yourself. It's not all on me to have this baby.

JOHN

I'm not trying to say that. I'm just frustrated.

MELONY

And I'm not?

JOHN

(He sighs. Shaking his head, he moves toward stage left.)

JOHN (Continued)

You know what? Let's just go to bed. I've got a big day tomorrow, and I don't feel like fighting all night.

(He walks through the door.)

MELONY

Fine.

(She starts folding back the blankets on the bed.)

JOHN

You left the toothpaste cover off.

(He walks back through the door, a toothbrush in his mouth. He is holding a tube of toothpaste in his hand.)

MELONY

Really? You're going to bring that up right now? I thought you said you didn't want to fight.

JOHN

I just think it doesn't take long to put a cover back on a tube of toothpaste.

(He goes back into the bathroom, and comes out a few moments later to get into bed.)

(Melony gets into bed, and John follows shortly after. They roll away from each other.)

JOHN

Night.

MELONY

Night.

(End Scene.)

ACT [I]

SCENE [2]

(John and Melony get up to get ready for the day the morning after their fight. Neither of them is happy, a conversation quickly turns to their difficulty to have a child. Melony tries to talk to John about trusting God, but John won't listen.)

(An alarm clock rings. John reaches out hastily to turn it off, and then sits on the edge of the bed. He stretches, then gets up to go to the bathroom. Melony sits up as he moves to the door at stage left, but she doesn't get out of bed.)

MELONY

Morning.

(She rubs her eyes and yawns. She is groggy with sleep.)

JOHN

Sure is.

(He doesn't look at her, and continues into the bathroom.)

MELONY

Well you don't have to bite my head off.

(She mumbles, but doesn't say it too loud.)

MELONY (Continued)

So much for starting off fresh with a new day.

JOHN

What did you say?

MELONY

I said what do you have going on today?

(She sits on the edge of the bed, but doesn't stand up.)

JOHN

Big meetings and a lot of paperwork. I'll probably be home late.

MELONY

No surprise there.

JOHN

What are you saying?

(He comes out of the bathroom and leans against the door. He is dressed and ready for work.)

MELONY

Nothing.

(She stands up and walks toward the bathroom.)

JOHN

Oh there's something there.

(He walks away from the door to let Melony pass, but he turns to face her as she enters the bathroom.)

JOHN (Continued)

What do you mean by "no surprise." Should I not go to work? Should I just stay home all day?

MELONY

No, that's not what I'm saying. You just work a lot, that's all. Can't you take a few evenings off.

JOHN

Well I guess since I work so much, maybe it's a good thing we aren't having a baby yet: I apparently wouldn't ever be home.

MELONY

Don't say that.

(She comes back out into the bedroom.)

MELONY (Continued)

We both know that's not true. You would make a great father.

JOHN

I know.

(He walks toward Melony, tenderly reaching out. He touches her briefly, but walks away again.)

JOHN (Continued)

I just don't understand why it's so hard. If we want a child so much, why don't we have one yet? What did we every do to deserve this?

MELONY

Don't worry, dear. God will bless us in His own time. He works on His own schedule.

JOHN

Oh don't give me that.

(He scoffs at her and turns away.)

JOHN (Continued)

Please don't get all "Godly" on me. Your God has nothing to do with it.

MELONY

Sometimes He works in ways that we don't understand.
(She is clearly upset, and very defensive.)

JOHN

God doesn't exist.

(He begins to raise his voice.)

MELONY

John-

JOHN

It's time you grew up and stop believing in fairy tales. God isn't here. It's just you, and me, and all of our problems. It's time you figured out that there is no such thing as God.

(He storms off stage, exiting stage right.)

(Melony looks stunned, and hurt. She wants to say something, but decides it's better to leave it alone: instead, she enters the bathroom to finish getting ready.)

(End Scene.)

ACT [1]

SCENE [3]

(The wife is at a daycare, where she works. This scene involves five or six child volunteers to work. The children will be encouraged to run around laughing, playing games like tag or "ring around the rosie" while the wife interacts with them.)

(Children are playing. Some are running around, some are playing games, most are yelling or laughing loudly.)

MELONY

Kids, be careful. Johnny, don't hit. Sarah, be nice to Sam.

(She sighs, shaking her head at the chaos.)

MELONY (Continued)

It's too bad it's so cold outside, because you guys have a lot of energy.

(The children continue running around, while Melony looks on. She can't help but smile at the children.)

MELONY (Continued)

Alright kids, it's time to settle down.

(The children obey, beginning to quiet down and come toward her one by one.)

MELONY (Continued)

It's time for a story. How many of you want to hear a story?

(The children all raise their hands.)

MELONY (Continued)

Okay. Gather around then. Remember to be quiet. Come sit over by this chair, and I'll read to you.

(She moves toward a chair while the children gather around. She sits down, and opens up a children's book. It is a children's bible.)

MELONY (Continued)

Today we're going to hear about a story of a little baby.

(She begins to read the story to them.)

MELONY (Continued)

Long ago there was a man who was a simple carpenter: he made things out of wood for people, like chairs and tables. His name was Joseph, and he was engaged to be married to a girl named Mary. And then they found out that a miracle had happened: Mary was pregnant with a little boy! The little boy was a gift from God, and Joseph and Mary were very excited to have him. God told them that their little baby would grow up to save the world. They named him Jesus, and he was the Son of God. He grew up to become the savior of the entire world, because he died on the cross and rose from the dead to save all of us from sin. Jesus was a miracle, given to Mary and Joseph at Christmas.

(She closes the book, and looks at the children.)

MELONY (Continued)

And that, kids, is the true meaning of Christmas. It's about the miracle of baby Jesus and the salvation that He gave us.

(She motions for the kids to stand up.)

MELONY (Continued)

Okay kids, time to go play some more. You can go play in the other room with Miss Sarah: but you have to make sure to listen to Miss Sarah, okay?

(The kids say "okay" and then exit the stage, heading back to their seats. Melony is left alone on stage, and begins to walk back and forth.)

MELONY (Continued)

I'm sure that it was scary for Mary and Joseph, but I envy them. I wish we could have a miracle baby.

(She sits back down in the chair, and holds her head in her hands. When she sits up again, she is distraught.)

MELONY (Continued)

God, why haven't you allowed us to have a child?

(She slides from the chair and kneels down in prayer.)

MELONY (Continued)

God, we've been so patient. My husband doesn't have faith, I know. But we've tried so hard to have a child, and we haven't gotten anywhere. It's tearing my marriage apart. I know that my husband could have faith. I pray you give him the strength. And I know that all things happen in your time, God, but it's so hard. Please, give me the strength. Please give me a child.

(She stands up and wipes her eyes, clearing the tears. Then she exits the stage.)

(End Scene.)

ACT [I]

SCENE [4]

(Melony and John are in their bedroom. They are getting ready for bed.)

MELONY

So how was your day, John?

(She pulls back the covers to get ready to settle in. John is taking his shoes off in the corner of the room.)

JOHN

It was fine.

(He kicks off his shoes, glancing at her for a mere moment before continuing to get ready for bed. He walks toward the bathroom, through the door stage left.)

MELONY

Just fine? There wasn't anything exciting, or frustrating?

(She sits down on the bed, glancing at the bathroom.)

MELONY (Continued)

Nothing good happened?

JOHN

I said it was fine. Don't you believe me?

(He steps into the bedroom halfway.)

JOHN (Continued)

Does everything have to be good or awesome or great? Can't I just have a day that's fine?

(He walks back into the bathroom.)

MELONY

Well okay then. Sorry. I just wanted to know what was going on in my husband's life, that's all.

(She gets up and starts pacing around. She is uncomfortable, and can't sit down any longer.)

MELONY (Continued)

Why are you so frustrated? I didn't even say anything.

JOHN

It's that you didn't take my word for it. I said my day was fine, but that wasn't good enough for you.

MELONY

If your day was actually fine, would you be so cranky right now?

(She turns toward the bathroom door.)

JOHN

I wasn't cranky until you kept pushing for a different answer.

(He comes into the bedroom again, this time he seems visibly angry.)

JOHN (Continued)

You know, I'm not sure this is working.

MELONY

What?

(She pauses, seeming shocked at the words that came out of his mouth. She takes a tentative step toward him, but he pulls back.)

MELONY (Continued)

What do you mean by that? What's not working?

JOHN

This.

(He motions to the room, himself, and her.)

JOHN (Continued)

None of this seems to be working. We're always fighting, you're unhappy, I'm unhappy...it's not working.

MELONY

John, don't say that.

(She reaches out to grab his hand, but he moves away.)

JOHN

I'm just being realistic, Melony. Neither of us seems happy.

MELONY

We're just not communicating well. I feel like every time I say something I set you off.

JOHN

And I feel like every time I speak my mind, you get sad or angry. And then there's the fact that we can't have a baby...

MELONY

John.

JOHN

What?

MELONY

It...I just...it will happen when God wills it.

JOHN

Melony, please. Not tonight. I don't have time for your fairytales tonight.

MELONY

Fairytales!

JOHN

Look, it's just not working. I don't know, maybe it will never work again. All I know is that I can't keep doing this. Whatever this is, I can't do it anymore.

(Melony stands shocked, but says nothing. John waits for a response, but doesn't get one. Instead, he walks toward the bed and picks up his pillow.)

JOHN (Continued)

I'll sleep on the couch tonight. I think we both need some space.

(He exits stage right.)

MELONY

I don't feel like I need space.

(She sits down at the edge of the bed. She seems to be holding back tears.)

MELONY (Continued)

I feel like I need my husband.

(She gets up and walks to her side of the bed. Getting in under the covers, she goes to bed alone.)

(End Scene.)

ACT [1]

SCENE [5]

(We see Melony sleeping in the bedroom. She is alone.)

(There is a knock at the door to stage right.)

MELONY

Yes?

(She sits up groggily, shaking the sleep from her eyes.)

(John's head pokes into the door.)

JOHN

I have to get ready for work. I need the shower.

MELONY

Okay. I guess I should get up anyway. You know, this was easier when you didn't tip-toe around me.

JOHN

Well I just don't feel comfortable sleeping in here after our last fight. I know it was a while ago, but I can't help how I feel.

(He steps inside and walks toward the door at stage left.)

MELONY

Whatever. I'll go make us some breakfast. Assuming you want some today.

(Without waiting for an answer, she gets up and exits stage right while John exits stage left.)

(Melony enters from stage right.)

(She is now in the kitchen, cooking at a stove. A table sits off to the side.)

MELONY

Ouch!

(She pulls back her hand, shaking it.)

MELONY (Continued)

This is why I hate cooking bacon. It attacks me every time!

(She sucks on her finger a moment to relieve the pain of the burn. Then she goes back to cooking.)

(Enter John from stage right.)

JOHN

Smells good.

MELONY

It's bacon.

(There is an awkward silence between them as Melony continues to cook and John sits at the table.)

MELONY (Continued)

How was the couch?

JOHN

Same as always. It's fine.

MELONY

Doesn't your back hurt?

JOHN

I'm alright.

MELONY

I wish...

(She turns around, forgetting about cooking for a moment.)

MELONY (Continued)

I just wish you would move back into the bedroom. I feel so lonely in there. Can't we go and see a therapist or something? I can't stand this not getting along anymore. It's been two months! Are we ever going to get past it?

JOHN

I don't want to see a therapist. And no, I'm not just going to move back into the bedroom. I still don't know how things are going to turn out.

MELONY

(She sighs, then turns around and goes back to her cooking.)

MELONY (Continued)

I feel like you just gave up. I don't know- Ouch!
(She pulls back and shakes her hand again. This time she runs over to a sink and begins to pour water over it.)

JOHN

What happened?

(He gets up and runs over to her, concerned for her safety. He grabs her hand and takes a look.)

JOHN (Continued)

That's bad. Here, let me help.
(He takes her hand and runs it under cold water. He grabs something from below the sink and puts it on the burn, along with a band-aid.)

JOHN (Continued)

Better?

MELONY

Yes

(She looks at him with a smile.)

JOHN

Good.

(He doesn't let go of her hand.)

JOHN

Remember our honeymoon? When you tried to get up early and cook?

(He smiles and chuckles at her.)

MELONY

How could I forget? A trip to the emergency room the day after my wedding is something that I will remember forever.

(She laughs.)

JOHN

What were you making again? I remember wondering how you managed to slice your hand open on that knife.

MELONY

I was *trying* to cut some sausage up, because I knew that you loved it. That's what I get for being a good wife I suppose.

(She laughs again, this time joined by John. The memory fills them with the spark they once felt.)

JOHN

Well, I better head in to work.

(He releases her hand, and walks toward the table to grab his briefcase.)

MELONY

Okay.

(She seems saddened that their laughter is over. The worried look she wore earlier returns.)

JOHN

I'll be back for supper though.

(He walks to the door, then stops before walking through. Turning around, he looks at Melony.)

JOHN (Continued)

Maybe a therapist might be good.

MELONY

Really?

(Her face lights up with delight.)

JOHN

Yea. You're right, we need to communicate better. I guess a therapist could help with that. Anyway, I'll see you tonight and we can talk about it I guess.

(He walks out the door.)

MELONY

Okay.

(She smiles, and holds her freshly mended hand. Then she looks up toward the ceiling.)

MELONY (Continued)

Thank you God. Thank you for answering my prayers.

(End Scene.)

ACT [II]

SCENE [1]

(Melony and John are in the bedroom: John is reading and Melony is praying. They are getting ready for bed.)

MELONY

Dear Lord, please watch over me as I sleep tonight, and bless this house.

MELONY (Continued)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

(She opens her eyes and begins sliding under the covers, but John interrupts by saying something.)

JOHN

Why do you do that?

MELONY

Do what?

JOHN

Pray...or whatever.

MELONY

What do you mean why do I do that? Praying is an important part of having faith.

(She looks at her husband, confused but interested.)

JOHN

I mean, it seems a little weird. It's like you're talking to yourself. Nobody else is here but me.

(He wags his finger around his ear in the symbol for "crazy", but he smiles.)

MELONY

(Laughs)

Well it might seem crazy, but I'm telling you I'm not just talking to myself. I'm talking to God: and He hears me. He is everywhere, and hears everything.

JOHN

So why even pray? If he knows everything, what's the point in asking for things?

MELONY

Well first off because he tells us to in the bible. But more importantly, prayer is just communicating. At the end of the day, I'm just talking with God.

JOHN

But he doesn't talk back.

(At this point John is intrigued in the conversation, and puts down his book.)

JOHN (Continued)

I mean, it's kind of a one way conversation.

MELONY

It might seem like that, but I always get an answer. Sometimes it's yes, sometimes it's no, and sometimes it's "not yet." But I always hear him in some way or another. Even more than that, I feel at peace.

JOHN

It's still kind of weird.

MELONY

Think of it this way.

(She sits up in bed straighter, turning to John.)

MELONY (Continued)

Our marriage began to fall apart when we stopped communicating well. I talked about what I wanted, and you talked about what you wanted, but neither of us talked about what the other person wanted. Beyond that, there were times where we barely said a word to each other in a single day, or even a few days.

(She pauses to see if John is catching on.)

JOHN

Okay...

(He nods, and urges her to go on with his hands.)

MELONY

Well, it's kind of the same with God. I have a relationship with him, and if I want to know what he wants, I pray. Likewise, if I want him to know what I want, I pray. It's how I communicate with God, and keep the relationship strong.

JOHN

Hmmm.

MELONY

I know it might seem weird at first, but it's important. And that's why I do it.

(She smiles, and settles back into bed.)

MELONY (Continued)

Does that answer your question?

JOHN

Yea.

MELONY

Okay. Well, I'm super tired. I'm going to hit the hay.

JOHN

Sounds good. Have a good night. I love you.

MELONY

I love you too. Sleep tight.

(End Scene.)

ACT [II]

SCENE [2]

(We see the bedroom again, the man sitting in bed watching a sports game on television. The wife is not there.)

(Enter Melony from stage left.)

MELONY

John!

JOHN

What is it?

(He makes no move to engage her in conversation: he is engrossed in his television.)

MELONY

John, are you listening?

(She moves in front of him.)

JOHN

Honey, you're blocking the game.

(He tries to look around her, but she moves in the way. He finally looks at her.)

JOHN (Continued)

What is it?

MELONY

Look!

(She moves to the bed and holds out a pregnancy test in front of him excitedly.)

JOHN

What?

(He can't believe what he is seeing.)

JOHN

Are you-

MELONY

Pregnant! We're going to have a baby!

JOHN

Are you sure?

(He stands up in excitement.)

MELONY

That's the third test I've taken. I'm sure.

JOHN

This is great!

(He hugs her, giving her a great big bear hug.)

MELONY

We're going to be parents.

(She starts to tear up.)

JOHN

It's amazing. This is the greatest day of our lives.

MELONY

It's a miracle!

(She pulls away from the hug with a sudden realization.)

MELONY (Continued)

I have to call my parents.

(She begins dialing the phone.)

JOHN

I'll call mine too. They'll be so excited.

(He pulls out his own phone and begins to dial. He puts it up to his ear and turns away from Melony, who is holding her own phone up.)

JOHN (Continued)

Hey mom! Guess what?

MELONY

Dad, I have some great news.

JOHN

You're going to be a grandmother!

MELONY

Guess who is going to be a grandparent? Yes. Yes, we just found out, we're going to have a baby.

JOHN

Melony just told me: we're going to be parents.

MELONY

It's a miracle.

JOHN

Of course we'll keep you updated as we go. Mhm. I love you too. Buh-bye.

(He hangs up the phone and turns back to Melony.)

MELONY

I love you too. I'll call you as soon as we know more. Bye.

(She hangs up the phone, and then looks at John. Suddenly, she runs forward and hugs him again.)

MELONY (Continued)

We're so blessed. I just can't believe we're finally having a baby.

JOHN

Believe it, Melony. We're going to be parents.

(End Scene.)

ACT [II]

SCENE [3]

(Melony is getting ready in the bedroom. John is not in the room, but it is clearly morning.)

MELONY

Oh, I'm always running late for church. One of these days I'm going to get there on time, I swear.

(Enter John, dressed nicely.)

JOHN

Ready to go?

MELONY

Go?

(She stops what she is doing, clearly surprised by his question.)

MELONY (Continued)

What are you doing dressed? You always stay in your pajamas on Sundays?

JOHN

Not this Sunday. Come on, we're going to be late.

MELONY

Late? You always stay home and read the paper until the football game comes on. What gives?

JOHN

I told you, not this Sunday. Here are your shoes.

(He brings her a pair of shoes, and she sits down on the bed to put them on. She is still confused, but she begins to get ready again.)

MELONY

What's different about this Sunday?

JOHN

This Sunday I'm going to church with you.

MELONY

What?

(She pauses and looks up at him.)

JOHN

Come on, come on, don't stop. We can talk while you get ready.

(He waves her on.)

MELONY

Sorry. But can you answer my question?

(She puts her shoes on and stands up.)

JOHN

What question?

MELONY

Why are you going to church with me?

JOHN

Well, because today is the first Sunday that I believe God exists.

MELONY

I'm stunned. I'm happy, but I'm shocked. What changed your mind?

JOHN

I saw you pray every night. Every night and sometimes during the day, and every time I thought to myself "there she goes, praying to air again." But the other night, you came to me with the best news of my life: we're going to be parents.

MELONY

What does that have to do with it?

JOHN

Don't you see? God gave us a miracle. He gave us a child, and your prayers have been answered. How else do you explain something like this? God is clearly at work here, and I can't deny him anymore. It's time that I acknowledge that I was wrong. God exists, and more than that, he loves us and wants what is best for us. I can see that now.

MELONY

That's great, honey.

(She hugs him.)

MELONY (Continued)

I'm so happy that God has touched your heart and given you faith.

JOHN

Me too. But honey?

(He pulls away from the hug.)

MELONY

What?

JOHN

We're really late for church.

MELONY

Right! Sorry. Let's go.

(She hustles out the door, followed closely by John.)

(End Scene.)

ACT [II]

SCENE [4]

(Melony and John are in the bedroom, both of them reading books.)

JOHN

Well, I'm exhausted.

(He puts his book down and looks over at Melony.)

MELONY

I'm pretty tired too.

(She sets her book down as well.)

JOHN

Shall we pray and hit the hay?

MELONY

You made a rhyme.

(She laughs)

JOHN

I'm a poet and I didn't even know it.

(He smiles.)

JOHN (Continued)

What do you think, though. Ready for bed? I know it's Christmas Eve, but I'm tired.

MELONY

Yea. Me too. Besides, Christmas Day is the day I get to open my presents.

(She smirks and then sets her book down and fold her hands.)

MELONY (Continued)

Ready?

JOHN

Mhm. You go ahead, I'll do what I can. It's still new to me.

MELONY

Okay.

(She bows her head and closes her eyes. John does the same. Then they begin to recite the Lord's Prayer together.)

JOHN AND MELONY

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever. Amen.

MELONY

Uh, John?

JOHN

What?

(He was settling into bed, but stops and looks over.)

MELONY

It's time.

JOHN

Time for bed? Yea, I know. That's what I'm doing.

MELONY

No. *It's time.*

(She emphasizes "it's time" and nods at her belly.)

JOHN

Oh! It's time! Oh my gosh.

(He jumps out of bed and runs around to her side. He begins to help her out.)

MELONY

Just calm down, dear.

(She puts her feet on the floor, and we see that she is very pregnant.)

JOHN

Oh!

(He runs over to the other side of the bed and looks in the corner)

JOHN(Continued)

It's not there. Where is it? Where did I put it?
(He runs into the bathroom)

MELONY

John.

JOHN

Oh yea.

(He runs back out and helps Melony to her feet. Then he runs back into the bathroom.)

JOHN (Continued)

I can't find it, Melony.

MELONY

John.

JOHN

What?

(He pokes his head out of the bathroom.)

MELONY

Look.

(She points at the bag next to her side of the bed and laughs. John sees it.)

JOHN

Oh.

(He runs over to the bag then grabs it. He runs out the door opposite the bathroom, leaving Melony to walk slowly toward the exit.)

MELONY

He's like a chicken with its head cut off.
(She mumbles under her breath.)

JOHN

I almost forgot!

(He runs back in with the bag toward Melony, but he goes around her. He grabs a set of keys off the night stand by her side of the bed, then runs back out.)

MELONY

That's not all you forgot.

(She mumbles it again, smiling and shaking her head. She is slowly moving toward the exit. John runs back in.)

JOHN

Sorry honey!

(He runs over to her, puts the keys in his mouth, and uses his free hand to help her along.)

JOHN (Continued)

(Intelligible gibberish)

MELONY

Yes, I know dear. We are going to have a baby. Don't talk with your mouth full.

(They both exit the stage together, John excitedly and Melony calmly.)

(End Scene.)

ACT [II]

SCENE [5]

(Melony is at home in bed, holding a baby in her arms that is wrapped in a blanket.)

(Enter John from stage right. He is pushing a wheelchair.)

JOHN

Merry Christmas, honey.

(He leaves the wheelchair and walks over to her.)

MELONY

Merry Christmas. What a lovely present.

(She smiles and looks down at her child.)

MELONY (Continued)

Yes you are, you're such a lovely Christmas present.

(She speaks to her bundle of joy in baby speak.)

JOHN

I couldn't have asked for a better gift.

(He helps Melony get up, and walks her over to the wheelchair.)

MELONY

It took a while, but we finally got it. Thanks to God, our prayers were answered and we have our own little miracle child. Just like Mary and Joseph waiting for Jesus to be born: our child was born on Christmas.

JOHN

It's a nice reminder of why Christmas is so important, isn't it?

MELONY

Mhm. And a nice reminder of God's love. Every time I see our baby, I'm reminded of what Jesus did on the cross for us, and of how much God does for us every day.

(She hands the baby to John, and sits down in the wheelchair.)

JOHN

We'll have to get him baptized soon.

(He gazes down at the baby, and then reluctantly hands the child to Melony.)

MELONY

Those are some words I never thought I would hear you say.

JOHN

Well it's hard to argue with the idea of baptism now that I know how important it is. Now that I have seen God's work through this little boy of ours, it's pretty impossible to deny his existence.

(He walks behind Melony and begins to wheel her around. They start for the door.)

JOHN (Continued)

It's amazing that we've been given this baby. It's such a miracle.

MELONY

It sure is.

(They exit stage right.)

(End Scene.)