

International FOCUS Ministries

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The following story was forwarded to me from an old seminary classmate-----

“His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He is brilliant - kind of esoteric and very, very bright.

He became a Christian while attending college. Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students, but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decided to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and wild hair. The service has already started and so Bill starts

down the aisle looking for a seat. The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now, people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Bill gets closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet. (Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this has never happened in this church before!) By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the minister realizes that from way at

the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill. Now the deacon is in his eighties, with silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A godly man-very elegant-very dignified, very courtly.

He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves- that you can't



blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The minister can't even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do. And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone.

Everyone chokes up with emotions. When the minister gains control, he says, *"What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget. Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read."*

This story graphically portrays what took place two thousand years ago in Bethlehem of Judea *"when the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us..."*(John 1:14). In the lines of the grand hymn, *"title"* (writer's name) said, *"veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate deity."* Paul declared, *"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself..."*(1Cor. 5:19 a)

This is the **mystery** of Christmas! How God in His divinity, could become humanity without corrupting His divine nature?

This is the **meaning** of Christmas that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

"What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget. Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read."

This is the **miracle** of Christmas, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new" (2Cor. 5:17).

This is the **message** of Christmas, "you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15)

This is the **glorious gift** of Christmas-the gift of eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Donna and I pray that the peace, love, and joy of knowing Christ will make this the most meaningful Christmas ever for you and your family.

PERSONAL NOTE

I have prepared this newsletter before having foot and ankle surgery on November 30th. Our son-in-law Mike, will post an update report about the surgery and my progress on our website www.missionscentral.net

The enclosed magnet card is a small token of our love and appreciation for you and your faithful prayers and support. Please use it as a reminder to pray for us as we go forth serving in full time evangelism and worldwide missions.

Your Partners in Harvest,

Harley and Donna Fiddler



Partners in Harvest