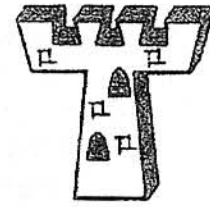




The Tower Christian School

# Trumpeteer



"The Name of the Lord is a Strong Tower" Proverbs 18:10

Volume 4 Issue 3

www.towerstudents.com

January 2011

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**In Person**  
**Submissions may be**  
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## Christmas in the Stable

By: Nikki Siebert

Once upon a time in a little town called Bethlehem, in the bleakest part of town behind the oldest inn, I sat in a quiet and dark stable. Inside that very stable slept the animals that were there on that very special night..."hey you do know we can hear you right?"

"Yeah we may have been asleep but all your jabbering woke us up, we're not deaf."

"Hey who said that?"

"We did!"

"Who's we and where are you?"

"Over here in the stable. Yes you are almost here...now stop turn to your right and look down, Hello!"

"Whoa! You're a...a talking animal!"

"Yep, a lamb to be precise, the names Lionel, my friend Abigail the cow is sitting right there on the pile of hay."

"Hi there!"

"Ah, how can you do that!?"

"Do what?"

"Talk."

"Uuh, the same way you do. You do know that this stable was not always this quiet. Hey Abigail, do you remember that one night when that little baby boy was here?"

"Yeah, I remember because they put him in my feeding box."

"Oh you were fine for a few hours."

"Mhmm..."

"And it isn't just your feeding box it belongs to all of us."

"Well I am the biggest animal in here."

"So?"

"So I should..."

"Uh guys I am trying to tell a story."

"Why don't you let us tell it? After all we were there and you weren't."

"How do you know I wasn't there?"

"I just do now sit back and relax."

"But..."

"I said sit back and relax; now the story went a little like this..."

It was the fourth day of the week, our tiny town of Bethlehem was packed and there was no room in any of the inns including this one. The reason why our tiny town was suddenly filled to the brim was because Caesar Augustus had issued a decree that everyone must return to the place of their birth to make it easier for him to collect the taxes. This one particular couple everyone knew because the Husband (who's name was Joseph) was running up and down the streets knocking every door asking them all the same question...

"Is there was any room?" They all turned him away saying, "No, there is no more room inside this inn."

Finally he came to this very inn and knocked on the door and asked if there was any room at all, but the innkeeper replied, "No I am sorry no more room." Just as he began to close the door Joseph put his hand on the door and blocked it saying, "Please, Please, have you not any room anywhere not just inside but anywhere at all?" The Innkeeper said "There is a stable behind the inn and I will not charge you for staying there."

Joseph thanked him for his kindness and he led his wife around to the back of the inn where they found the stable where we were all sleeping. Once inside, Mary sat down for the baby was about to be born. We all awoke to find a woman leaning against a pile of hay and in the arms she cradled her newborn baby. Joseph looked all around to find something to wrap the baby in but all he could find were some rags. After seeing nothing else he returns to Mary and the baby and wraps the baby in these swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger.

"My feedbox"

"Oh hush up!"

Anyways, they placed him in a manger and named him Jesus for this is the name that was given to him by God. Not long after that some shepherds arrived saying that God's angles had appeared to them and said, "Go into the city and look for the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." After the angles of the Lord told us this message then a whole host of heavenly angles appeared and started singing

## Christmas in the Stable

(continued from page 1)

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will toward men." So they dropped their staves left the flock, and ran to meet this babe lying in a manger. So, about two years had passed since the baby was born and the family had moved into a little house across the street from the inn. Then late one night these three Wise Men appeared saying that they had been following a star, searching for him who was to be born 'King of the Jews.' They even went to King Herod at Jerusalem, because they believed that is where a king should be born. Herod knew nothing of a baby being born. The chief priests and teacher of the law told the wisemen and Herod that Bethlehem was where the king was to be born. Before they left Herod told the wisemen that as soon as they found the baby they were to return to him and tell him where the child is so that he can come and worship him too. So, they came here to Bethlehem and found the child. Then one by one they came forward and each presented him with a gift gold, frankincense, and myrrh. After the gifts were given they were invited to stay until they were ready for their long journey home. "Wait a minute, how did Mary know that she was going to give birth to the Son of God?"

"Well"

One day she was in her garden after the day's work was done, then suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to her. She was greatly afraid. But he said to her do not fear for you have found favor in the eyes of God. Because of this you will conceive by the Holy Spirit a son who will save his people from their sins. She replied to the angel, then let it be done to me as you said, for I am the Lord's servant. Then he was gone. After this she went to Joseph and told him the news, at first he was scared because they had only been betrothed to her for two months and said it would be best if they just called the wedding off. Then after she left an angel appeared to him in his sleep and said to him, do not be afraid to wed Mary, for she has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you will call him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. The next day Joseph went to her and told her the news, and not long after that the census was decreed and they made the long journey over here to Bethlehem. And in this little stable behind that inn right there, the baby was born.

"So anyway back to the Wise Men"

They stayed for about two more weeks, and on the night before they were to depart an angel appeared to each of the wise men in a dream and said to them,

"Do not return to King Herod, for he is seeking out the child to kill him." So the next morning when they awoke, and they thanked Mary and Joseph for their hospitality and made the long journey home by a different route so they would not have to go back to King Herod. After the wisemen left, the days of Mary and Joseph passed without much excitement, until one night, another angel appeared to Joseph in a dream saying:

"King Herod is seeking out the baby to kill him. Flee to Egypt until the Lord informs you when it is safe to return." So Joseph got up in the middle of the night, took Mary and Jesus to Egypt. We were soon to find out the wrath of King Herod because not long after they left, King Herod's soldiers swarmed the streets and killed every child at the age of two or under in search of Jesus. I don't remember much more of that night except that it was filled with the cries of many mothers who had lost their children.

"Hopefully one day they will return when it is safe."

"That, my friend, is how the story goes. As for now, my story is over. Although, I am sure that is not the end of that family's adventure."

The Trumpeter

## Family Traditions at Christmas Time

By: Krysten Siebert

Christmas in our family is not all about getting but giving too. I do not know about you, but I like seeing my family's faces light up when you get them something they really needed or something they really wanted.

One of our family traditions is putting up the Christmas tree. My favorite thing about putting up the tree is placing each ornament in its special spot for the season.

Each ornament is a memory with it. I start remembering all the stories as we put each one on the branches. I like standing back and looking at the whole tree to see what's missing. Then when all the lights, ornaments, and garland are perfectly placed... we search diligently for the star, to add the final detail to the top of the Christmas tree!

On Christmas Day after all the decorating, shopping and wrapping, my Dad starts in on his preparation of a yummy Christmas Dinner! This year again we have turkey stuffed with stuffing, mashed potatoes, yams, cranberry salad, green beans, apple pie, and pumpkin pie with cool whip! Mom follows dad around in the kitchen helping with little details here and there. My grandparents from Colorado and my Grandparents from Tollhouse Ca. were here to share our Christmas Dinner.

After we were all done, we all pitched in to wash all the dishes, pans, silverware, and whatever else needed to be cleaned. It was all done in less than a wink of an eye.

Then we all headed in to the living room where Lorah and I recited Luke 2:1-20.

Nikki and Michelle read Matthew 2 and we all sat around and just talked about that first Christmas. There is so much to learn each time it we read it!

Next, we gather in the family room around the tree, set up the Camera and come up with a plan to hand out presents. In the past each sister would buy a present for the one older and the one younger than them... somehow that plan was abandoned this year and each one of us bought for each one of us. So we made a plan... we opened one at a time.

Each sister went to the tree to get a present for another sister gave it to her and then waited our turn to open. It was great, so that everyone could see what everyone had taken so much time to shop for, wrap up and then give. This all took quite a while but it was fun! Usually after the day is wrapping down we should be brushing our teeth and heading for bed... but instead we bundled up and drove to Candy Cane Lane in the pouring rain! It was so sparkly and wonderful. My favorite was the lights that were synchronized to Christmas music!

Finally we made it back home ate one more box of Sees Chocolates, and put it "It's a Wonderful Life" Then after that was over Grandma and Grandpa Bell went home, and Grandma and Grandpa Siebert fell asleep, then mom falls asleep then dad then one by one each sister finds there place to fall asleep. I hope u enjoy reading about our family Maybe next year you can tell us what your family does!

A very Merry 2010 Christmas to all! And a very Prosperous New 2011!!!!

## Christmas and New Year Traditions:

By: Maranata Zemel

Hi everybody! In this article I would like to share with you some of my family traditions for Christmas and the New Year.

For Christmas, my family usually heads out to the Bay area and spends time with family on my Dad's side. But this year, the family came over to our place instead. We had lots of fun with Aunts and Cousins by catching up on what they had been up to during the year.

As for the New Year, we set up chairs and enjoy watching fireworks—right from our own backyard.

I hope you've enjoyed a little insight on my family's holiday traditions. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!



### My Christmas Traditions

By: Amelia Sanders



On Christmas we.... No, I must go farther back, to the morning of Christmas Eve. As we awake, we (My sister and I) are filled with both happiness and anticipation, which is a tradition that all children share on the morning of Christmas Eve. Jocelyn and I have breakfast and then wander around aimlessly until its time to go to Grandma and Grandpa Avery's for dinner. Now, this year we came for Linner (when lunch and Dinner are combined) and we feasted on food, and we talked about stuff. Then we drove down to First Presbyterian for their candlelight service. When we returned- Grandma brought out the desert.

Another tradition that my family has is reading the Grinch on Christmas Eve before we open presents, and when we do it's a flurry of paper and squeals of delight. Then we finally leave- all bone tired and starting to dose off. Then Jocelyn and I continue the same tradition of all children; waiting till the sun brings the morning light. We are usually up first and wanting to see what Saint Nicholas brought us. Presents are ripped open and breakfast is eaten. (I hope I haven't tired you out and I will not take much more time.) So I will simply conclude that after breakfast we play with our new things and then we drive to Grandma and Grandpa Sanders'.

I have found through writing this that my Christmas traditions are not any activities in particular but they are merely the people I see on Christmas, the candlelight service, and going to Grandparents' houses that are my traditions. It's what I was raised doing.

## Valencia Family Christmas Traditions

By: Carlos Valencia

As I reflect on the fact that retail sales have been one of the major recurring news items during the past few Christmas seasons, I'm reminded of how strong the current of our culture is against celebrating our Lord's birth during this time of year. Indeed, what can one do in the midst of such a strong emphasis on materialism?

During the ten years that my wife Carol and I have been married, we have developed some traditions to not only limit the impact of materialism on our family during the Christmas season, but to also elevate the celebration of our Lord's birth.

1. Very early on in our marriage, Carol and I were quite firm with our extended family that there would be no more than one gift provided by each person for each of our children. To be honest, the first few years were very difficult in this regard, especially with the grandparents! However, for the most part, our extended families have honored this request.

2. As for gift giving on our part, we've tried a number of different things. For a couple of years we gave "alternative gifts" (i.e., charitable contributions given in the recipient's name) to our friends and family.

We try to put an emphasis on giving gifts that will be visible throughout the year and provide on-going memories for the recipients. One such gift that my wife has traditionally given in this regard is a calendar with photos of our family doing a season related activity each month. This year our oldest daughter Hannah crocheted a gift - a doll's dress for our youngest daughter Miriam.

3. During the time of Advent, we try to develop a sense of anticipation within our children of celebrating our Lord's birth. Each year we've been fortunate to find a series of daily Advent readings - either through our church or via the internet - which we've used as family devotionals.

4. Every year our children look forward to the annual "house trimming," when we haul out various Christmas decorations with which to festoon our home! This wonderful occasion generally lasts quite awhile, since numerous decorations evoke memories of when they were received as a gift, or trigger recollections of important past Christmas-related events.

5. Another important tradition has been focusing at least one family evening around the reading of our Lord's birth described in the gospels Matthew and Luke.

There are, of course, many other things that we do as a family: Having time in the living room with a warm fire, drinking hot chocolate, having more time together with friends and family, etc. I hope you've enjoyed hearing about what we have done and continue to do as a family to de-emphasize materialism and emphasize our Lord's birth during this season. From our family to yours, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## Top Ten Christmas Jokes

By: Maranata Zemedé

1. Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

A: its Christmas, Eve.

2. Q: Why are Christmas Trees such bad knitters?

A: Because they keep dropping their needles.

3. Q: How do sheep say Merry Christmas in Mexico?

A: Fleece Navidad!

4. Q: What is a Snowman's favorite lunch?

A: And Iceberger

5. Q: What did the Gingerbread Man put on his bed?

A: A cookie sheet!

6. Q: What kind of bird can write?

A: A pen-guin!



7. Q: Why does Santa Claus like to work in the garden?

A: Because he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe!

8. Q: What do you call a Snowman Party?

A: A Snowball!

9. Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a shark?

A: frostbite

10. Q: What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Clause?

A: Clausetrophobic!

## Top Ten Places to Visit

During Christmas

By: Lorah Siebert

### Vacation

1. China peak (also know as sierra summit)
2. Denver, Colorado
3. Christmas tree lane
4. Shaver lake
5. Yosemite National Park
6. Hawaii (if you don't like the cold weather)
7. Candy Cane lane
8. Ice-skating rink
9. Caroling in your local neighbor hood
10. North pole



## Top Ten Gifts to buy for your friends

By: Lorah Siebert

1. Target gift card
2. A wallet
3. Scarf and gloves
4. Ugg boots
5. Stuffed bear
6. Hot chocolate mug
7. Bag filled with their favorite king of candy!
8. A picture frame with a picture of the two of you in it
9. A Journal
10. Home made Christmas ornaments



# Christmas Time

by Nikki Siebert

Christmas time is full of cheer,  
And bringing everyone you love so near,  
Giving gifts and seeing smiles,  
On the face of every little child,  
Remembering the story we hold so dear,  
Reminds why we celebrate Christmas here,  
But God gave us the greatest gift of all,  
His only Son, who will catch us should we fall,  
So, as we enjoy our gifts of dolls and toy trucks,  
Let us not forget the greatest gift He gave to us,  
His only Son,

## Our King!



## Suzy Q

by: Krysten Siebert

Dear Suzy Q,

For Christmas this year I got present from my sister that I did not really like. It was a game that was too easy for me. I do not know what to say. I do not want to hurt her feelings!

Sincerely,  
Trying to be Considerate

Dear Trying to be Considerate,  
Well, what you can do is very nicely explain to her why you would like to exchange her gift to you. Being considerate is a great gift to give a sister. Give many gifts like this!

Sincerely,  
Suzy Q



Find The Differences!



there are 15!