

The Butterfly



The RIMA TRES DIAS Community Newsletter

December 2015

Published every month ~ editor Lynne Cignarella ~ Lynnepj36@aol.com

PRESIDENTS CORNER

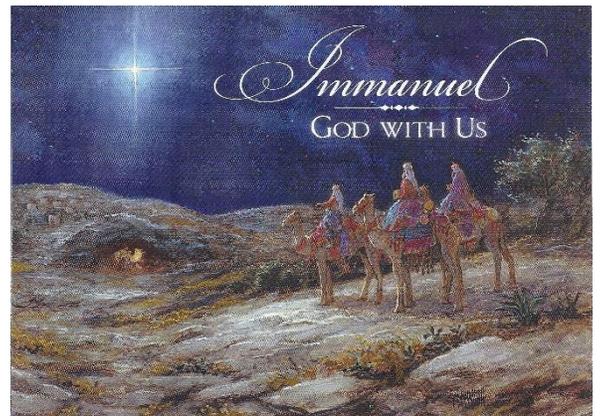
Christmas is upon us and no doubt like our family, yours has been deluged with cards from family and friends bidding you good tidings and a Merry Christmas. Many of these cards were chosen especially to remind us that Jesus is the reason for the season! Many contain the Old Testament prophecies of his coming.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (NIV)

Isaiah 9:6-7 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. 7 - Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I have often wondered why Genesis 3:15, isn't among the Christmas prophecies.



Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel. (NIV)

This verse, which is sometimes referred to as the 1st Gospel Promise, or the Protoevangelium foreshadows the coming of Christ, as the one who will ‘crush Satan’s head’. Coming in the same chapter, and only a few verses after ‘the fall’, this is the first reference of God’s plan for our salvation. God was not surprised that Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, nor is he surprised that we succumb to temptation. But he had a plan right from the very beginning. It was not Plan ‘B’ it was ‘Plan A’. He would send His Son to take on our sin, and make atonement for all mankind. How thankful I am for his Son!

We had another wonderful Women’s Weekend, October 22 – 25th. In the Rector’s own words, “This team that was brought together really put themselves in the hands of God; and were ready and willing to accommodate any change pursuant to keeping the flow of our programs. Our candidates remarked on how inclusive they felt and wanted to be a part of future weekends. We kept our candidates a part of all activities and they participated with vigor. Our leaders put their God given talents to work and our candidates responded to them as if they had always been connected to one another, and I believe by God’s grace this was so.”

Thank you Lorraine and team for your faithful commitment and hard work in making Women’s #66 a joyous and spirit-filled experience. Please welcome our four new Pescadores and help them to be a part of future weekends.

Blanche Austin
Diane Cooney
Phyllis Parham
Claire Welch-Hitschler

We’ve had some changes in our leadership at Secretariat, too.

Helen Harvey has retired as Pre-Weekend Committee chairperson. Thank you Helen for soo... many years of faithful service. Welcome Lynne Cignarella who will be inheriting Helen’s job.

and

Vicki Shears has retired as Treasurer. Thank you Vicki for paying our bills, and keeping our books in good order! Frank Hammond has been appointed to be Treasurer for the balance of 2015, and will run for this office in January, for 2016 – 2017. Thank you Frank!

RIMA’s Annual Meeting (the 1st under our new By-laws) will be held January 11, 2016 at Liberty Christian Center, Taunton, MA, 7 PM. *We will have elections of officers and the Annual Report for 2015*

will be presented. We now have WiFi at Liberty Christian Center, to make it easier for the community to participate at Secretariat. If you cannot travel to Taunton, please call Gordon Arent (860-376-5767) and he will Skype you in.

Peace and blessing to all this Christmas season, and through the New Year.

Gordon

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**RIMA TRES DIAS SECRETARIAT MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2015**

Present: Frank Hammond, Warren Blais, Rev. Ruth Blais, Eric Borman, Judy Borman, Lynne Cignarella, Dawn Rota, Debbie Bouffard, Steve Higgins, Andrea Higgins, Eric Anderson, Vicki Shears, Becky Shears, Lorraine Queen, Rev. Thomasina Minor-Hill, Joseph Minor-Hill and Carolyn Newcombe (via Skype), Rev. Jewel Hardman. (18)

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM by Vice President Eric Anderson, in the absence of the President.

**Prayer by Rev. Ruth
Devotion by Pastor Warren
Devotion for December 14, 2015 by Frank**

Secretary Report was read by Brenda. One error in spelling of a name. Motion by Andrea to accept the report with corrections; Seconded by Frank; Motion passed.

**Completed Weekend: Lorraine Queen.
She will have her critique meeting on Saturday, November 14th at Putnam Baptist Church at 12:00 PM and will write her report after that.**

Old Business: Gordon and Greg postponed their meeting until December 1 at 7:00 PM.

Pre Weekend: no report from Helen.

She is stepping down. Judy Borman will send her a thank you card from Secretariat for her dedicated years of service. Lynne Cignarella has volunteered to take this position. Thank you Lynne.

Weekend Report: Debbie Bouffard read this report.

We are all set to hold weekends at Cathedral Camp in Freetown MA.

Eric Anderson reported that he had received a very nice thank you note from Bernadetta at Immaculate Conception Convent. A few minor glitches were had but all were solved graciously. Eric will call Bernadette on Tuesday and cancel our booked weekends for 2016. We are giving them enough notice that we should receive our down payments back.

Post Weekend:

- 1. Sequela at Putnam Baptist Church on November 14 at 2:00 to 4:00 PM followed by a pot luck dinner.**
- 2. Christmas event at Matulitis Nursing Home , followed by a pot luck gathering at Thornfield Hall on December 6th.**

Bylaws Weekend and Policy: will meet the first of 2016.

Nominating Committee: Eric Anderson

E-mails did not get to everyone on the committee about nominations.

- 1. President – 2 year**
- 2. Vice President – 1 year**
- 3. Recording Secretary – 1 year**
- 4. Treasurer – 2 year**

Nominations taken from the floor.

Jewel Hardman nominated Roland Boucher for President

Eric Anderson nominated Frank Hammond for Treasurer

Lynne Cignarella nominated the same officers as last year.

A discussion was had and it was made clear there are nominations. The Pescadores have to be contacted to see if they are willing to serve. If so, their names will be put on a ballot to be voted on in January 2016. There is time to nominate other Pescadores for these positions.

TDI Report: Eric Borman

Judy and Eric attended October 23rd-25th in Tennessee. The membership committee of International is designing a form for chartering a new community. New communities are in Spain, South America, South Africa and one formed in Canada. A funding application has been formed to help struggling communities. It grants \$1,500 in support to these communities. Any community can apply for it, if in need.

Services Committee of TDI is putting more and more paperwork, books, etc. onto electronic method. Communities can print out these copies.

Eric and Judy reported that it came up at the meeting that RIMA was having John Polce do a healing service on Saturday night and John is not a Pescadore. They clarified it was not a healing service and John cannot afford to take time from his work to go on a weekend. A private fund has been started to help with this matter and anyone can donate if they wish.

Communication Report: Carolyn Newcombe

She had several prayer requests this month.

Lynne needs articles for the butterfly

New Business:

Lynne appointed to take over for Helen.

Frank appointed to take over as Treasurer and open accounts at Bank of America.

The Bank needs a letter from the Presiding Officer of the organization stating that he has appointed Frank Hammond as Treasurer. Eric will send this letter to Frank.

We will need to have at least 2 other signatures on the account.

Treasurer Report: Vicki Shears

Vicki stated her beginning balance was \$5,316.40 (see her list). She turned things over to Frank and will close Charter Oak Credit Union by Friday.

Her books have to be audited and this is to be done at another date. No Motion to accept report was made.

Prayer Concerns:

**Helen, Lori, Curtis, Monica, Maggie, Judy and Eric's son's surgery,
Phil, work situations, new Rectors, Pastor Greg and all Pastors, Sue and
Gordon.**

Meeting ended at 8:40 P.M. with Pastor Thomasina closing us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Higgins Hammond

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My Dearest Brothers and Sisters,
I have recently taken the position of RIMA "Historian". As we all know, saying "Yes" is the easy part; now the work begins. I am not the first in this position, but the first in a long while. Apparently, however, all of the past weekend records have been gone for a very long time. I am sure that, working together, we can reassemble some of the older materials. So I am reaching out to you in the hope that you will help me to recreate our files. I am looking for door tags, name tags and weekend programs from all of the men's and women's past weekends. I can certainly understand if you are treasuring your copies and do not want to part with them, but copies of all of these materials would be perfectly acceptable. We are starting from scratch, so that means weekend #1. I think that the best method would be for you to call me or email me and let me know which weekend materials you can provide, and then we can arrange a transfer. I will try to keep track so that we are not

duplicating efforts.

Thanks in advance, and I will happily keep you updated about our progress.

In His Great Love,

Dawn Rota

rotas@comcast.net; 781-545-3195 (home) 781-264-8302 (cell)

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BOOKS OF THE BIBLE SCRAMBLE 4

FILL IN BLANKS BY CONNECTING LETTERS TO FORM BOOKS OF THE BIBLE. SQUARES MUST BE TOUCHING DIAGONALLY, HORIZONTALLY OR VERTICALLY. EACH LETTER MUST BE USED ONCE AND ONLY ONCE. DASHES SHOW NUMBER OF LETTERS.

**RIMA 64
SAMPLE**

J	A	M
M	E	A
K	R	S

**JAMES
MARK**

A	H	R	E	H	E	L
R	I	H	C	T	I	V
K	E	Z	E	S	T	I
I	E	Z	E	E	U	C
L	E	Z	E	S	N	S
N	I	P	E	P	A	S
E	H	A	H	H	E	I

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year





The Colors of Tres Dias International



Christmas 2015
October-November 2015



If There Was No Christmas

By Rev. A. Charles Allen

If there was no Christmas, there would be no Easter, no Thanksgiving Day, no beautiful church buildings or cathedrals, no hymns and gospel songs, no beautiful Christmas trees and lights, no Christian weddings, no twelve apostles, no New Testament in the Bible, no Tres Dias, no access to God except through an earthly priest connected with Judaism, no calendar using A.D. (Anno Domini--"in the year of the Lord") to record how many years and days since Jesus appeared on earth, and no gift of eternal life.

Jesus' birth is the reason we have Christmas, yet civilization has digressed until the Savior is



overshadowed by Rudolph, Santa Claus, a Grinch, and other fictional characters. Christmas has been turned into a shopping bonanza that leaves many people under a burden of debt that may not be paid off until next Christmas.

What is the purpose of Christmas? An angel proclaimed the purpose to the shepherds near Bethlehem, as reported in Luke 2:10-11, "I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone" (*The Living Bible*) "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (*King James Version*). (This is a fulfillment of the prophesy in Micah 5:2) "Then the other angels joined in praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace."

Such wonderful news should cause us to celebrate and rejoice. God created us in his image and loves us so much that he came to us as a human being so we could know what he is really like. Until Jesus came, man's understanding of God was limited. At Christmas time, most people still think of him as a helpless baby. He was a baby, but he grew into manhood and modeled the kind of life we should live to please our heavenly father.

His birth is the most glorious event that heaven has ever witnessed. It changed the course of human history. But in spite of all this, multitudes will celebrate Christmas without Christ. This will be true for millions who have never heard the true story of Jesus. Many more have heard, but have failed to accept the Christ child as God's supreme gift. Some who call themselves Christians will be the least Christian during the Christmas season. They will allow debaucheries during the holy season in excess of those permitted other times during the year. They will prepare elaborate feasts and close their door in the face of the Guest of Honor, Jesus. This has always been the case. The Jewish nation did not want him, though they had looked for his coming for centuries. The saddest statement ever written is this: "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

I do not know in what guise our Lord will knock at your door and mine this Christmas season. But in some fashion, he is sure to come as a special guest. If we are expecting him, we will recognize him. Christmas is a time to celebrate with your family and friends. Have a party with Jesus as your honored guest. Sing Christmas carols, share testimonies, thank God for the past year and the blessings he has bestowed upon you, and pray for one another.

Rev. A. Charles Allen serves on the International Secretariat as spiritual advisor to the Policy Committee.

Kairos Prison Ministry

***"I was sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to me."
Matthew 25:36***

At a time when church attendance is shrinking and smaller congregations are shuttering their doors, new faith communities are rapidly gaining a foothold in an unlikely place: state and federal correctional facilities. What is more unlikely, perhaps, is that while civil liberties organizations are piling stones atop the wall that separates church and state, those same federal and state facilities are eagerly handing out Bibles and other sacred texts.

Kairos Prison Ministry International is a case in point. In the past two years, Kairos has added 55 institutions to the list of prisons served, bringing the total to almost 400 facilities where the ministry is staging three-day, Cursillo-like weekends and establishing prayer and share groups. Growth will likely continue. This is due, in part, to a new collaborative agreement with Walk to Emmaus as well as strong support from pescadores in many Tres Dias and Catholic Cursillo communities. In addition, there is growing recognition on the part of prison officials. "We have correction facility leaders asking Kairos to please come to their facility," wrote Kairos Executive Director Evelyn Lemly in the spring newsletter.



Kairos gained additional national visibility this summer with the release of an eleven-minute PBS video documenting a Kairos weekend inside an Indiana Department of Corrections facility. The program played to an audience of one million viewers weekly shortly after release. Moreover, churches have linked to the show during Sunday service, and state and local Kairos chapters use the video to recruit volunteers.

For readers who are not familiar with Kairos Prison Ministry, the PBS video provides an upbeat view of weekend events. Many of the scenes will be familiar: poster sessions, palanca in the form of personal letters, snacks (cookies baked by volunteers), and lots of praise singing. There is a brief scene of a monthly reunion (similar to a Tres Dias secuela) when the team returns to the prison to support the faith group.

[Link to PBS](#)

[Video](#)

What the PBS video does not capture, however, are the personal stories of men and women facing themselves and their past, accepting the fact that God's mercy is without measure, and then--often the hardest part of all--letting go of a lifetime of anger that will allow them to forgive others and begin life anew. Perhaps nowhere else are there so many stories showing Christ's victory in helping men and women find a way out of the darkness of their lives. To hear a dozen such stories told firsthand, visit the newsroom of the My Kairos website.

[Link to Newsroom at My](#)

[Kairos](#)

Like Tres Dias and Walk to Emmaus, the Kairos program owes its parentage to the national Cursillo organization, which adapted the sequence of lay talks and mediations to fit the prison environment. Since its launch in 1976, the Kairos Inside program has expanded to 10 countries outside the U.S., becoming an international organization that serves incarcerated men in 300 institutions, women in 66 institutions. In addition, Kairos Outside supports 86 communities that minister to the spiritual needs of families coping with the incarceration of a family member. Thirty Kairos Torch programs support youth offenders.

"Only one thing is preventing us from growing faster," an officer of a state chapter told us, "not enough volunteers. Our only limitation is not enough volunteers."

Although Kairos strongly recommends that team members have experienced a three-day weekend before volunteering, exceptions can be made. For information about the Kairos programs in your area and how to serve, go to MyKairos.org, click the **Where We Serve** link, then click your state. —db

The Angel in the Plaid Flannel Shirt

By Brenda Higgins

In the fall of 1994, I was the chief auxiliary on the ladies' weekend.

The camp we used was old and not equipped for the handicapped, and one of our spiritual directors was unable to climb stairs. Normally, each of the spiritual directors would have her own suite, but this time we were told we could have only one. We made sure to request the suite that had a small step to the outside so we could bring our special lady in that way. The entrance to the rollo room was up a winding stair, but this was not a problem as there was also an outside door.

Everything was all planned and ready!



When we arrived at the camp, we found that we had been assigned the wrong suite--and the suite we needed was locked. I ran off to the office to request a change. As I was going past the main building, I looked up and there on the roof was a man in a plaid flannel shirt and a beautiful smile. He asked if he could help, and I told him my problem. He said, "I can do anything." I continued on to the manager's office. The manager informed me that she was already aware of the problem and that it had been remedied.

Early Friday morning our ladies blew fuses in the "hotel" while getting ready. I waited until everyone was settled in for breakfast and ran off to report the problem. As I approached the office building, I again ran into the man with the plaid shirt and great smile and blurted out my problem. "I can do anything," he said quietly. We went back into the hotel, and the power was on! How wonderful, I thought, that the camp had put someone on special duty to look after our needs.

We were ready to start the first rollo, and we all walked outside and around to the rollo room door--when I discovered that I had forgotten to unlock that particular door! As I was standing there, waiting for the others to catch up to me, I turned to see the smiling man in the plaid shirt beside me. I blurted out an apology for my forgetfulness, and again he said "I can do anything." I put my hand on the door knob--and the door opened.

Saturday morning I awoke before sunrise and looked out the window to discover that the lights were out on the main pathway and that there was frost on the stairs and walkways to the chapel and dining hall. I was up extra early and out before any others were ready. As I came around the corner of the courtyard, there was my smiling man in the plaid shirt. Once again I told him the problem and again he said "I can do anything." I looked around--the lights were on and the frost was gone!

Sunday morning we had a furnace problem and half of the rooms in the hotel lost heat. I left my seat at the breakfast table and there, in the kitchen next to the coffee pot, was the smiling man in the plaid shirt. Once again, I told him the problem and again the response, "I can do anything." I sat back down and ate. After breakfast I went back to the hotel--and the heat was on!

After the closing, I went to the main office to learn where I could find the man in the plaid shirt to give him special thanks, and also to tell the manager how much we appreciated that the camp had appointed someone to watch out for our needs.

The manager had no idea what I was talking about. They had not had a maintenance person on

duty, no one on staff was wearing a plaid shirt, and she had not seen anyone matching that description. Neither had anyone else! Each of my encounters with the man had been away from the group, and I hadn't told anyone about how the problems were fixed.

All I can say is that a man in a plaid flannel shirt was there the whole weekend and that he had an awesome smile.

Did God send me an angel to carry me through those 72 hours, and does an angel sometimes wear a plaid flannel shirt? We say that God makes us aware when He is near, and that He can do anything, and that He sends his angels to watch over us.

What do you think?

Brenda Higgins is a member of the RIMA (Rhode Island and Massachusetts) Tres Dias Community. This story was originally published in a 2012 issue of this newsletter..

An Angel in the Pew

Based on a journal entry in Tom Miller's Encouragement Journal

It was one of those weekend church conventions where camper enthusiasts pull their vehicles into a large campground and enjoy cookouts and conversation before the event. Tom struck up a conversation with the husband and wife in the camper next to his and learned that they were from a small town not far from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Tom said he didn't know the area, but had once stopped to attend a church service in that area, about 12 years ago, on his drive back to Fort Riley, Kansas. The husband and wife exchanged curious looks, first to each other, and then to Tom and began to ask questions. What was the church like? Do you remember the sermon? Did you talk with anyone?

Tom couldn't recall. Then, as he and the couple were walking back from the evening service, memories gradually returned. He recalled how he had been sent to Fort Riley on Army business, which was fortunate, because it gave him opportunity to visit his cousin in Tulsa, who was facing a terminal illness. The cousin had a one-day remission and he and Tom reminisced about their childhood.

"On my way back," he told the couple, "I saw a sign, First Church of God-- which is my denomination-- and I also saw that there would be a service at 7:00. p.m. Well, I looked at my watch, and that's what time it was! So I hit the brakes and turned into the parking lot, tires almost squealing.

During the service, I wrote a note on the bulletin that said, *I was driving by and saw your sign, First Church of God, and would not be worshipping here if it had not been for that sign*, and dropped it the collection plate."

"Yes, it's him!" the wife shouted. She explained that the congregation had been deeply divided over the name of the church, and just as the quarrel was about to boil over, with half of the congregation ready to leave, a stranger wrote a message on a bulletin and dropped it in the collection plate.

"Well, we still have that bulletin," she said. "Over the years, the story has been told--and people have come to believe--that an angel dropped by one evening and left the note, telling us to keep the name. That note kept the church from splitting."

Then, after a moment, she added. "That should encourage you, Tom."

The next morning, Tom woke up early to tell the couple how much the story meant to him. But their camper was gone. "Now, who is the angel?" he wondered.



When Tom Miller served as rector for an Abundant Life Tres Dias weekend, he invited team members to contribute inspirational stories to an "Encouragement Journal." This article, based on a journal entry, was originally published in the January 2014 issue of this newsletter



Blessed Christmas Day to come and go and return again someday!

By Scott R. Davis

I am brought to the awareness of the vastness of God when I look out at the universe and the canopy of the sky.

For in the beginning was the Word which was God. For He spoke and existence was breathed into life and given form and shape and character.

Jesus began as the seed within Mary's womb and grew into a babe.
A helpless and vulnerable one at first, dependent on his diapers being changed and being fed.
Yet being taught love and goodness towards others.

This babe in a manger in the desert.

As he traveled the confines of his area, he grew in stature and in favor with God and man. He led others in how to share this journey.

Then he faced the horrors of the cross and the agony. Yet he arose triumphant.
And he will return someday.

We all are living in the middle of each of these points: birth, walking our life path, suffering or triumph.

As we navigate each of these turns, let us keep your eyes to the hills and see the beautiful sunrises

and sunsets. And live with a bucket list that grows every day and gets redeemed by the moment.

What a masterpiece Advent really is!

Scott R. Davis, an overcomer, is a member of the Fairfield County Tres Dias Community. This selection is from his personal newsletter, which he publishes as "encouragement to lift the spirits of others"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let me close out this special Christmas issue of our newsletter with a quick note to say thank you to all of our pescadores out there and to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

This has been a good year for our communities with a lot of interest in adding new communities all around the world. It has also been a difficult year with acts of terrorism happening all around the world. Our natural reaction is to be fearful but scripture tells us 365 times "Fear Not!" One for each day of the year! God has us and this world in His hands, so we can set aside our fears and get back to doing what we are called to do. Just as he told Peter, "Feed my sheep," we are called to be His hands and to be his disciples, doing what He instructs until His return.

Praise God!! We rejoice with you this season, and say a prayer over each of you.

We are looking forward to this coming new year, a year where we anticipate great growth of this wonderful ministry of Tres Dias.

DeColores!

Bruce Cato

President, Tres Dias International Secretariat



Future Meetings of the International Secretariat

March 4-6, 2016: Secretariat

**Tampa Bay TD. Clearwater,
Florida**

**July 15-17, 2016: Assembly &
Secretariat**

**Mid-Hudson TD, Poughkeepsie-
Newburg area, New York**

**October 21-23, 2016
Secretariat**

**Coastal Georgia TD, Savannah,
Georgia**

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 Forward to a Friend

The Colors of Tres Dias International is published by the Services Committee of the Tres Dias International Secretariat. Don Bohl serves as editor.

Send comments to newsletter@tresdias.org.

Our objective is to publish five issues a year.

To read prior issues, use this link: [Newsletter Archive](#)



ANNOUNCEMENT!

A Redesigned Website for Tres Dias is now up and running! The design gives a new, more dynamic way to keep informed about international and local Tres Dias happenings.

See for yourself. Visit the site at Tresdias.org.

"Instruction ends in the school-room, but education ends only with life."

- Frederick W. Robertson

A poem by Rose Breau

"Christmas Morn"

When I woke up this morning
A miracle occurred
I said a prayer
To God 'out there'
And today I know
He heard!

Identified with me
He cried like me
In Bethlehem
Love was born to men
Identified with me
On Calgary
He died so I
could live with Him

Born again
in Bethlehem

(Chorus):

Angels singing:
"All is well
Christmas morn
Emmanuel!"

Rise up Church
Shake off your gloom
Bride of Heaven

Come!
Meet your Groom!



Since we will be moving to Cathedral Camp in Freetown, MA, it doesn't make sense to keep the trailer at Margaret's in Connecticut. Thank you Margaret for housing it all these years. It will now be housed in my back yard in Whitman, MA. We are looking for someone to transport it from Margaret's house to Cathedral Camp for the Men's Weekend on May 5, 2016 and then to my house on May 8th...and again for the Women's weekend June 2nd and 5th. If anyone is able and willing to do this, please contact Gordon at 203-660-8610.

Our next Secretariat meeting is January 11, 2016 at Liberty Christian Center, Taunton, MA at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Lynne Cignarella*