

Christmas Greeting
John Upton

One sure way to create a Christmas memory is to have your children in a Christmas play. I remember when we were missionaries in Taiwan and a local English speaking congregation invited our children to participate in a children's pageant that they were going to have. I thought it was kind of interesting that they asked our two boys to be angels in the play. I told my wife I wasn't sure that that wouldn't turn the story into a comedy. But they invited our children to put on their robes and to put on the little halos which *was* comedy and to put on cellophane wings. And I remember one of our sons had a line he had to memorize, and we worked on that line all week long, "Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth, Peace, Goodwill towards men". We walked around the house, day after day, "Glory on God, Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth, Peace, Goodwill towards men". Even said it every five minutes that day of the play, we got to the play, the place was packed, the lights came on, the crowd was excited and there was a lot of enthusiasm in the room, and as he stepped forward to deliver his line, he couldn't remember that thing at all. All he could say was, "Glory to God" and he stopped. "Glory to God" and he paused. I found myself leaning forward in the seat; everybody in the audience was leaning forward to the front side of their seat all wishing him to complete that line and he tried it one more time. "Glory to God in the Highest and I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down."

Been some years since that happened, but you know as time goes by, more and more I realize he may have just had that line right. Here God's child came to the world and there was no room. The world was just too full. No room in the Inn, so Jesus was born in a manger, He comes into the world as a homeless child among us. Maybe a six year old acting as an angel with cellophane wings had a right to say, "I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down." Our lives are so full; this Christ just has the hardest time breaking into our hearts and into our lives. The Good News for Christmas: know that at the other side of that hollowed place in your heart is a child standing, still knocking, still waiting for you to let Him in. This Christmas, will you make room for Him?

Merry Christmas.