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Your Savior
Has Been Born

DENOMINATIONAL BROADCAST
OF THE REFORMED CHURCHES
OF AUSTRALIA

YOUR SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN

"A Savior has been born to you."
Luke 2:11

Thank God for Christmas. Thank God for the birth of Jesus Christ. Thank God for the birth of my Savior.

The amazing message of this happy day is that a Savior has been born to me and to you. When the glory of the Christ-child exploded on the hillside the night Jesus was born, human beings put their hands over their eyes and tried to find a place to hide. But the angel said,

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11).

The fullest account of what happened when Jesus Christ was born is found in Luke 2. Here it is to refresh your memory:

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to

Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told (vv. 1-20).

The story from the Bible and the beautiful carols are part of the Christmas tradition. But what does it all mean? You and I have to get behind all the words, all the music, all the tradition; otherwise Christmas won't help us very much. True, all this can be inspiring at the moment. But what does it have to do with us and our needs?

The answer to this question is found in the angel's statement to the shepherds—*A Savior has been born to you*. When the shepherds heard this announcement, they

were overcome. Christ the Lord—their Savior—had come to them.

If you could have seen them moments before the sky was lit up by heaven's glory, you would have seen ordinary people—like you and like me. Except that these were the humblest people in the world. Can you imagine a proud shepherd? What does a shepherd have to be proud about? These shepherds, living in the fields near Bethlehem, didn't amount to anything. Yet heaven's choirs assembled for their benefit, and a message straight from heaven's throne room resounded through the night—*a Savior has been born to you*.

At Christmastime we celebrate the incredible fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, has come to you, to me, to us. Think what this means. Have you ever had a fight with someone? Of course you have. Think back to your last one. How does it go when you have a fight with someone? You both get mad. You say bad things to each other, then your enemy goes his way and you go yours.

When someone says to you, "Why don't you two bury the hatchet? Why don't you two make up? Why keep fighting like this?" you probably reply, "Do you think I am going to apologize to him? Never! He is going to have to come over here first. My door is open. He can come any time."

You know what happened at Christmas?

God took the first step toward us. We are sinful people. Everyone is. God is not happy with any of us. The fight between humans and God has been going on for years and years. It's still going on. We want to go our own way. We don't want to go God's way. Because of our stubbornness we are condemned people. That's true. But now we hear the angel's message—a Savior has been born to you.

God has taken the first step. This is His love. At Christmastime you see everywhere evidence of the love of God. Whenever you see a reminder that God has given His only begotten Son to us to be our Savior, you see God's love.

Congratulations. Yes, you are to be congratulated. A Savior has been born to you.

Glory to God in the highest—thank you, O God, for sending your Son Jesus to be my Savior—can you say that? Here it is the Lord's Day, Sunday; the very day we are celebrating Christmas this year is the special day of worship in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you remember this ever having happened before? It has happened before, but not lately. Think about it: here God comes to you with a message of salvation on the very day He set aside for us to worship Him. Today is doubly special. God wants you to understand that your Savior has come.

If you're high and mighty and proud and

successful and you've got your life all set and taken care of, this message is not for you. It is for people whose hearts have been broken—for the crushed, the frightened, the lonely. It is for those who have touched bottom and are lying there gasping, with out hope.

Not long ago Nancyjo Mann heard the message of salvation. She had gone all the way to the bottom. After she killed her baby girl through an abortion, her life fell apart. She became a druggie, a prostitute, a mentally deranged, suicidal woman. She felt she would die by the time she was 25. And she did die at 25. She was on a motorcycle when the front wheel came off, and she was nearly killed. As she lay in the hospital, the very same message you are reading came to her—Savior has been born to you. Jesus Christ came to meet her. And she believed in Jesus. She surrendered herself to Him, and her life turned around. The old Nancyjo died and a new Nancyjo was born.

She became a new person. She didn't know anything about Jesus before. She didn't know anything about the Bible before. But Jesus came to her. He came to her in words from a television evangelist who encouraged all those who were down and out to fall on their knees and give themselves to Jesus. God gave her the grace to do that. And she was saved.

Believe that *a Savior has been born to you*. No matter where you are right now, no matter how much you have sinned and how far you have fallen, believe what the angel said to the shepherds many years ago. For the message came straight from the God who made everything, including you.

What a Savior! That He would come to you! That He would come to me! I want to tell you more about Him.

A Savior has been born to you it happened in Bethlehem. The message first came to lowly shepherds, and the Savior was born in the most lowly of circumstances. One of the Old Testament prophets had talked about Bethlehem as being the least of the cities of Judah. It didn't amount to anything. And when Joseph and Mary came there, they couldn't even find a decent place to stay. So Jesus was born in a stable. I know I'm not telling you anything new. But have you thought about this—that *everything* about Christmas was lowly? Everything. Take a look at your Savior, newly born, skin red and blotchy still, wrapped in strips of cloth. This person is God!

The true God is willing to come and live with lowly people. God says,

I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart

of the contrite (Isaiah 57:15).

This is the way the true God is: He dwells with ordinary people.

Christmas is the great festival of the love of God. The love of God is on display everywhere we turn as we celebrate Jesus' birth. There is no greater love than the love of the God who gave His only begotten Son for the salvation of wretched sinners like us. There is no reason for us to doubt the love of God now that Jesus has come. God was willing to come and live with humble people. Everything about His birth was humble: His parents, the place of His birth, the shepherds who heard the message first. Right into the center of all this commonness, the Son of God came to save us poor sinners.

The love of God—nothing in the universe is greater than the love of God! Think about it. Even if your life has touched the pits of misery, do not doubt the love of God. This Christmas Sunday God assures you of His love by showing you the wonder of Jesus, His Son. *A Savior has been born to you*. No matter who you are, no matter what your circumstances, this is the message of Christmas.

Your Savior has been born. Not somebody else's, but yours. There is no other savior if *He* isn't your Savior, you don't have a Savior. It's as simple as that.

You read this message and hear Christ-

mas music on the radio, and you think, "So what, Christmas, preachers, Christmas carols, all that stuff, it's nice, and I enjoy it, but what does it mean to me? I haven't been affected by this story for years. Besides, look at my life. Not bad, maybe not that much worse than other people's lives, but compared to what I know about what God wants me to be, a mess." If these are your thoughts, the message is for you: *A Savior has been born to you.* Son of God, Jesus Christ has come to save you. God knows your sin, but He comes to you in His love today.

God comes to you who are crushed and broken, possibly by disease and fear. You are thoroughly wretched because some thing is killing you, and you don't have any future anymore. And you wonder about God. Why is this happening to you? Maybe you have been in an accident, and you are confused and terrified. Why is this happening to you? I don't know. Nobody knows. But one thing I do know is that God comes to you in His love today: *Savior has been born to you.*

So what must you do? Before this special Sunday Christmas is over, you should ask God to receive you as His child for Jesus' sake. Ask Jesus to come into your heart. Ask Him. Don't hesitate. You have hesitated too long, and look what has happened to you. It's not nice, is it? It's horrible.

Please understand that this Jesus who was born at Christmas went all the way to the cross of Calvary so that sinners just like you and me could be saved from our sins. And when sinners like us cry out to God and ask for forgiveness for Jesus' sake, our sins are taken away from us and it becomes possible to start living a new life.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!

Because Jesus Christ has come to be your Savior, there is possibility for new life for you. God sent His Son not only to pay for your sins but to remake you. He breaks the power of canceled sin and sets the prisoner free." If you ask God to forgive you for Jesus' sake, you will feel a glorious relief. It will also be a great adventure to discover the power of Jesus' Holy Spirit in your life.

Jesus enables us to break destructive habits. If you are a druggie, here's hope for you. Jesus has power to help you. I don't mean that you shouldn't get psychiatric or medical help. But professional help doesn't help that much without Jesus Christ. And there's hope for your marriage and family. When a husband and wife turn to Jesus Christ for help in making their marriage and their family holy, He does not disappoint them. He is, after all, the great Creator and Designer of marriage and the family.

You can be renewed when you believe in

this blessed Redeemer. Turn to this Savior now. Pray to Him now. Ask Him to come into your heart. And receive the great gift of Christmas.

What can we say? What can we do? God has given us a gift of unspeakable splendor, a gift that will help us, really help us. Why, there is only one thing to do. This is a time for singing. This is a time for adoration. This is a time for praise. This is a time for happiness and joy.

That's the way it was the first Christmas. Lowly shepherds, astonished by a heavenly vision and a heavenly message that a Savior had been born to them, went to that Savior and returned bubbling over with excitement.

A Savior has been born to you.
your heart and make room for this Savior. Here it is, Christmas Sunday. Could there be a day more glorious? Of course not. The Son of God has come in human flesh to live among us and to save us. My Savior has come. Your Savior has come. Hallelujah! Amen.

Back to God Hour programs can be heard over these fine stations. For a complete station listing, write to: The Back to God Hour, 6555 WCollege Dr., Palos Heights, IL 60463.

City	Station	Time	KHz
ALASKA			
North Pole	-KJ NP	4:00 pm	11 70
ARIZONA			
Phoenix	KHEP (Saturdays)	11:30am	1280
CALIFORNIA			
Dinuba	-KRDU	4:30 pm	1130
Los Angeles	-KHJ	8:00am	930
Modesto	-KCEY	8:00am	1390
Porterville	-KTIP	8:30am	1450
Sacramento	-KEBR-FM	5:00 pm	1005
San Diego	-KSDO	8:30 pm	1130
San Francisco	-KABL	8:30am	960
San Francisco	-KEAR-FM	5:00 pm	1069
Santa Cruz	-KSCO	9:30 pm	1080
Santa Maria	-KUHL	7:30am	1440
Sonora	-KUML	11:30am	1450
COLORADO			
Alamosa	-KGIW	9:00 am	1410
Denver	-KOA	8:00am	850
Grand Junction	-KJOL	9:30am	90.3
Greeley	-KYOU	8:30am	1450
Morrison (Denver)	-KWBI-FM	9:30 pm	91.1
CONNECTICUT			
Hartford	-WTIC	8:30am	1080
Middletown	-WIHS-FM	2:30 pm	104.9
FLORIDA			
Cypress Gardens	-WGTO	10:00 am	54
Fort Lauderdale	-WAFG-FM	5:00 pm	90.3
Fort Meyers	-WINK	9:00 am	1240
Jacksonville	-WJAX	10:30 pm	930
Lake Worth	-WLIZ	9:30 am	1380
Melbourne	-WCIF-FM	8:00 pm	106.3
Miami	-WMCU-FM	11:30 am	89.7
Sarasota	-WKZM-FM	8:30 am	105.5

City	Station	Time	KHz
GEORGIA			
Augusta	WGAC	8:15am	580
ILLINOIS			
Carbondale	WCIL	9:30am	1015
Champaign	WOWS	11:30pm	1400
Chicago	WLAK-FM	8:00 am	94.0
Chicago	WMBI	3:30pm	1110
Kankakee	WKOC	5:00 pm	
Lansing	WLNR	8:30 am	106.3
INDIANA			
Crown Point	WLFM-FM	8:30am	104.0
Fort Wayne	WBCU Saturdays/	9:00pm	90.3
Indianapolis	WNOE	8:00 am	1260
Lafayette	WAZY	8:00am	1000
Rensselaer	WRIN	4:15pm	1560
Terre Haute	WVTS	7:30 am	100.7
IOWA			
Ames	KASI	9:30am	1430
Cedar Rapids	KHAK	8:00am	1360
Des Moines	WHO	11:00 pm	1040
Iowa City	KXIC	6:05am	800
Mason City	KRIS	8:30am	1490
Ottumwa	KBIZ	8:30am	1240
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Pella	KXJX	7:30am	
Sioux Center	KDCR-FM	8:30am	91.3
	and	9:30 pm	
Waterloo	KWOL	8:30am	1330
KANSAS			
Colby	KXXX	8:30 am	790
Topeka	WIBW	8:30pm	580
KENTUCKY			
Louisville	WVEZ-FM	8:30 am	107.0
LOUISIANA			
New Orleans	WWL	8:00 am	870
MAINE			
Rockland	WRKD		
MARYLAND			
Baltimore	WLIF-FM	8:00 am	101.9

City	Station	Time	KHz
Hagerstown	WJEJ	9 30am	1240
La Plata	WXTR	8 00am	1560
La Plata	WXTR-FM	8 00am	104.1
MASSACHUSETTS			
Waltham	WCRB-FM	8:30 am	102.5
MINNESOTA			
East Grand Forks	KRRK	1:00 pm	1000
Minneapolis/St. Paul	KTIS	4:00 pm	900
Morris	KMRS	9:00am	1230
Princeton	WOPM	8:30 am	1300
St. Cloud	KTIS	4:00 pm	967
Wilmar	KWLM	1 00pm	1340
Worthington	KWOA	12 noon	730
MISSISSIPPI			
Jackson	WJOX	800 am	620
Yazoo City	WJNS-FM	6 30pm	92.1
MISSOURI			
St. Louis	KSIV	2 30pm	
NEBRASKA			
Hastings	KHAS	9:00 am	1230
NEVADA			
Carson City	KNIS	9:30 pm	
NEW JERSEY			
Newark	WFME-FM	5 30 pm	94.7
NEW MEXICO			
Albuquerque	KKJY	7:30 am	100.3
Roswell	KBIM	8:00 am	910
NEW YORK			
Beacon	WBNR	8:30 am	1260
Binghamton	WINR	8:00 am	680
Port Henry	WHRC	2:00 pm	92.1
Schenectady	WGY	8:30 pm	810
Syracuse	WSOO	9:00am	1220
Ticonderoga	WIPS	6:30am	1250
NORTH CAROLINA			
Raleigh	WPTF	10 00 am	680

This message, prepared by Dr. Joel Nederhood, was heard over The Back to God Hour, which is broadcast every Sunday in co-operation with the Christian Reformed Churches of America, in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia, and by shortwave throughout the world.

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