

Christmas Pageant 2008

What if Jesus came today? By Cindy Maris

Narrator: We find Mary, a typical high school student, gets a text message.

Mary: Another one! I keep getting these weird texts! Good thing I have unlimited texting!

(Put on slide show, so cong. can see) U R HV A BB

Mary: And I still haven't figured out what the heck 000 area code is from. Reply: ????

Mary: *(Mary's cell Rings, Answer cell)* : Hello?

Gabby: Hi. Is this Mary?

Mary: Yeah. Who's this?

Gabby: Hi, you don't know me. My name is Gabby.

Mary: Gabby? Gabby who?

Gabby: Well, that's kind of complicated.

Mary: Have you been sending me these text messages?

Gabby: Well, yes, that's me.

Mary: Well, what are you talking about? I have A's and B's at school? I'm going to URI? I'm getting a BB gun?

Gabby: No! Can't you read? You're going to have a baby.

Mary: Whoa! Who told you? I mean who's telling lies about me?

Gabby: Nobody, you see...

Mary: I'm not that kind of girl! My mom would kill me if she found out.

Gabby: Mary, it's OK. It's not...

Mary: And besides, I know Joey is older than me, and in college and all, but he's...

Gabby: Mare, STOP!

Mary: What?

Gabby: Look, Mary, your baby is special. Your baby will be God's baby.

Mary: Aren't they all?

Gabby: Well, yeah, good point. But more than that. Your baby will be a leader, a teacher, a savior for all people.

Mary: *(Quiet for 5 seconds, then laughs)* : OK, who is this, really?

Gabby: But...

Mary: Did my cousin Liz tell you to call? I heard she was getting some pretty weird texts, too.

Gabby: Well, I have talked to her, too, but...

Mary: Look Gabby, or whatever your name is. What I do is my business. Not yours or anybody else's. So stop calling and texting me!

Gabby: Mary, wait. Haven't you thought that the world needs some help?

Mary: Yeah, who hasn't.

Gabby: Hate, war, fear, Don't people need someone to help them? Give them hope.

Mary: *(wait 5 seconds)* Is this a political call? The election is over, bozo! And besides, I'm too young to vote.

Gabby: Mary, what I'm talking about goes beyond political parties, states, countries.

Mary: Yeah, yeah, right..

Gabby: Your child will be a hope for all mankind. Will teach us how to love our enemies. Lead us in the ways of peace and justice. Show us how to love God.

Mary: OK, I agree. The world really needs all that. We're in trouble. People don't know what to do or how to act. We've forgotten about God's grace.

Gabby: Exactly. So do you believe me, now?

Mary: No. Look, It's not like I'm Hilary Clinton or anything. I'm a nobody. Why should my child be this special person who's going to save the world?

Gabby: Mary, Why not your child?

Mary: *(puts down phone. Looks out at congregation.)* Hmmmm..... *(Leaves)*

Joey: *(a typical college student at a local state college, at his computer)* I can't believe I don't have any money left for tuition. And then there's Mary. What am I going to do? What's that? Somebody just Facebook friended me. Gabby? I don't know anyone named Gabby.

(Text shows up on screen)

Gabby: Joey, don't be afraid. It will all be OK. Mary and the baby need your help.

Joey: What... He knows about Mary! But nobody knew! How...

Gabby: Joey. Do the right thing.

Joey: I feel badly about Mary, but she'll understand why I can't be with her.

Gabby: No, Joey. She and her baby need you.

Joey: But I can't support her. I'm going to have to quit school to get a job for myself.

Gabby: This child will be a hope for all mankind. Will teach us how to love our enemies. Lead us in the ways of peace and justice. Show us how God loves us, and how to love God.

Joey: What? But I'm a nobody!

Gabby: Joey, Trust me. Trust yourself. Trust Mary. Trust God.

Joey: Trust God? Do the right thing? The World can sure use all that. But... Why me?

Gabby: Joey, Why not you?

Narrator: So Mary and Joey left the small town where they lived in Vermont and headed for a large city in New Hampshire. Maybe Nashua, maybe Concord. They heard Joey could find a job in the big city. So they got into his old clunky car and started driving. But partway there, the car broke down.

Mary: I can't believe it! And we're on some little back road where no one will find us. Call Triple A.

Joey: I can try. But I don't think there's any cell phone service out here. Wait, it's ringing!

Gabby: Angels Automobile Assistance. This is Gabby.

Joey: Gabby? Um... This is Joey.

Mary: Did you say Gabby?

Gabby: Don't worry. Just get out of the car and trust me.

Mary: Look! It's a bus!

Joey: Whoa. Just when we need it. Sort of like the night bus on Harry Potter...

Mary: Yeah, that's pretty magical alright.

Narrator: So the Bus dropped off Mary and Joey in a little town near Bethlehem, New Hampshire (Star of the White Mountains).

Joey: Wow! All these inns, motels, B and B's look so big.

Mary: And so expensive! And why is it so crowded?

Innkeeper: Are you kidding? There's a big ski race at Bretton Woods this weekend! And a special at Cannon! Everyone is here! There's not a room in town!

Joey: So what do we do?

Innkeeper: Well, there's a homeless shelter around the block. And a church down the street. Good Luck!

Joey: Oh, no! Even the sign in front of the shelter says "Full." Now what? The Bus is gone.

Mary: We can hitchhike to the next town and hope it's better there. Let's start walking.

Joey: Are you sure you're up to that?

Mary: We don't have much choice. Let's go.

Narrator: So they started walking, but no one gave them a ride. And it began to get dark.

Joey: Look over there in the woods! It looks like an abandoned shed.

Mary: Looks more like a shack.

Joey: Let's go in and warm up. You can get some rest.

Mary: Good idea. I suddenly don't feel so great.

Joey: What! This was stupid! We shouldn't have left that town! We shouldn't have left our town! We need to get you to the Hospital.

Mary: Are you forgetting? No Insurance. Besides, I'm not having the baby, yet. It's too early. I'll be OK if I just get some rest.

Narrator: But, it was time for her to have her baby. Fortunately, she's young and strong, and the baby is born healthy. And Mary wraps him in an old blanket they find in the shack, and lays him in a dresser drawer. At least they're out of the cold.
Meanwhile, in another town, in another place. Maybe in the midwest, maybe New York City, maybe your town.

Underemployed: Thank goodness for Panera and their free Wi-Fi. I can get online and look for a better job for the cost of a cup of coffee.

Secretary: Well, I need to work through lunch again. Besides, I can't afford to buy lunch anyway. At least I can use the computer to check my email. My computer at home broke and I have no money for my rent, let alone a new computer!

Poorer person: Thank goodness for the library and their free computers. Maybe I can find a job or a place to stay.

All three: What's that in my email?

Email: Are Feeling Hopeless, Lost your Faith? Don't know who to trust? [Click here.](#)

Underemployed: Probably a virus.

Secretary: Stupid spam.

Poor person: Yeah, yeah. Well I have no money to send to Liberia.

Message: No, seriously. Click here!

All three: Why not? You Tube???

Taped Message on You Tube: Do you feel like the world needs some help. Too much hate, war, fear. Don't people need someone to trust?

Under empl: Yeah, yeah, I voted for Barack Obama.

Poor person: What are they selling?

Message: I'm not selling anything, and I'm not talking about politics.

A child has been born that will be a hope for all mankind. Will teach us how to love our enemies. Lead us in the ways of peace and justice. Show us how to love God.

This child will remind us of what is important in the world. Not expensive toys, gas guzzling cars, a bigger and better house. Not consuming more and more things. What's important is each other. The world. This child will remind us of God's grace. God Loves us. God wants us to Love God, Love ourselves, Love our neighbor.

Secretary: Wow! I wonder if it's real?

Under empl: I've felt so hopeless for so long. Where can I find this child?

Poor person: This is what I've been waiting for. How do I get there?

Message: Follow your heart. Thank you very much.

Secretary: Follow my heart? What about a GPS?

Narrator: So they came. Not everyone, but a few. By bus, by car, in a company truck, even hitchhiking. And Mary and Joey were confused. But just seeing Mary, Joey and the baby seemed to give the people some hope, and they went away remembering God's grace.

Under empl: I've got to spread the word about this.

Narrator: And in another part of the world, there were some Scholars, some teachers, some clergy. The mayor of a town. The Prime minister of a country. And one day...

Scholar: What's this? A message on my blackberry?

Teacher: A message on my iPhone.

Mayor: An Instant message on my laptop?

All: Whoa!

Scholar: (Reading): A child has been born that will be a hope for all mankind.

Teacher: Will teach us how to love our enemies.

Mayor: Lead us in the ways of peace and justice.

All: Remind of God's grace.

Scholar: I heard some rumor of a weird You Tube video. Must be some random spam.

Teacher: And I don't know how to get there.

Mayor: Still, it would be nice to know how to lead my city.

Scholar: Google Maps?

Teacher: The GPS built into my iPhone?

All: Follow your heart?

Narrator: But while they were hearing rumors, so were others, among them the CEO of MEGAMART, the CEO of Big Oil Company, Senator I M N Power, President of Fox News, Bill Gates.

CEO Mega: So what are we going to do about this thing.

CEO Big Oil: Nothing. People are greedy. They won't listen. They know they need our stuff.

CEO Mega: I don't know. Any consumer lost hurts us, you know.

Senator: Hmm... Maybe we could find this child, convince the parents to... work with us.

Fox News: Offer them a big personal appearance contract.

CEO Mega: A mansion. Full of all the expensive things they want.

CEO Oil: A Hummer and a cadillac.

Senator: Tell them we'll make the father, or mother, a Senator, or governor.

Bill: A new computer with Windows Vista.

(Others look at him.)

Bill : Well....

CEO Mega: But how do we find them?

Fox: Leave that to me. Send them in!

Papparazzi *(come in with cameras and mikes)*: We'll find them. We can find anyone.

Pap 2: No one can hide from us.

Narrator: Well, some of the scholars, teachers, leaders, clergy found the shack in the woods.

Mayor: I'm so glad we found you. I feel so much better.

Mary: But we didn't do anything. We're nobody.

Scholar: Keep the Faith. It will be all right. I hope you can use the food I brought you.

Teacher: We found and fixed your car. And put gas in it.

Mayor: There's a little apartment you can rent in my town.

Joey: Thank you. That can get us started.

Teacher: But watch out. I've heard the Powers That Be are looking for you.

Mayor: And they can offer you a lot more than we can. Look. *(Shows TV ad on Laptop)*

TV Ad 1: Reward! Have you seen this baby? You all know who we're talking about! Help us find the baby and your wildest dreams will come true! We're offering one million dollars for the first exclusive photos of this miracle baby!

Joey: Wow!

TV Ad: Miracle baby! To the proud mom and dad. All the world will know you!!! Money! Wealth! Power! A recording contract! All this will be yours! What are you waiting for? We'll find you eventually, so come forward now and start earning your rewards!

Mary: Joey? I'm scared. What should we do?

Scholar: It's OK. We won't give you away.

Joey: But someone will, eventually. We've got to get out of here.

Mayor: Use the backroads. Avoid the EZ pass lanes.

Teacher: You want my GPS so you don't get lost?

Mary: No thanks. We don't know where we're going yet. But thanks for your help.

Scholar: Remember. We have Faith in you. *(They Leave)*

Joey: So, what do we do now? I know! Let's call Gabby. She'll know what to do!

Gabby: Hi, this is Gabby. I'm not available to take your call right now. Press 1 to leave a message. Press 2 to leave a call back number. I'll get back to you in a few millenia.

Joey: Great! I got voice mail! We're on our own.

Mary: It will be so hard. Living on the run. Hiding. You could take the money and run.

Joey: No, we couldn't. It took me longer to believe than you, but I'm in now. I trust God, even though I still find it hard to believe that our baby is this special.

Mary: You know, it's so strange. Lots of people have seen the You-tube, and the ads, and heard the rumors. But only a few have found us.

Joey: Maybe each person has choices to make. Our baby may help show us the way, but we all have to choose for ourselves. Follow our hearts. Trust God's Grace.

Mary: God's Grace. The world really does needs it right now. Maybe it's just believing that it's possible. That life isn't all about "things."

Joey: Having Faith that there are others who want God's Kingdom on Earth. Keeping Hope alive that we are meant for more than this. That we are meant for Peace, Love and Joy.

Mary: Trusting God's mysterious Grace. God Loves us. God wants us to Love God, Love ourselves, Love our neighbor. It sounds so simple, but it's so hard to do.

Joey: Everyone wants to make a difference in the world. Maybe we really can. Maybe our baby really can. Maybe she will help us all to accept God's Love.

Mary: Maybe she will. Our Daughter? Why not her?