

# Bring It On Breakaway!!

## A word from the Editors' in Chief...

Christmas is almost here!! At time of publication it is 9 sleeps to Christmas so hang on to your hats!! Even though the shops have been way, way too early in putting up their Christmas decorations.

Apologies for the late delay in getting this to you but the editors' in chief (Lisa and Kylie) are super busy at this time of year with their jobs—but then again all good things come to those who wait!! We are very happy that you have waited patiently for this fine publication.

Anyway camp is organized and in the bag as far as stuff to do and you will not recognize camp this time round there is just so much to do in

## Christmas Edition!!!

To all our readers have a great Christmas and New Year Season and we can't wait to see you at camp!!

Remember Jesus is the reason for the season!!

## THE CRADLE, A CHRISTMAS STORY

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson (used with permission)

They left their home, the new cradle still swinging from the rafters. Night after night the aroma of fresh-cut wood had filled the room as Joseph had patiently fashioned the tiny cradle, using the

a week that it is packed to the rafters with activities and outings, good times and fun and fellowship. Kim and Ferdi Beerling are back again as camp Mum and Dad whoo hooo. Andrew's good mate Elio is speaker for this time round and of course Grumbleface and all his friends are back again with a few surprises that they are going to pull out of the suitcase.

So sit back chill out like a polar bear and get into the Christmas edition of BIOB!

LYW

Lisa and Kylie

same chisel and saw he usually put down at dusk.

Now Joseph wiped the tears from Mary's cheeks and shut the door behind them. "It'll be okay," he told her, as he cinched up their belongings on the donkey.

"Joseph, can't we wait a few days? The baby could come any time." She didn't want to leave home. Not now.

"We've waited for the baby as long as we dare." He was ready to get on the road. "We have to leave today or I'll be arrested for not appearing in Bethlehem for the census."

"At least bring the cradle, Joseph," she pleaded. "I want the baby to have something nice."

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"No, it'll have to stay behind. The baby will be rocking in it soon enough."

Joseph tugged hard at the donkey's halter. No luck. "Come on, animal," he shouted, whacking it on the rear end to get it moving. Grudgingly the donkey responded. With one hand Joseph led the donkey, with the other he steadied Mary on the steep incline, slowly enough to accommodate her ungainly progress down the winding road which led from Nazareth's height. In the house above, the cradle hung still.

Five days and ninety bone-weary miles later, Joseph searched the small stable where they were staying on the outskirts of crowded Bethlehem. Mary's time would be soon now. He was careful to keep his lamp from igniting the old straw. He finally settled on an ancient stone manger for the baby's bed, cut from the wall of the limestone cave which housed the animals. He reached in to scoop the last gritty bits of straw from the manger's dank bottom. "That'll have to do," he muttered. He filled the trough with an armful of fresh fodder, which he covered with a folded blanket to keep the animals away.

It was well past midnight by the time Mary finished washing and wrapping her new baby. Now she lifted him gently into his new bed. Joseph put his arm around her shoulders as they gazed at the sleeping infant.

Mary touched the tiny fingers. "That cradle you spent so much time on would be real nice right now, Joseph." She looked up at the cave's low ceiling. "You could hang it somewhere. No baby I know has a cradle like that. It's fit for a king."

Joseph grinned. "Not every boy has a carpenter for a dad," he said. But he wondered. Why couldn't little Jesus be home in that cradle? Why does this special child the angel told Mary and him about have to be born in this smelly stable? A hill-country carpenter's home is bad enough. Why here? Why Bethlehem?

The answer wasn't long in coming. An older boy poked his head in the door, startling the couple from their quiet moment. "Is there a baby in here?" he mumbled apologetically. Then he saw the tiny child. Mary picked her baby up to shield the infant from his eyes. The face disappeared.

Mary's eyes mirrored Joseph's concern. He strode to the cave's opening. He could hear a distant call, "Over here, Jake found him!" In the darkness, Joseph could make out a handful of forms coming toward him. He gripped his stout wooden staff and stood resolutely at the door.

As they approached the stable he could see they were shepherds. Joseph's grip on the staff tightened. The oldest one spoke hesitantly. "Can we come in? We have ... ah ... come to see the Christ-child."

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Joseph glanced at Mary. He could feel a tingle move down his spine. This was more than an accident. The whole fantastic course of events was far more than an accident. He nodded and stepped back into the stable. "Yes, come in. You are welcome."

The shepherds shuffled into the cramped cave. The youngest pushed in alongside the donkey to get a better view. They knelt. "God be praised!" The old shepherd spoke with deepest reverence.

"It's just like the angel told us," another whispered in awe. "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people," the angel said."

"Imagine! An angel . . . talking to us!" the old man interjected with rising excitement. "None of the uppity-ups in this town would lower themselves to talk to us shepherds," he added. "But an angel did . . . And the child is right here in a stable so we can come and see him." Rivulets of tears were inching down the shepherd's weathered face.

Joseph stared at the old man. "How did you find us?" he finally asked.

The boy who had first peeked in answered. "The angel said, 'Unto you is born ....'"

"Yes, to us!" The beaming old man couldn't contain himself.

The boy spoke deliberately, as if to remember the exact words: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour ..."

"That's here--Bethlehem--David's birthplace," the littlest boy interrupted. He thrust out his chest proudly. "King David was a shepherd, too, you know."

The older boy continued. ". . . a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

"The Christ, the Messiah . . . He's the one!" The old man pointed to the baby.

"The angel was very specific," the young man went on. "And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." He grinned. "How could we miss? We just ran into town and checked every stable until we found you . . . found him." The boy paused. "How many newborns in Bethlehem do you know with a cattle manger for a cradle?"

Joseph chuckled. So that was it. The heavenly Father Himself had provided a bed for His child. A special cradle. A sign to these crude shepherds that God cared for them too.

Joseph squeezed Mary's hand very tightly.

For more information on the birth of Jesus check out the book of Luke in your bibles.

## This is brilliant!!!

A group of geography students studied the seven wonders of the world. At the end of that section, the students were asked to list what they thought were considered to be the present seven wonders of the

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world. Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. The Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student, a quiet girl, hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The quiet girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to touch
2. To taste
3. To see
4. To hear

She hesitated a little, and then

5. to feel
6. To laugh
7. And to love"

Then the room so full of silence it was deafening! It is far too easy for us to look at the exploits of man and refer to them as 'wonders' while we overlook all God has done for us,

regarding them as merely 'ordinary.'

Things to think about!!

- Anger is a condition in which the tongue works faster than the mind.
- You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying over the future.
- Love.....and you shall be loved.
- God always gives his best to those who leave the choice with him.
- All people smile in the same language.
- A hug is a great gift...one size fits all. It can be given for any occasion and it's easy to exchange.
- Everyone needs to be loved.....especially when they do not deserve it.
- The real measure of a man's wealth is what he has invested in eternity.
- Laughter is God's sunshine.
- Everything has beauty but not everyone sees it.
- It's important for parents to live the same things they teach.
- Thank God for what you have. Trust God for what you need.
- If you fill your heart with regrets of yesterday and the worries of tomorrow, you have no today to be thankful for.

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- Happy memories never wear out....relive them as often as you want.
- Home is the place where we grumble the most, but are often treated the best.
- Man looks at outward appearance but the Lord looks within
- The choice you make today will usually affect tomorrow.
- Take time to laugh for it is music to the soul.
- If anyone speaks badly of you, live so no one will believe it.
- Patience is the ability to idle your motor when you feel like stripping your gears.
- Love is strengthened by working through conflicts together.
- The best thing parents can do for their children is to love each other.
- Harsh words break no bones but they do break hearts.
- To get out of a difficulty, one usually must go through it.
- We take for granted the things that we should be giving thanks for.
- Love is the only thing that can be divided without being diminished.
- Happiness is enhanced by others but does not depend on others.
- You are richer today if you have laughed, given or forgiven.

- For every minute you are angry with someone, you lose 60 seconds of happiness that you can never get back.
- Do what you can, for who you can, with what you have, and where you are.

## Who's Who in the Zoo. This edition we are getting the low down on Jesus Christ

1. **Your full name is?** Jesus Christ. My other names are Messiah, Son of God, JC, Lamb of God, Saviour, Son of Man, Emmanuel
2. **Your Birthday is?** Pretty soon in fact!
3. **Your place of residence is?** I was born in Bethlehem but I reside at the right hand of my Father now (Mark 16:19)
4. **What does a normal week day consist of for you?** Every day is different for me which is great so then I never get bored. When I was on Earth there was a lot to do and not much time to do it in but I got through it all OK and now I tend to do the same sort of things that I did when I was on Earth but I am physically not there—I get humans to do my work through them. It's great I never get tired or lonely and there are always people wanting to do so much more than I ask them to do which just lifts my spirit so much. Hanging out with

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the angels is so much fun too. They are always praising my Father and that is just the best sound and it is always on—they are never quiet.

5. **Do you like it?** (refer to Q4) Yes I do. I just don't like what people do to each other sometimes—that hurts me and my Father.
6. **Do you have any pets? If so what are their names?** Yep... all those animals I made back at Creation (Gen 1). I want to know what I was thinking when I made a Sloth though!!
7. **What is your favourite flavour for a smoothie?** Proves that man should not live by bread alone (Matt 4:4)
8. **Where do you go to church?** All over the place but I really liked going to the temple in Jerusalem. Because I got to set the records straight, those priest had no idea some times. But you know what? It is great just to hear people praising my name and the name of my Father and it doesn't matter if it is 2 people or 200,000 people it is just sensational.
9. **Your favourite Bible verse?** (this can be as many as you like). All of it!!
10. **What was the latest movie that you saw and who did you see it with?** Bruce Almighty with the disciples—shows that my Father has a sense of humour.
11. **If you were down to your last \$10 what would you spend it on?** Probably fish and loaves of bread (Matthew 14: 13-21)
12. **What is your ultimate holiday destination?** For me New Earth, for my Father some where in the universe and for the Holy Spirit a new believers heart.
13. **What is your favourite sport? (either playing or watching and there can be more than one.)** Rugby Union. I will let you in on a secret—they do play it in heaven!!
14. **Who would you like to meet the most and why?** My faithful servants so I can tell them all well done, well done! And to see the look on their face when they see me for the first time face to face.
15. **What have you been reading/listening to lately?** The bible of course and the prayers of many, many people.
16. **What is so good about being a Christian?** The fellowship of all my brothers and sisters that I have now and the more I will have later on
17. **Are you coming to Senior Breakaway Camp 2004?** I will be there in Spirit (Acts Ch 2)
18. **What do you like most about camps?** Blindman the song and accompanying actions; having fellowship with the campers and leaders. Partying down in Heaven when someone gives

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their life to me—no better rejoicing anywhere else on earth or heaven. Grumbleface and Slop are always good for a laugh—I make sure I am around to hear them with out fail.

19. **What is your favourite “eat out” place?** There is a great kebab place in down town eternity that is just the best!
20. **What other things would you like to say to the readers of BRING IT ON BREAKAWAY? I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE GETS TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.** Hang in there no matter how hard life seems to be. I have the big picture and you don't and I know what will happen every time. Trust me!

## A Thought...

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won't survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment,

arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.

You are so blessed in ways you may never even know.

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## TP'S Favourite Christmas Holiday pastimes

- Watching the cricket on TV
- Watching the cricket live
- Playing cricket with Luke
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