

Christmas Legacy

Trinity Players

Curt Becker © 2002

STAGE LEFT...Church interior with platform

STAGE RIGHT...Open Bible, turned to Gospel. Constructed of two flats on each side of “spine” from which actresses giving monologues enter and exit..

Cast in order of appearance:

“Kim” (real name, Patty)

Mike (Michael)

Tamar

Rahab

Ruth

Bathsheba

Mary

Joy

Pastor Glenn

SCENE ONE

“Kim”, Mike and Tamar

Christmas music begins playing. After a moment, Kim enters from back of sanctuary, looking furtively around. Spotlight picks up on her and follows her to the front. Seeing no one around she timidly moves to the front of the church, pauses for a moment, shrugs her shoulders and carefully kneels. She begins to pray...

Kim: “Lord, I know I haven’t always been faithful. You know, I only seem to come to you when I can’t handle things on my own, and I don’t think you can help me out of this jam.” (Mike enters quietly from the right and comes to stand behind her and to her right)
“But I just don’t know where to turn. Lord, what am I going to do?” (Begins to cry quietly) (Expand spot to include Mike)

Mike: (Clears his throat) “Uhm, miss...” (Kim jumps up, covering her mouth with her hand and backing away) “Sorry, I didn’t mean to startle you...is there anything I can help you with?”

Kim: (Shakes her head) “N...no. Look, I’m not even a member at this church, but the door was open, and I felt the need to spend some time talking to.....well, you know Who” (nods head towards front of church)...

Mike: “I think I do. Is there anything I can do for you?”

Kim: “No, really, I should be going.”

Mike: “It’s alright. I’m the caretaker her. Do you need to use the phone...call your parents?”

Kim: “No, that wouldn’t...it’s...never mind. Why do you think I’m here, anyway? They just don’t – and won’t - listen.

Mike: “Believe it or not, I think I know where you are coming from. There’s a reason you’re here, you know! There isn’t a problem you’re facing that hasn’t been faced by someone else....and the Lord answered their prayers, too!”

Kim: “Yeah, right! Look, I know you’re just trying to help, but you just don’t have a clue! Who do you know of who’s having problems even though they were trying to do what’s right?” (Tamara moves into place in dark)

Mike: “Well, there *was* one person who comes to mind....” (Cut spot. Move spot to Tamara. Bring up light.)

MONOLOGUE – Tamar: “I would not say that my life was an easy one, not even close. As a very young woman, I was given in marriage to a young man. My husband lived an evil and wicked life in the eyes of the Lord. As a result of his ways, the Lord took his life. According to the family tradition, I was given to his brother in marriage. This would allow my first husband to have descendants to maintain his birthright. My second husband had no desire to provide children for his brother, so he prevented me from conceiving. This act angered the Lord, and he, too, paid with his life. My father-in-law told me to stay in his household until his last son came of age. He feared this son would come to the same fate as his other sons and denied me the right of marriage. Even though I was older than the last son, I was still young for a widow, and in our society, I was totally dependent upon the will of my father-in-law for my survival. But God is good and He impressed on me what He wanted in this family--for the line to continue--and my role in this purpose was to bear descendants. Some time after my mother-in-law passed away, I dressed as a prostitute. I met my father-in-law going to shear sheep. He laid with me, leaving behind tokens of his pledge. I became pregnant with the children of the Lord’s promise. When my father-in-law discovered I was pregnant, he was ready to have me killed. But when he was shown the tokens he had left with me, he had no choice but to acknowledge my righteousness in both his eyes and in the Lord’s will. It is never easy to do what is right. Sometimes it takes great faith. But the Lord is always good to those who seek His will and His purpose.” (Turn spot off. Reset on Mike and Kim. When dialogue resumes, Tamara moves behind screen in dark.)

SCENE TWO

Mike: “So you see, you can be righteous and STILL have problems! But God does meet your needs!”

Kim: “That’s quite a story...but it’s gotta be just that! That’s too much to take!”

Mike: “I can appreciate your doubt...it IS kind of amazing what happened to some people in the Bible.”

Kim: “True enough, but it still doesn’t mean much to me!”

Mike: “I thought you said that you felt your parents misunderstood you...Jill?”

Kim: “I did, and my name’s not Jill, it’s...uh...Kim.”

Mike: “All right...*Kim*...what can I do to help you?”

Kim: “I don’t know. It’s not like they mistreat me. It’s just that they don’t listen. And all I ever get from them is a lecture. It’s getting so I can’t even say a word without constantly fighting! I just don’t feel comfortable...or even safe...at home anymore.

Mike: “Surely they wouldn’t throw you out! Have you tried to listen to them?”

Kim: “Look, you don’t understand. We’ve been arguing for days! They won’t listen to ME! Some Christmas this is going to be! It’s all so unfair!”

Mike: “Do you feel threatened...like they might hurt you?”

Kim: “No...yes...I don’t know! I just don’t know what to do, where to go, I don’t even know what to ASK! I’m just afraid...afraid of being alone, afraid of having no one to lean on, afraid of the future...”

Mike: “Believe it or not, I know of a young woman who had to deal with very similar fears. (Rahab moves into place) The God who answered her prayers will certainly be able to help you with yours!”

(Light out...move to Rahab and bring light up)

MONOLOGUE: Rahab: “Have you ever lived in constant fear? That’s what my life was like for nearly a year! All our nation had been aware of for weeks was that an army was

coming. An invading army led by their Lord, an army undefeated in battle! What difference could I make? My life was hardly the kind to influence things – I was a prostitute, sold into that practice as a young child, and though I eventually came to own the establishment in my own right, it was not something I took great pride in. And then I was faced with the impossible....two men from the invading army – spies! They sought shelter – escape from those that sought them. What was I thinking? I could have turned them over to the city leaders and been rewarded for it – but I risked my life and the lives of my family by giving them shelter and instructions for safe escape with only a promise of “if”. Such a small word...yet with such great promise. In my life, that word became something I had only dreamed of. If I could believe, if I could trust, if I would simply allow their Lord to make use of me... And then, to know a Lord of promises fulfilled, a life with a husband who trusted me though knowing my past, forgiving and loving me over all. And a family and children of my own! The Lord gives us all choices in life...the question we need to answer is ... how we will respond? (Light down. Move to Kim and bring back up)

SCENE THREE

Kim: “You have a tale for everything, don’t you? Where do you come up with this stuff?”

Mike: “It’s not made up. It’s all in the Bible.”

Kim: “Now I KNOW you’re telling tales. Look, I’ve been in church before...was even in Sunday School awhile back! I admit I need His help...no one *else* will listen to me. But how will these stories help me? They’re certainly NOT the kind of tall tale I ever heard in church!”

Mike: “Kim, these are more than stories. They let us all know of God’s love for those who seek Him.”

Kim: “That may be true, but it STILL doesn’t help me!”

Mike: “Maybe you need to be a bit more clear on what help you need. You said you were having troubles with your parents...”

Kim: “Yes...and we’re not addressing the problem yet!”

Mike: “Well, what’s the *real* problem...your parents, or finding someone you can trust who will listen to you and provide your solution?”

Kim: “TRUST! Yes! That’s one thing I really need! I don’t trust my folks....and they never *listen* to me long enough for us to learn to trust each other!”

Mike: “It just so happens I know someone you can trust!”

Kim: “Not another story!” (Ruth moves into place)

Mike: “Yes, but I think that this one will help you understand the One you can trust, regardless of the problem you have come to find a solution for...” (Lights down. Bring up spot on Ruth after dialogue concludes)

MONOLOGUE: Ruth - “Trusting in and through all circumstances. Do you know how hard that is? I guess some may just say that I am a very stubborn woman! I am from Moab, and my husband was a foreigner, who moved to our country because of severe famine in his land. He came with his parents and brother, but he, his father, and his brother died shortly after our marriage, leaving me, my mother-in-law Naomi and sister-in-law widowed. It was not easy for widows without family ties to survive in our country, so when we learned the famine was ending, I decided to follow Naomi back to her country, though my sister-in-law stayed behind. Just because the country was coming

out of the famine did not mean that things were easy for us. I had to get up every morning and follow the harvesters, taking what grain they missed as they worked in the field so that Naomi and I would have food for the day. Do you have any idea what it is like to have to trust daily for your food, and have no assurance that food will be available the next day? I learned in those days to trust in the Lord of Naomi, and to let her Lord care for our needs. I also learned that the fields I entered searching for food belonged to a kinsman of Naomi, and he honored my efforts to support both Naomi and myself. More than honored...Naomi told me that if he were led by the Lord to do so, how arrangements could be made to honor the family and provide descendants. Trust...my whole life revolved around answers to questions that I could not find, and the need to trust a Lord unknown to my people. Yet He fulfilled my trust, He gave me a new country, husband, and children when I trusted in Him.” (Turn spot off. Move to Kim and bring spot back up)

SCENE FOUR

Kim: “Trust...yes, I can trust the Lord, but trusting doesn’t meet my need NOW!”

Mike: “What do you need right now?”

Kim: “Obviously, the ability to take care of my problems without having to rely on my boyfriend, folks, teachers...*anyone* – to get what I need done!”

Mike: “Kim...isn’t the whole idea of trust, learning to rely on others?”

Kim: "I've done that in the past. I don't know, maybe the others I've relied on haven't been the best ones to look to get help. It's just not fair! I mean, all my problems would disappear if I or my family had enough money to throw at them!"

Mike: "Kim, why do you think money is the answer?"

Kim: "Look at the stories you just fed me! Aren't they all about getting wealthy? I mean, some of them started out poor, but didn't they all want to be set up?"

Mike: "I'm afraid you've missed the point. The Lord did bless all of them, in His time and in His way...but it wasn't "instant satisfaction" for any of them! They never saw what His ultimate purpose was for each...but in their own way, each sought His will for their lives."

Kim: "Maybe. But these women all knew what they wanted, and went for it! I just want answers...direction...and none of this seems to fit!" (Bathsheba moves into place)

Mike: "Perhaps you need a different slant...from a woman who had power...and learned obedience?" (Lights down. Bring up spot on Bathsheba)

MONOLOGUE: Bathsheba. "Women can be placed in positions of power by marriage, but this does not mean our lives and fortunes are assured. I was married to one of the most powerful war leaders of the Hittite people, and one in whom the king put great trust.

In fact, my husband was one of the heroes of the land, listed in the records of the great. But my life was not made easier by these facts. While my husband was at war, the king was home in his palace, and while I was bathing one night he looked out and saw me, desiring me for himself. He had me come to him at the palace. Afterward, when he learned that I was pregnant, he tried maneuvering my husband into sleeping with me, that my husband might think the child was his. My husband was dutiful to his men and refused, and the king arranged events on the front so that my husband was killed and he could take me as his wife. Shortly thereafter, the child conceived in sin sickened and died. Through this entire time I learned of the Lord, the faith of my new husband, and the Lord's displeasure at these events. I came to love my husband, and the Lord he served. In time I learned that what happened were not normal for those in power in the eyes of His Lord. The loss of my child hurt me very deeply, and my husband more so. He pled for us and our child to the Lord, but when the child died, he accepted the Lord's justice, found forgiveness, and together we had another son who was brought up in the Lord's love and obedience. Through all of this, I learned that position and wealth does not guarantee happiness. Only being obedient to the Lord gives you the long-term joy you desire, and the wishes of your heart are answered through His grace."

SCENE FIVE

Kim: "OK, I've had enough. Faith, trust, obedience...great concepts! But they don't work for me!"

Mike: "Kim, the Word 'works' for everyone, if you are open to its' message. What *is* the problem you have talked around, but haven't really mentioned?"

Kim: “OK, what does it matter? I don’t know you from anyone, and this isn’t very likely to leave this place! I’m pregnant, OK? I’m pregnant and don’t know what to do. (on feet, begin pacing) I haven’t told my folks...we don’t get along that well anyway...and my boyfriend knows, but he talks like you! All that ‘have faith...God will provide...’ Provide? (looks at Mike) We’re in HIGH SCHOOL! If we have the baby, how will we care for it? What will the *neighbors* think? What will my parents think? What if they kick us out? I just want to do what’s right...but (looks at front of church) I DON’T HAVE ANY ANSWERS!”

Mike: “OK, now you’ve given me a little to work with. What answers do you want?”

Kim: “First, do I have the baby or get an abortion? (begins to spit each question out faster and faster) If I have the baby, do I keep it, or do I give it up for adoption? Do I stay in school or get out...live with my folks or his...Do I drop out and get a job ...do we get married or.....”

Mike: “Hold up! I think you have more than one question there! Lets begin at the beginning. What is the real problem here...being pregnant, or being uncertain about the future?”

Kim: “Duh...! Being pregnant, obviously! I mean, we weren’t even talking about marriage, and this happened – I mean, we knew better, but just didn’t think. I *know* our

parents! They'll kill us! Mine don't like him that well anyway, and he never sees his folks since their divorce! It just seems so much simpler 'not to be pregnant'...you know?"

Mike: "Yes, I think I know how you may feel, but don't you realize how important that child is...to you, and perhaps many untold others?"

Kim: "Who'd miss another child? I mean, even the last story you told, they lost their first child! I mean, they hurt, but they did get over it – can't you see that the timing for me is lousy?" (Mary moves into place)

Mike: "I can see where right now you may see it that way, and I can see why you are so confused. Maybe it would help if I gave you one more 'piece of history' – a woman with whom you can easily relate..." (Spot fades. Comes up on Mary)

SCENE SIX

MONOLOGUE: Mary. "Being an unwed mother was not the kind of thing my family would easily tolerate. After all, we came from a royal bloodline! But the circumstances behind my pregnancy were even stranger. I had been engaged to marry for some time. Marriage was something I'd always wanted, and the children to come from it. My fiancée was a older than I, a good man, and one who loved me deeply. Our customs allowed relationships before the marriage. As a matter of fact, official engagement was considered the same thing as being married. How would he take it to find me pregnant - and not by him? I have always been a devout follower of our Law and our God, and always wanted to serve Him. When His messenger told me what service He desired, I

responded with great joy and thanksgiving, that He would find me worthy of such honor! But still, to have such a responsibility with no assurance that my fiancée would understand, or would support me! The possibility of being abandoned was great, and in my culture, I could have been stoned to death or put out without support or care! Our history is full of the stories of God's angels, and their work in our midst, but to many of our neighbors they are just that – stories – and a young woman who carries such stories is thought of as a visionary and full of useless dreams. Only my cousin confirmed my story with her own visit by God's messengers. Does a vision from the Lord help you through difficulty? Yes, but some things take much more. My life has been centered on my faith in Him. The memory of angels fades in time, words and songs can be covered by daily activities and cares. But a faith grounded on His providence will help you see through the impossible to His reality.”

Kim: “I can see where she was coming from. And I take it that she had the baby?”

Mike: “You take it correctly.”

Kim: “OK...one small life. But why is my decision so important? I mean...I'm not 'royalty'. Is my decision so important?”

Mike: “Kim, every life comes from God, and has the potential to impact many lives in the future of that family, and for mankind. You may or may not marry your boyfriend. Your parents or his may reject you...and want nothing to do with your baby. But you can

trust in God on this...your decision is one that is extremely important, and not one taken lightly. Do you have any idea why I told you all these... 'stories'?"

Kim: "Kinda...do each of their responses have to do with my decision?"

Mike: "In part, for each woman had to put her actions and trust in the Lord, stepping out in faith that He would work in the lives, and the lives of their children. This is Christmas Eve, their message to you should have more meaning. You see, Kim, each of these women were specifically listed in the Gospel of Matthew in Christ's earthly genealogy. Your decision is as important as any of theirs, and that's why I told you their story."

Kim: "I never looked at it that way. You're telling me that my choice is important...not only for me, but for others..."

Mike: "Partially. What I'm saying is that *you* are important. He loves you as much as He loves anyone else...anywhere else...and at any other time. (Joy enters stage right) All He asks is for you to put your trust in Him. Let Him help you make your decisions, and trust Him to provide for your needs..."

Joy: "Michael...the Father has another job for you. Are you ready to go? Oh, Hi Patty!"

Kim: "Hi...uh, do I know you?"

Joy: "Not yet...sorry, I have to go...coming Michael?"

Mike: "Be right there, Joy! Go ahead, I'll meet you outside.!"

Joy: "OK...see you later Patty!" (Turns and leaves stage right)

Mike: "Well, you heard her...I've got to go. Do you have a clearer idea where to go next?"

Patty: "Yes, I think I know what He'd have me do, but I would like more time to talk to Him, if it's OK?"

Mike: "Certainly...you know He's there for you when you are ready to listen to Him!"

Patty: "Just one thing. Who is Joy, and how'd she know my name?"

Mike: "You know what they say, where there is Faith and Hope, there is Joy!
Sorry....long running joke! Let's just say she's one of His messengers and leave it there,
OK? I've gotta run.. Will you be OK here?" (begin Christmas music softly)

Patty: "Sure. I just want a few more minutes before I leave."

Mike: "Fine, then. I'll leave you and see you later. (stands up) Take care of yourself
and that baby you've been given, and have a wonderful Christmas!"

Patty: (hugs him) “I most certainly will – you too, ...and thanks...thanks a lot!”

Mike: “No problem. Advice is free, what’s hard is taking it!” (Mike exits stage right.

Patty kneels and begins praying silently. After a few moments, Pastor Glenn enters. He moves down stage, checks upon seeing Patty, and quietly waits for her to finish.)

Patty: (raises head and sees Glenn...gets quickly to her feet) “Oh, sorry! You startled me!”

Glenn: “I’m sorry, I didn’t want to disturb you.”

Patty: “That’s alright. This is the second time tonight!”

Glenn: “Second time?”

Patty: “Yes, your caretaker! Frankly I thought He’d have told you I was here, after Joy told Michael you wanted to see him!”

Glenn: “Uh...Joy?”

Patty: “Yes, but you see, he took care of my needs...isn’t that great! I’m going to go home now and tell my folks...and trust Him to provide...thank you...thank Michael when you see him!” (Patty runs off stage)

Glenn: (facing congregation looking up at the sound booth walks out speaking out loud)
“Michael....Joy...? We don’t even have a caretaker!” (bring music up, kill light)