

WOMEN OF
PROMISE

Light Up Your World

This is a production that the women of Messiah CRC in Hudsonville, MI, presented at the Women's Christmas Dinner.

Each of the participants dressed in a costume fitting her role, and performed her part with her own dramatic flair.

The purpose was to challenge each participant and each member of the audience to be diligent and purposeful in reflecting Jesus' light in this dark world. As each generation is faithful in letting their light shine, the Light of Jesus will pierce the darkness.

A Christmas tree in the center of the stage was the central focus. The star at the top represented Jesus as the Light of the world. Five strands of light were lit one at a time at the designated place in the program.

The Narrator stood at one side of the stage, and the participants entered on the other side of the stage. When each participant had finished her part, she took a seat on the chairs surrounding the tree.

At the close of the program everybody in the audience was invited to gather at the foot of the cross worshipping Jesus as all sang O Come All Ye Faithful.

A song sheet is also included at the end of the booklet. This was distributed separately as people entered the sanctuary.

Dena Baker

Women of Promise
Light Up Your World

Opening prayer

Silent Night (3 verses) –

Narrator ---

The Light of the world is Jesus!!

(Light the star at top of tree)

Jesus said, “*You* are the light of the world. Let *your* light so shine before men that they will see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

We are here tonight to celebrate the Nativity, the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world. That celebration includes a reflection on *our* being light bearers in this dark world, so fulfilling the purpose for which God created us.

Each of us is created for a specific function. Our desire is to know God’s will for our life and to fulfill that victoriously. Our prayer is that every one of us will come to the close of our lives, confident that we have lived in obedience. Then we will hear Him say as we stand before Him, “Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy prepared for you.” And our joy will be complete when our Father says, “Welcome Home, my child.”

Throughout our celebration this evening we will meet a variety of women and we will see how each fulfilled her God-given mandate. As each period of history is completed, we will add lights to our tree to visually demonstrate how we reflect Jesus' Light and so light up our world.

Song of Anticipation: *Come O Long Expected Jesus* (1 verse)

We will start by meeting several women of the Old Testament, all of whom are listed in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1. These women anticipated the promised Messiah. So with no further ado, I'd like you to meet our very first 'First Lady', Eve.

Eve

Narrator: Please welcome our next guest, Tamar.

Tamar

Narrator: Now let's listen to her remarkable story, here is Rahab.

Rahab

Narrator: Here to share her beautiful fairy-tale-come-true story is Ruth

Ruth

Add lights

Song of Fulfillment: *You Have Left Your Throne* (1 verse)

Narrator: A few of the New Testament women will depict the preparation and birth of Jesus, and their involvement in that very first Christmas. Here comes Elizabeth.

Elizabeth

Narrator: Our next guest is a young girl who was given the greatest task ever given to a woman. Please, welcome Mary.

Mary

Narrator: Though she is older than most of us here, let's hear Anna's story.

Anna

Add lights

Song of Testimony: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
(1verse)

Now let's meet two women who had face to face encounters with Jesus and now joyfully testify to a 'born again' experience, resulting in a total life makeover. Here is Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene

Narrator: Our next guest could very well feel like an 'outsider', but we all know that in the Kingdom of God there are no such distinctions; we are sisters, so please warmly welcome the Samaritan Woman.

Samaritan woman

Add lights

Song of Celebration: *Joy to the World*

Narrator: Now we enter more current history and witness God working His purpose in the lives of 20th century women. Let's meet them. Here is Corrie Ten Boom.

Corrie Ten Boom

Narrator: Our next guest came all the way from Calcutta, India, to bring us her story. Welcome Mother Teresa.

Mother Teresa

Add lights

Song of Commissioning: *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Narrator: As we continue we will meet women from different stations in life. I would like to have you meet (fill in name) she is celebrating Christmas as a new Christian this year.

New Christian

Narrator: Now let's meet (fill in name), a career woman.

Career Woman

Narrator: Go with me to the inner city and meet our sister (Fill in name).

Inner City Woman

Narrator: Next we will hear the heart rending cry of (Fill in name), a young mother in Syria

Syria woman

(When she finishes her cry to Jesus and bows her head, the Narrator will finish with these lines:

Narrator: Softly, gently Jesus whispers, "It is finished. I will come again to take unto Myself all those who are Mine."

(Pause) And the war rages on.

Narrator: Our final guest will be (Fill in name) to give thanks for a woman we all know and cherish in our hearts, whether she is still with us, or has already gone to be with Jesus, our Mother.

Mother

Add lights

Song of Consecration: *In Christ Alone*

Narrator: Our tree is shining brightly. Our, your and my, lights are shining in this world of darkness. Our prayer is that each of us will be faithful to the end, so that people from all across the world, who see the Light of Jesus in our lives, will praise our Father in Heaven.

Come, gather at the foot of the cross as we sing.

Song of Worship: O Come All You Faithful

O Come All You Faithful
O come let us adore Him
For You alone are worthy
We give You all the glory

Closing Prayer

Eve

Dear Sisters,

As your very first “First Lady”, I failed miserably. I hope you are not still mad at me for listening to that despicable snake, Satan. I know I caused all of you a life of excruciating pain and suffering.

Adam and I had it so good in Eden. The daily visits with God were the highlight of our evening. But then I sinned, and consequently, I dumped all of you into a life of sin. On that blackest of all days, Adam and I were so afraid to meet God for our evening visit. He knew what we had done, and it brought Him so much pain, I had broken his heart. Oh! I can not tell you the shame, the fear, and the guilt that flooded my heart that day.

Please don't feel hopeless. You see, God still loved us and He had put in place His perfect plan to restore me, and Adam, you, *and* all creation into fellowship with Him. But we had no idea that the price for our redemption would be the brutal death of Jesus, His precious Son. I did not know the cost to see my sin upon that cross.

He blessed us with children and a long life, almost a millennium, to see our grandchildren down many generations. Our assurance was that one day God would make it all right again. I know I started this dreadful mess, but I am so thankful that God allowed me a part in starting the redemption process.

Tamar

Ladies, I greet you tonight from the distant past. I lived around 1730 B.C., two hundred years after Abraham.

Who would ever have expected to find *my* name listed in the genealogy of Jesus, the Savior of the world? But there it is, right there in Mathew 1:3 – Tamar.

I'm sure you have read my sordid story in Genesis, I know when you were small, your parents skipped the 38th chapter of Genesis at your table devotions, for it would raise too many questions in a child's curious mind, questions that were too hard or embarrassing for parents to answer. I understand that; and I'm not proud of what I did when I tricked Judah. But no matter how deceitful I was, or how wrong Judah's adultery was, *in spite* of our sin, God used us in His salvation plan. Only He can make something so good come from something so bad.

God gave Judah and me twin boys, and one of those boys, Perez, grew up to be an ancestor of Jesus, the Messiah.

I had lost all hope of ever having a happy life after being widowed, not once, but twice as a young woman. Yet God gave me this awesome privilege to be counted among Jesus' ancestry. I can hardly believe it that I am numbered in that vast throng known as the "Family of God"!

Rahab

Thank you for inviting me to share this evening with you.

Have you heard about the Scarlet Thread that weaves through the Bible? The Scarlet Thread represents the promise of a Savior. Did you know that legend started with me, yes, *me*, a lady of ill repute in Jericho?

But I did something very right when I hid those two spies. We had heard incredible stories about a people wandering in the desert, and their awesome God. I knew we could never survive against a people with such a God.

I hid those men and helped them escape by letting them down the city wall using a scarlet rope. They promised that they would spare me and all who were with me if I would leave that scarlet rope in the window so they could identify my place.

Not only did God spare my life, but He also gave me the joy of discovering true love. He gave me, of all people, a husband, Salmon who was one of the soldiers who rescued me and my family. It is almost like a fairy tale, for I did live happily after.

That Scarlet Thread legend became even more precious to me when our son Boaz had a son named Obed, and he had a son named Jesse, and he had a son named David, and finally Jesus was born.

Ruth

It is my greatest pleasure to be with you tonight. It has been quite a trip from Moab, back to 1320 B.C.

I grew up in Moab, met and married Mahlon, a Jewish young man living in Moab with his family because of a famine in their homeland. Our happiness was short lived, for he died soon after we were married.

My mother-in-law, Naomi, knew tragedy too, for she lost not only Mahlon, but also Elimilech, her husband, and Kilion, her other son. When she decided to go back to Israel, her homeland, I decided to go with her. There was something about her, but even more, there was something about her God that I found irresistible. The words of commitment that I spoke to Naomi about going wherever she would go and her people being my people, and her God be my God, have become well known to many of you. But that commitment is what changed my life and gave me a new destiny.

God is a God of love, well, I can testify to that for, He poured His love into my heart, and then He gave me a wonderful husband in Boaz, and you have already met my new mother-in-law, Rahab.

From there you know the story, how God sent Jesus to be born many generations later from our family line. Can you even begin to understand how blessed I am and honored to be part of God's great salvation plan!!

Elizabeth

Dear sisters, I can't tell you what a joy it is to be here with you tonight, and to share with you the wonderful things that God has done for me so many years ago. Travel back with me to about 5 B.C.

The sun has never shone brighter!

The grass has never been greener!

The Rose of Sharon has never bloomed more beautifully!

Zachariah has never been more precious to me!

Why? You ask, why this ecstasy? I will tell you! I will shout it out to everybody, the whole world must hear! I am going to have a baby!! Don't laugh, don't snicker behind my back, and don't say that I am too old.

We had waited all our life for God to give us a child. But even more, we, as the people of Israel had waited for centuries for God to send the promised Messiah to be our Savior. Then God worked this miracle and gave Zechariah and me this great joy, fulfilling our lifelong hopes and dreams.

His name will be John, and he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. Who could ask for anything greater than that for her child! Hmm, except, maybe, that he would be the long expected Messiah.

Mary

(Mary comes running excitedly on the scene looking for a familiar face)

Elizabeth! Elizabeth! It's me, Mary. You do remember me, don't you?

May I come in and rest a bit? I need to talk to somebody, will you listen to me? Please hear me, hear of this fearful and yet amazing thing that has happened to me!

Oh! Elizabeth, I am so scared, and yet at the same time I am so excited. Don't think I have lost my good senses or that Joseph and I have sinned – he doesn't even know about this yet. Elizabeth, I am pregnant! But I have not sinned with Joseph or with any other man. Please believe me!!

This baby inside me is from *GOD!* The angel told me that this Baby will be..., will be..., He will be the Messiah! Oh, Elizabeth, I'm not dreaming, am I? Tell me this is true.

But I am so afraid. Will Joseph have me stoned? Will he send me away because he can't trust me? At the same time I have this overwhelming feeling of joy, of peace, of the very Presence of the Almighty God flooding my heart.

How can it be that the Holy God should choose *me* to be His servant? My soul will magnify the Lord and my spirit will rejoice in God my Savior!!

Anna

There He is! That's the Baby God has promised so very long ago, there in the arms of that young girl!

O Lord, how long we have waited for the fulfillment of Your promise, for the coming of the Messiah. And now, here He is! Your Son poured into this tiny Baby. O Lord, how are You going to secure the salvation of Your people through this small Infant? He looks so small, so innocent, and so helpless for such an overwhelming task.

But Lord, I know Your ways are not our ways, and Your thoughts are far above our thoughts. I praise and thank You that after all these years of serving in Your temple, I have this incredible privilege to see with my own eyes the Messiah, the Redeemer of Israel. Hallelujah!!

Dear women, having been called by God to be a prophetess in Israel, I have experienced the special anointing of God to fulfill His calling. When I became a widow early in life, it was the death of my hope and my dreams as well. But the Lord raised up a new hope, a higher and nobler vision. Day and night I fasted and prayed, and today all has been fulfilled. The hope has become reality, the King has come! Welcome to our world, sweet Jesus!

Dear sisters celebrate this child, your Savior!

Mary Magdalene

I can hardly believe that I am here, sharing this beautiful evening with all of you. You see, there was a time in my life when this could never have happened. I simply was not worthy of your company,

Back then I had no idea that God's people were expecting a Messiah. God was not part of my life. Instead I was filled with evil spirits. You can't begin to understand what life is like when you are totally under the control of evil and there is absolutely nothing you can do about it. I was totally separated from God. The wicked forces within me were so evil and so mighty that I was utterly unable to fight against them. They would make me do things that were so shocking and so embarrassing. I still struggle with shame when I remember my horrible past.

But into this dark and broken life, Jesus came and brought cleansing, healing, and peace. He made me everything I wanted to be, but could not do on my own. There is nothing in life more precious to me than loving Him, praising Him, and telling everyone I meet what a loving Friend and Savior He is. I don't know what a sinner you are, but I do know what a Savior He is.

Samaritan Woman

Good evening to you. Please excuse me for being a little nervous. You see I am a Samaritan woman and in my day it would never happen that the likes of me should be in your company.

When a woman is considered to be so insignificant that the writer of the Gospel does not even care enough to know her name, you know that she can't be worth much.

That was me. I may not have counted for much with anybody else, especially when you consider my sordid background, but when I met the Man, Jesus, at the well, all that changed.

In His eyes I *was* somebody. He spoke to me and treated me with respect. That felt so good! I'll admit I was skeptical of Him at first, I thought He was just another man and I assumed He would either ignore me or mistreat me, but He didn't.

Do you know what he did do? He offered me, of all people, His Living Water so that I would never thirst again; and then He invited me to live with Him forever. Right there at Jacob's well He became my Messiah, my Savior! He lifted me out of the mire of my life, put my feet on a rock, and put a song in my mouth. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever. Yes, forever!!

Corrie Ten Boom

Goeden avond, Dames, en een gezegend Kerstfeest toegewenst. (Dutch greeting: Good evening, Ladies, I wish you a blessed Christmas)

Ja, it is a privilege to share this evening with you. But it is even a greater privilege to have been used by my Vader in heaven to tell others of His great love for them. You have probably heard my story in the book or the film called “The Hiding Place”. Ja, that was a lot of fanfare, but it really pointed to Jesus and His work in my life.

You know, when I was in that concentration camp with my sister Betsy, I would just as soon have socked that German guard in de mouth as anything. But Betsy just looked at me without saying a single word. And I knew she was praying to Jesus for me right then. Now you may think what good could come from those awful times in Ravensbruck. Well, just this, that Jesus melted my hard heart and poured into me all His love so that my heart simply overflowed. Then years later when God knew I was ready, I met that awful mean guard again, and you know I was able forgive him; really forgive him from my heart. I know that was what Jesus was getting me ready for.

He died for me, He saved me, and now He wants me to speak of that love to other people. My heart’s desire is to fulfill Jesus’ purpose for my life, and I pray that I will have fulfilled that to the glory of God, my Vader in heaven.

Mother Teresa

Good evening, dear ladies. I am so happy to be here with you this evening to celebrate our Savior's birth.

Is it not wonderful that the Kingdom of our God is so big and so broad that you from the Protestant faith and I from the Roman Catholic faith can serve the same God? He is wonderful, isn't He?

I am so grateful that He called me to serve Him in India. I was born in Yugoslavia in 1910. As a young nun I came to India as a teacher. But the plight of India's poor and dying masses drew me out of the convent and into the streets of Calcutta to minister the love of God to those helpless and dying people.

The world has labeled me the "Saint of the Gutter", but I want you to know that the gutter is not a matter of money or class, but a state of mind. I have seen far more gutter life in America's leadership, in immorality, in abortions than among the poor and dying people in India.

After giving me a pacemaker, the doctors told me to slow down, but there are so many hurting people in this world, and there is so much darkness that we have to shine our light for Jesus. Let us all be faithful in serving the needy and hurting.

Dear ladies, I bid you good-bye, until we meet again at our Jesus' feet.

New Christian

I am so excited this Christmas! It is my very first time to *really* celebrate Christmas. You see something wonderful happened in my life – today I am a Christian! Last year I was not and I had no desire to become one. I have known church people all my life, but their long-faced religion had no attraction for me.

But you've got to hear this. I met Jesus! No, I did not meet Him in some spectacular vision or supernatural encounter, but simply in the person of my next door neighbor. We had grown to be friends over the years, but one day all the barriers came down and she shared Jesus with me.

As I listened I began to understand for the very first time that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Then I knew with total confidence that Jesus loves me too. I was exhilarated when Jesus became my Lord and my Savior. And my love for Him just keeps growing and growing everyday.

We are going to have some kind of Birthday Party for Jesus at our house this year! We will celebrate His coming to earth as a Baby, but also His coming into my heart. Eagerly I anticipate the day when I shall see him face to face. That will be the grandest of all parties!

Career Woman

Good evening, sisterhood of working women. I wonder, do you ever feel like I do?

5:00 AM, my alarm jolts me awake, interrupting a pleasant dream I would like to have finished. I take a quick shower, gulp down a glass of orange juice, swallow my vitamins, and a cup of coffee at Starbucks and I'm ready to face another hectic day at the office.

Dictation, telephone conferences, e-mails, staff meeting, scheduling appointments, and a lunch date with a colleague to discuss the possibility of opening another branch on the west coast – makes for a full morning's work. An afternoon meeting with a frightened teenager and her almost hysterical mother to discuss the options they have in their current situation. As much as I would like to tell them what to do, I know they have to come to their own decision. Reports to write, telephone appointment with a critical board member, a letter questioning my Christianity and accusing me of betraying the cause of Christ in my job. And I've got a headache, my feet hurt, the air conditioning is on the fritz, and my computer crashed – I just want to go home.

Lord, I am grateful that not all days are like this one. Help me not to lose sight of You and Your plan for me. Let me be Your hands, Your feet, Your loving presence to hurting people in a broken world.

Inner City Woman

Hi!

I am just a poor old woman, who has never seen much more than the old brick tenement houses of this ghetto.

But don't you all go and feel sorry for me now. I may be poor in your eyes, but I have riches that money can't buy, and which no one can take from me. You see, the good Lord had mercy on my soul, and He washed me clean with His blood. And that, my dear sisters, is all that matters.

Even though I could not give my children so many things that I wanted them to have, I did teach them about my sweet Jesus. My heart just bursts with pride when I see what they have become, and my heart overflows with joy to see that they love and serve my Jesus.

My life may not have mattered much to you all or anybody else, but if all I could do for Jesus is give Him my children, then I know I have lived well and have done my part in God's Kingdom. And to think that one day, my children will join me when the trumpet call announces Jesus' coming in the clouds, and we will meet Him in the air and be with Him forever.

Praise the Lord!! Hallelujah!!!

War-torn Country Mother

(Falls to her knees, rocking her baby, sobbing, praying)

“O, Lord, how long will You hide Your face from us? We are being torn apart on all sides, my heart breaks within me as I hold my child so close, knowing she will not live through the night because there has been no food for so very long. O, Lord. Why? Why? I love her so much and I had such high hopes for her. But now this, Lord, this can’t be your will; this can’t be all there is for us.

Years ago when Your missionaries came to our village to teach us about You and Your love for us, Lord, I believed! I still believe! But, Jesus, I hurt so much; I wonder sometimes if You really care? Do You? (Pause)

Yes! Lord I know You care, forgive my doubt, forgive my rebellion, forgive me for losing sight of You. I am ready Jesus, take this, my precious child, love her for me when she is in Your arms instead of mine.

(Reader bows head while narrator finishes.)

Narrator: Softly, gently, Jesus whispers. “It is finished. I will come again to take to Myself all who are Mine.”

And the wars rage on.

Mother

How can I describe the woman I call Mother. She carried me under her heart and gave me life; she nurtured and cuddled me; she opened her heart and gave me permanent residence within. Even when at times I broke her heart, she showed me love and forgiveness. She lovingly devoted her life for my welfare and upbringing. She taught me everything I needed to know before I went to kindergarten.

When I was too young to fully understand, she taught me to love Jesus, and one day we prayed together to ask Jesus to come into my heart, and she cried. She sent me off to school in a brand new dress she had sewn for me, and she cried. She helped me to learn and understand my Catechism lessons and memorize my Bible verses. One day as I stood before the church to tell everybody that I loved Jesus and wanted to live for Him, she squeezed my hand, and she cried. Together we planned my wedding, we shopped and she spent far more than she could afford. And on the day I married my sweetheart, she smiled and was so happy for me, and she cried. We drove to the doctor's office together to hear the verdict of the tests, cancer, and we cried. Eighteen months later we buried her, and I cried.

But on that day when the dead in Christ will rise first and then those who are left will be caught up with Jesus in the air, to be with Him forever, then we will cry, but it will be out of pure joy!!!

This was God's gift to me, and I am delighted to pass it on to you. I pray you will be blessed as you use it, and that God's Name will be glorified.

There are no copyright issues to deal with. All I ask is that you use it without changing the message of Jesus as the Light of the World.

Also available are two books I have written.

What's in a Name, what I learned about god from flowers, is a devotional book based on flowers.

Then There Was Jesus, is a children's inter-active Christmas Story.

Both of these are available at Amazon.

God bless you!!

Dena Baker

Messiah Ladies Christmas Celebration – Songs

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming
grace, Jesus, Lord, at Your birth; Jesus, Lord, at Your birth.

Come, O Long Expected Jesus

Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set Your people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in You.
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the world You are;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

You Have Left Your Throne

You have left Your throne and Your Kingly crown
When You came to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem’s home there was found no room
For Your Holy Nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus there is room in my heart for You!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all you nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing “Glory to the newborn King!”

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord has come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Go Tell It in the Mountains

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

O Come Let Us Adore Him

O come, all you faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels

O come, let us adore Him! O come let us adore Him!
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

For You alone are worthy! For You alone are worthy!
For You alone are worthy, Christ the Lord!

We'll give You all the glory. We'll give You all the glory,
We'll give You all the glory, Christ the Lord!

We'll praise Your Name forever! We'll praise Your Name forever!
We'll praise Your Name forever! Christ the Lord!

