

Faith Life Weekly 12/14 09

Reflection:

I have always been amazed by the angels in the Christmas story. I mean, they are everywhere. The angel Gabriel, a named angel, takes on the task of greeting Mary and telling her the good news of Jesus' birth. An angel comes to the fore with Joseph. I mean Joseph was a skeptic if you ever saw one. An angel appears to old relative Zechariah. The angels greeted the shepherds on the hills and told them the glorious news; "Glory to God in the highest", they sang. And finally an angel warns Joseph of the wrath to come after Jesus' birth, so they flee to Egypt.

I wonder how God is leading us, warming, and warning us with angels this day. You never know, as they say, you may be "entertaining angels unawares". That's what I often think about. I think about the innocent little angels in the Christmas program. But I think of the angels whom God has sent to minister to our spirits over the years. There have been moments when they have literally lifted my spirits. There have also been moments where they have shocked me or turned me around in my tracks because I was headed the wrong direction. But most importantly they have pointed the way, and they have told the news over and over again, of the Christ child, of his birth, of his death and resurrection for the likes of me and you.

Take a moment to celebrate our Lord's birth, to contemplate the role of the angels in it all, to remember the angels that God has sent your way – maybe even totally unawares.

Song:

"Angels among us", by Becky Hobbs and Don Goodman

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WENJbSPSmqg

I was walking home from school on a cold winter day.
Took a shortcut through the woods, and I lost my way.
It was getting late, and I was scared and alone.
But then a kind old man took my hand and led me home.
Mama couldn't see him, but he was standing there.
And I knew in my heart, he was the answer to my prayers.

Oh I believe there are angels among us.
Sent down to us from somewhere up above.
They come to you and me in our darkest hours.
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give.
To guide us with the light of love.

When life held troubled times, and had me down on my knees.
There's always been someone there to come along and comfort me.
A kind word from a stranger, to lend a helping hand.
A phone call from a friend, just to say I understand.

And ain't it kind of funny that at the dark end of the road.
Someone lights the way with just a single ray of hope.

Oh I believe there are angels among us.
Sent down to us from somewhere up above.
They come to you and me in our darkest hours.
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give.
To guide us with the light of love.

They wear so many faces; show up in the strangest places.

To grace us with their mercy, in our time of need.

Oh I believe there are angels among us.
Sent down to us from somewhere up above.
They come to you and me in our darkest hours.
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give.
To guide us with the light of love.

To guide us with the light of love.

Prayer:

God, thank you for coming to this earth. O bright morning star, our light and our life, O innocent one born of lowly birth, Holy one of God, Holy God, Emmanuel, come, and be with us. Give us such an awareness of your presence in the days to come that we may awaken to the angels who bear your likeness and your way. Amen.

R.F.