

# “Angels in the Sky”

Rev. David J. Bauer



*Earth looks very impressive from our perspective. The Apollo 8 astronauts on the way to the moon described it as “whole, round, beautiful and small.” Jim Lovell, reflecting on the scene later said, “It was just another body, really, about four times bigger than the moon. But it held all the hope, all the life, all the things that the crew of the Apollo 8 knew and loved. To us it was the most beautiful thing in the heavens. That is the view of the human beings who call this planet “home.”*

*But to heavenly angelic beings, what must this planet look like from a heavenly perspective? It probably appears to be a place of darkness, death and sin, with self destructive creatures ruled by Lucifer and his fallen angels. Yes, human beings exhibit great intelligence, having dominion over the planet. But unlike the animal kingdom humans revert quickly to anger, hatred, jealousy, and revenge.*



Rev. David J. Bauer, Director  
& Dolores Bauer, Secretary  
Office Assistant

**The Lighter Side:** 'Twas the week after Christmas, and all through the house, every creature was hurtin', even the mouse. The toys were all broken, their batteries dead; Papa passed out, with ice on his head. Wrapping and ribbons just covered the floor, while upstairs the family continued to snore. And I in my T-shirt, new Reeboks and jeans, I went into the kitchen and started to clean.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the sink to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the curtains, and threw up the sash.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a little white truck, with an oversized mirror. The driver was smiling, so lively and grand; The patch on his jacket said "U.S. POSTMAN."

With a handful of bills, he grinned like a fox. Then quickly he stuffed them into our mailbox. Bill after bill, they still came. Whistling and shouting he called them by name: "Now Wal-Mart, now Best Buy, now Penny's and Sears Here's Macy's and Target as in other years, To the tip of your limit, every store, every mall, Now charge away--charge away--charge away all!"

He whooped and he whistled as he finished his work. He filled up the box, and then turned with a jerk. He sprang to his truck and he drove down the road, Driving much faster with just half a load. Then I heard him exclaim with great holiday cheer, "Enjoy what you got, you'll be paying all year!"

## RECIPES

### Pea Salad

Canned Peas (according to # of servings)

Onion

French Dressing

Small Cheese Wedges (choice of cheese)

Heat peas in pan with water from can. Chop Onions fine. After heated drain water from Peas and add chopped Onions. Let cool.

Then add French Dressing and small Cheese Wedges. Mix and refrigerate before serving. Enjoy--

-Bob Arehart, Munster, IN

The twelfth chapter of Revelation pulls back the curtain, giving us a glimpse of how Christmas must have looked from somewhere high up above our universe. This account in the Apostle, John's vision is different from anything we can imagine.

A ferocious red dragon leads a struggle in heaven. A pregnant woman clothed with the sun, wearing a crown of 12 stars cries out in pain as she is about to give birth. The enormous red dragon enters the picture, his tail sweeping one third of the stars out of heaven, flinging them to the earth. The dragon crouches hungrily, anxious to devour the child as soon as he is to be born. But at the last second, the infant is supernaturally snatched away to safety. The woman flees to the desert as an all-out cosmic war begins on earth. This would perhaps be the perspective as it is seen by the angelic beings of heaven.

But we all know the earthly story presented to us in the four Gospels. On earth in time and space a young woman is visited by an angel named Gabriel, announcing that she has been specially chosen by God to conceive a baby boy, who would be called the Son of God. The young lady is a willing recipient of this miracle, though it causes some pause with her fiancé. But an angel convinces him to marry his fiancé because the Holy Spirit caused the conception. Current laws force them to travel far away, where she gives birth to a baby boy in a stable. Angels appear announcing the birth of a savior named Christ the Lord. Shepherds appear at the stable on the same night. Later, magi come from a far country searching for the child they label the "King of the Jews." A wicked king hears the story of the magi and a chase to the death begins with his sole purpose to destroy this child. But the child is rescued, as an angel intervenes at the last moment, warning to his parents. The three flee to Egypt (the desert).

We are told in Scripture that these things concerning our salvation, "...even the angels desire to look into" -1 Peter 1:12. Wow! This story of God's preservation and rescue of humans even baffles the angels - a heavenly wonder! What Christmas means from a heavenly and earthly perspective:

He descended that we might ascend (John 6:38, 14:3).

He became poor that we might become rich (2 Cor. 8:9, Jas. 2:5).

He was born that we might be born again (John 1:14, 3:2,7).

He became a servant that we might become sons (Phil. 2:7; Gal. 4:6, 7).

He had no home that we might have a home in heaven (Matt. 8:20; Jo. 14:2).

He was hungry that we might be fed (Matt. 4:2; John 6:50).

He was thirsty that we might be satisfied (John 19:26).

He was stripped that we might be clothed (Matt. 27:28; Gal. 3:27).

He was forsaken that we might not be forsaken (Matt. 27:26; 28:20).

He was sad that we might become glad (Isa. 53:3; Phil. 4:4).

He was bound that we might go free (Matt. 27:2; John 8:32-36).

He was made sin that we might be made righteous (2 Cor. 5:21).

He died that we might live (John 5:24, 25).

He came down that we might be caught up (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

It is beyond human comprehension, yet this is what Christmas is about. Key to our understanding the wonder of it all is our faith in God's provision. Our world consists of lakes, hills, stores, houses, families, and all that is dear to us here. Another world consists of angels and sinister forces doing battle in distant places of heaven and hell. But one night in time and space in the cold dark hills of Bethlehem, God, who knew no boundaries, entered our world in the confines of the body of a baby to suffer the restraints of mortality.

The angelic chorus that night was not to the shepherds only, but was an announcement to the universe as well! Let us rejoice - a Savior was born!



**Clean Lint Trap:** Remove lint from your dryer's trap after every load. A dirty lint trap impedes the flow of air in the dryer so it takes longer and uses more energy to dry your laundry.

**Drying Clothes by Weight:** Separate dryer loads into heavy and lightweight items as the lighter ones take less drying time.

**Dry Consecutively:** Drying your clothes in consecutive loads saves the energy needed to warm the dryer up to the desired temperature.

**Clothes "Breathing":** Clothes that are dry cleaned should not be hung away in the plastic bag they came in. It is more important that the fabric should be able to breathe, so remove and dispose of the plastic.

**Running Errands:** Plan your day so that you do most of your errands between the hours of about 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Most types of businesses and stores are much less crowded.

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# Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director



2019

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; And the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called wonderful, counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." -Isaiah 9:6*

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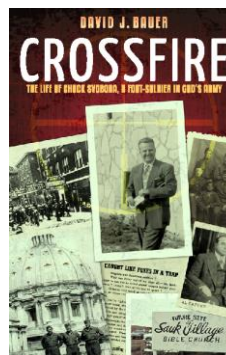
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## Rev. David J. Bauer's December Itinerary



- Dec. 1 Harrison St. Bible Church, Oak Park, IL 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8 Harrison St. Bible Church, Oak Park, IL 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19 Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago, IL 12:00 noon

"The Second Person in God, the Son, became human Himself: was born into the world as an actual man -- a real man of a particular height, with hair of a particular color, speaking a particular language, weighing so many pounds. The Eternal Being, who knows everything and who created the whole universe, became not only a man but (before that) a baby, and before that a fetus inside a woman's body. If you want to get the hang of it, think how you would like to become a slug or a crab." -- C. S. Lewis



From Cicero Gangland, to Enemy Gunfire, to Church Organization, to Arbitration in Churches... and beyond! The Chuck Svoboda Story & Bible Church History

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## BRM Field Report #12

There is lots of action this time of the year and many calls into our office from distressed people.

There is declining attendance in at least four churches with who we are in contact, all with elderly pastors that just will not simply retire and allow the church to go forward. We have seen the results of this kind of leadership and it is not good. We must constantly be preparing for the next generation to step in and lead. If, after 40+ years of leadership of a church pastor, a successor to the pastor cannot be found, nor board leadership be trained in how to search for such, it begs the question of how well the pastor has prepared for the next generation in his church...

A problem which arises continually is in the area of members transferring from one local church to another. Shouldn't the church board or the pastor want to know "why" they left one church to attend another in the same area? Why do we not check references and vet our new arrivals? It seems that some folks have the "spiritual gift" of causing problems wherever they go. It is up to church leaders to check out new comers in order to protect our flock. My father, a long time pastor in one church, had much better success with church leaders he had won to Christ and trained to be leaders. And isn't that the pattern given to us in the Great Commission and in 2nd Timothy 2:2?

But we also see lots of faulty moves by leadership in not preparing the church for the next generation: Young pastors are not allowed to actually lead their church boards or in church matters. Old board members worry about the new members coming into their church, getting voting privileges? Church members/leaders concerned about new members of a different culture or color? Concern over younger people who may introduce a new or different kind of music into our churches? Concern over keeping the same services or service times in place. This can be a "sacred cow" for sure! Concerns of the "old guard" of the church over changes the new people are bringing into the church? And we recently saw a new pastor change the name and affiliation of the church without Board knowledge?

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer -1 Corinthians 14:40