

Jingle Bells In Space



Command Pilot, Wally Schirra, and Thomas P. Stafford, Pilot, were the two-man crew that were catapulted into space nine days before Christmas in 1965. They had just completed a rendezvous with Gemini 7 when the crew suddenly gave a surprising and troubling report to Mission Control: "We have an unknown object...looks like a satellite going from north to south, up in a polar orbit. It's in a very low trajectory traveling from north to south and has a very high climbing ratio." There was a pause... "It looks like a sleigh..." His words were muffled and low. The tense report of the unidentified flying object was suddenly broken by the sound of "Jingle Bells" with Wally Schirra playing a tiny harmonica accompanied by Tom Stafford shaking a handful of small sleigh bells they had smuggled on board the space craft.



"Wally came up with the idea," Stafford told the Smithsonian. "He could play the harmonica and we practiced two or three times before we took off, and of course, we didn't tell the guys on the ground. We never considered singing, since I can't carry a tune in a bushel basket." Stafford could tell Mission Control was getting tense when he described an "unknown object" in orbit with them, but the mood became much lighter with the rendition of that old favorite Christmas tune. Mission Control returned a message, "You guys are too much!"



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quietly and He
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Expect GOD - Surprises!

Submitted by Jon Shepard

Mildred Honor (Hondorf), a former elementary school music teacher from Des Moines, Iowa, supplemented her income by teaching piano. During those years, she found that some pupils were very talented, and some were "musically challenged". One such pupil was Robby, who was 11 years old when his mother (a single mom) dropped him off for his first piano lesson. Robby said that it had always been his mother's dream to hear him play the piano and at the end of each weekly lesson he would always say "My mom's going to hear me play someday." Mildred only knew his mother from a distance as she dropped Robby off or waited in her old car to pick him up, always waving and smiling. To Mildred, Robby's dream seemed hopeless; he just did not have any inborn ability.

Then one day Robby stopped coming for his lessons. Mildred thought about calling him, but assumed that because of his lack of ability he had decided to pursue something else. She was relieved. Several weeks later she mailed a recital flyer to the students' homes. To her surprise, Robby (who had received a flyer) asked if he could be in the recital. Mildred told him that the recital was for current pupils and that because he had dropped out, he really did not qualify. He said that his mother had been sick and unable to take him to his piano lessons, but that he had been practicing. "Please Miss Honor, I've just got to play," he insisted. After much begging, Mildred said that he could participate in the recital.

The night of the recital, the high school gymnasium was packed! Mildred put Robby at the last of the program, just before thanking all the students and playing a final piece. She thought that any damage he might do she could always salvage through her "curtain closer". Well, the recital went off without a hitch; the students had been practicing and it showed. Then Robby came up on the stage. His clothes were wrinkled and his hair looked as though he had run an egg beater through it. "Why wasn't he dressed up like the other students?" She thought. "Why didn't his mother at least make him comb his hair for this special night?" Mildred was surprised when Robby announced that he had chosen to play Mozart's Concerto No. 21 in C Major. What she heard next was a total shock! His fingers were light, dancing nimbly over the ivories. He went from pianissimo to fortissimo, from allegro to virtuoso; his suspended chords that Mozart demands were magnificent! Never had Mildred heard Mozart played so well by anyone his age. After 6 1/2 minutes, he ended in a grand crescendo, and everyone was on their feet in wild applause!!!

Overcome and in tears, Mildred ran up on stage, joyfully putting her arms around Robby. "I have never heard anyone play like that, Robby! How did you do it?" Through the microphone Robby explained: "Well, Miss Honor, remember I told you that my Mom was sick? Well, she actually had cancer and passed away this morning. She was born deaf, so tonight was the first time she would hear me play, and I wanted to make it 'special.'" There wasn't a dry eye in the house that evening.

Mildred thought to herself then how much richer her life had been for taking Robby as her pupil. That night she admits that she became a prodigy...of Robby - he was the teacher and she was the pupil, for he had taught her the meaning of perseverance and love and believing in yourself, and maybe even taking a chance on someone and you didn't know why. Robby was killed years later in the senseless bombing in Oklahoma City in April, 1995.

This Christmas, let Compassion be your Guide!



Make America Great Again!

GOD's Chosen People

The Jews are a peculiar people: Things permitted to other nations are forbidden to the Jews. Other nations drive out thousands, even millions of people and there is no refugee problem. Russia did it, Poland and Czechoslovakia did it. Turkey threw out a million Greeks and Algeria a million Frenchmen. But in the case of Israel, the displaced Arabs have become eternal refugees. Everyone insists that Israel must take every one of them in.

Other nations, when victorious on the battlefield, dictate peace terms. But when Israel is victorious, it must sue for peace. Everyone expects the Jews to be the only real Christians in this world. Other nations, when they are defeated, survive and recover, but should Israel be defeated it would be destroyed. Had Nasser triumphed in June 1967, he would've wiped Israel off the map, and no one would have lifted a finger to save the Jews. **Praise GOD, He intervened and Israel destroyed the Egyptian army!**

No commitment to the Jews by any government, including our own, is worth the paper it is written on! There is a cry of outrage all over the world when people die in Vietnam or when two Blacks are executed in Rhodesia; but, when Hitler slaughtered Jews no one demonstrated against him. When Benjamin Netanyahu visited the White House he was not invited to have dinner or a photo op with Obama. Obama declined to meet with him and went up to the presidential residence and had dinner with his family and left the Israeli delegation to fend for themselves. The Jews are alone in the world. If Israel survives, it will be solely because of Jewish efforts, and Jewish resources, and the LORD Who is on their side. Yet at this moment, Israel is our only reliable and unconditional ally. We can rely more on Israel than Israel can rely on us. When all the nations come against Israel...Remember what GOD said,

"I will bless those who bless you (Israel), and the one who curses you I will curse!" (Genesis 12:3)



Pres. Trump at the Western Wall

DON'T BE WOKE - BE AWAKE!

"Awake, you who are asleep; rise up and the Anointed One will shine His Light upon you!" (Eph. 5:14)

"FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD!"

JESUS, Pour Out Your Spirit On us!

When it comes to our spiritual pursuits we must guard against being too easily satisfied. That is, as soon as we get a glimpse of what we're seeking we cease our pursuit and rejoice as if we've obtained all that GOD intends. Dear Friend, may you keep pressing on, because GOD is always able to do more. We settle for a few droplets when GOD desires to pour the Former and Latter rains upon us:

When the Jews plant their crops in the spring, the rain - Former Rain - is expected and necessary to germinate their seeds. Without this spring rain they simply would have nothing; there would be no hope of harvesting a crop in the fall. The Former Rain represents Grace, you as a Believer in JESUS Christ first received, to help your seed germinate and grow (In Mark 4:27, JESUS tells us that we plant the seeds into the Kingdom, allowing Holy Spirit in His divine Wisdom to grow our seed...we don't know how).

In the fall, the Jews can anticipate and usually receive a great rain just prior to harvest. This is the Latter Rain. This fall rain will greatly enhance their crops just before harvest. So it is in these last days, just before the harvest, those seeds (us) who have germinated, will receive a down pour of Grace through Holy Spirit. This can be compared to the Latter Rain that the Apostles received on Pentecost. The prophet Hosea makes a great comparison to the idea of the Latter and Former Rains to the Church, and what will come upon us in these End Times: "So let us press on to know the LORD: He shall come upon us as the rain in the morning, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." Hosea 6:3 and Hosea 10:12 - "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till He comes and rains righteousness upon you." Psalm 72:6 further explains this: "He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth."

James tells us about these rains to come in James 5:7-8: "Be patient therefore, Brothers and Sisters, until the coming of the LORD. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and is patient to wait for it, until he receives the Former and Latter rains. Be patient, establish and strengthen your hearts: For the coming of the LORD draws near!" The Latter Rain is the rain that will surely come just before the Harvest. It is the enormous last day revival soon to come and the harvest of souls before the great and terrible Day of the LORD. It is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh promised to us in Joel 2 and Acts 2 with the restoration of apostolic and prophetic gifts...Or...we could accept the sprinkles in place of the deluge that GOD wants us to experience...the deluge with so much fruit to produce within us that it could be easily called immeasurable!



WARNING SIGNS OF THE END TIMES!

In the days before JESUS' return, there will be signs that the Believer can observe to be harbingers of His coming.

1) **Deception by False Christs** - People will be deceived by those claiming to have been sent by GOD but are not. Prepare yourself for this time by walking daily with the LORD in Faith, Obedience and Fellowship through Prayer and the Word of GOD (Matthew 24:4-5).

I John 4:1-5 (MSG): "My dear Friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about GOD comes from GOD. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world. Here's how you test for the genuine Spirit of GOD: Everyone who confesses openly his Faith in JESUS Christ - Who came as an actual flesh-and-blood Person - comes from GOD and belongs to GOD. ³ And everyone who refuses to confess Faith in JESUS has nothing in common with GOD. This is the spirit of antichrist that you heard was coming...and here it is, sooner than we thought! My dear children, you have already won a Big Victory over those false teachers, for greater is He Who is in you than he who is in the world! We come from GOD and belong to GOD!"

2) **Warfare among Nations and Disease and Famine Worldwide** (Matthew 24:6-8). Prepare yourself by praying for safety and well-being for those caught in the conflicts (Pray for JeruUSAlem); as you are able help meet the spiritual and physical needs of those who are suffering. American Center for Law and Justice and Samaritan's Purse are two organizations that you might consider. Matthew 25:45 (Passion): "Truly I tell you, when you refuse to help one of the least important among these my true Brothers and Sisters, you refuse to help and honor Me."

3) **Persecution of Believers** - Believers in JESUS Christ will be persecuted around the world. Choose to be courageous because there will be times when staying close to Christ means taking a stand. Psalm 27:14 (Passion): "Here's what I've learned through it all: Don't give up, don't be impatient; be entwined as one with the LORD. Be brave and courageous, and never lose hope. Yes, keep on waiting - for He will never disappoint you!"

4) **The Separation of the Sheep and the Goats** - defection of false Believers; those who are not truly Believers will be deceived and leave the Faith they once held on to. But you..."You continue to persevere in building up your Faith and the Faith of others. Continue to pray in the Power of Holy Spirit and fill yourself with GOD's Love!" Jude 2

And remember...THE BEST IS YET TO COME...We read the back of the Book!



Feliz Navidad from... Home Of Refuge



As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we eagerly await the license to reopen the Home of Refuge in Cardompta. An imminent inspection holds the promise of progress. Join us in prayer for divine Favor to expedite this process. At the writing of this letter, Rosa and I find ourselves overwhelmed with gratitude for each of you. Over 25 years, together, we've addressed a myriad of needs, celebrated numerous Christmases, and touched countless lives - all thanks to unwavering supporters like you.

We've often been told that our journey deserves to be documented in a book. Although this remains a future endeavor, one fact stands clear - if such a story is ever penned, it would be incomplete without highlighting YOU, "the Silent Heroes in Our Story." Often unseen but always significant, you are the cornerstone of every milestone we've achieved. So, thank you! If we never write a book here on the earth to commemorate our stories, here's to the many more chapters that GOD will write in His "Book of Remembrance" (Malachi 3:16). With your help we can make this chapter one of GOD's favorites. Pray with us that these precious people will soon have a place at Home of Refuge that they call home. As Isaiah 32:18 tells us, "GOD has promised His people peaceful habitations and secure dwelling places and undisturbed resting places."

Love, Tony & Rosa, Home of Refuge - PERU