

**P800**

**GRACE NOTES PROGRAM**

**THEME: CHRISTMAS – a time to remember ALL YEAR**

**SONGS: BORN TO DIE**

**WOULD IT STILL BE CHRISTMAS**

**INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. When you think of Christmas decorations what comes to mind? - Probably a lot of things, but surely a Christmas tree. They are so popular that this year's estimated sales for Christmas trees in the US alone are 3-4 BILLION dollars. Most stores are even setting up displays as early as mid-October.**

**While the trees may be just a decoration or business for some people, for the Believer they hold a special meaning. But it wasn't always the case.**

**On our program, our host, Barbara Sandbek will share some of the history behind the Christmas tree as we know it today.**

.....  
**Here's an excerpt from Christianity today about the origin of the Christmas tree:**

**The evergreen tree was an ancient symbol of life in the midst of winter. Romans decorated their houses with evergreen branches during the New Year, and ancient inhabitants of northern Europe cut evergreen trees and planted them in boxes inside their houses in wintertime.**

**Many early Christians were hostile to such practices because the tree had been used for the worship of pagan gods. But by the early Middle Ages, the legend had grown that when Christ was born in the dead of winter, every tree throughout the world miraculously shook off its ice and snow and produced new shoots of green. At the same time, Christian missionaries preaching to Germanic and Slavic peoples were taking a more lenient approach to cultural practices, such as evergreen trees. These missionaries believed that the Incarnation proclaimed Christ's lordship over those natural symbols that had previously been used in pagan worship.**

**The most likely theory is that Christmas trees started with medieval plays which celebrated the Nativity and were linked to the story of creation—in part because Christmas Eve was also considered the feast day of Adam and Eve.**

**These plays were banned in many places in the 16th century, and people then began to set up trees in their homes. They were often hung with round pastry wafers symbolizing the Eucharist, which developed into the cookie ornaments hung today.**

**The custom gained popularity throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, with many churches setting up Christmas trees inside the sanctuary.**

**In the English-speaking world, the union of gifts, trees, and Christmas was due to the influence of Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert, who set up an elaborate tree for their children at Windsor Castle in 1841. At this point, Christmas presents were usually hung on the tree itself.**

**The article concludes with a reminder for all Believers...**

**As many of us make trees and gifts the center of our own Christmas practice, we would do well to remember that they are ultimately symbols of the One who **GAVE HIMSELF** to unite heaven and earth, and who brings all barren things to flower.**

**\*\*\*\*\* WRITER: Barbara Mandrell**

**\*\*\* BORN TO DIE \*\*\* LENGTH: 4:07 intro 13 seconds**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**VERSE 1**

**Shepherds gaze in wonder  
While angel voices sing  
This night of nights has come  
And brought the world - the long-awaited King.  
The earth is filled with gladness  
And yet - the heavens weep.  
For heaven's eyes can see  
He was born to die for me.**

### **CHORUS**

**Jesus, baby Jesus,  
Is that a tear in Your eye?  
Jesus, sweet baby Jesus  
You must know that You were born - to die(8).**

### **VERSE 2**

**It must have broken God's heart  
For the future He could see.  
Yet He formed the hands and feet  
Knowing one day - they'd be nailed to a tree.  
So all the world could know Him  
A gift came from above.  
For God so loved the world –  
That He gave His only Son.**

**<repeat Chorus 2X >**

\*\*\*\*\*

**I must confess. I am not a fan of the Christmas season.  
There are so many expectations and obligations. People  
go crazy, buying, decorating, baking – all to celebrate a ‘day’  
rather than an event.**

**No wonder there's frustration, anxiety and depression.  
There is little time to think about what we're celebrating.  
Everyone is too busy to take advantage of the opportunities  
to proclaim Christ – the hope people are looking for. Plus society  
is distorting the real meaning! I saw a supposed Christmas story  
on TV the other night that ended up by saying that the true  
meaning of Christmas is adopting a dog!**

**To top it all off, I am NOT a fan of trimming the Christmas tree, either.  
Perhaps it is because I just don't have the patience to deal with**

lights and ornaments. My tree decorating attempts yield one unsightly tree so I find every excuse I can to vacate the room when that task is happening.

But last year I decided to do something about my aversion. I bought a 7 foot slim-line pre-lit tree with a circumference of only one foot. Instead of putting the typical decorations on it, though, I made ornaments with the name of some of the gifts Jesus gave us because He came – Love, Joy, Peace, Hope, Grace and Salvation. I leave it up ALL YEAR to remind me of these and help me appreciate these gifts on a daily basis.

I was wondering the other day what it would be like if Jesus, our Savior, hadn't come to this earth?

Our pain and suffering would have no meaning - no Divine audience or help. Our life would simply be ruled by fate.

There would be no hope to live and no hope beyond this life.

Pretty sad!

What WOULD it be like if Jesus never came?  
Would it still be Christmas?

3:18

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**\*\* WOULD IT STILL BE CHRISTMAS \*\* LENGTH: 3:18 (intro 13 secs)**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Would it still be Christmas - if the Christ child never came  
Could it still be Christmas - or just - another day  
Would choirs still be singing - songs of peace on earth  
Would angels be rejoicing - if there had been no birth*

*Could there be Christmas- would love be the same  
Would it all be different - if we never heard HIS Name  
What would be the reason - for this special season?  
If there had been no baby born that day*

*What if hope had never come  
God never sent His Son  
What would Christmas be  
Born a gift in Bethlehem – salvation for all men  
Hope and love – from above*

*Would it still be Christmas - if the Christ child never came  
Could there be Christmas - if we never heard THAT Name  
What would be the reason - for this special season  
If there had been - no baby born that – day*

**But He did come! He was born!**

**I've vowed to make Christmas different – how about you?**

**Here are some ways we can celebrate Christmas as Believers...**

- make a birthday cake and decorate it for Jesus' birthday...
- sing old Christmas carols...
- read the Christmas story several times
- put up a manger scene and keep it up all year long..

**Be sure to re-enact the scene as you put the figurines in it.**

- help a needy family in the Name of Jesus...
- invite a lonely person to dinner...
- visit a sick person in the hospital...

**just hold their hand and talk to them.**

**And last but not least, give a SPECIAL gift to Jesus - not out of what's left after the other gifts are bought. Put Him first on your list – after all it's His birthday.**

**Let's see beyond the familiar and celebrate the TRUE MEANING -  
the entrance of the ETERNAL, OMNIPOTENT, OMNISCIANT  
OMNIPRESENT, ALL-RIGHTEOUS, ALL-HOLY  
and GLORIOUS GOD of the universe into our world.**

**God placed His greatest gift on a tree, the cross, to bring us  
new birth – new life.**

**Now that's the best reason to celebrate!**

**You've been listening to Grace Notes. If you have been blessed by this ministry, your note of encouragement would be greatly appreciated. You can write to us**

**at Sandbek Ministries P.O. Box 581 Fallston, MD 21047  
or email us through our web site at [www.gracenotesradio.com](http://www.gracenotesradio.com).  
Join us on our next program. We'll be sharing more about the gifts under the Christmas tree. Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!**

\*\*\*\*\* **WRITER: Harry Bollback**  
**\*\* RING THE BELLS \*\*\* LENGHT: 1:59 (intro 8 seconds)**  
\*\*\*\*\*

***Ring the bells, ring the bells  
Let the whole world know***

*Christ was born in Bethlehem many years ago  
Born to die that man might live  
Came to earth new life to give  
Born of Mary born so low – many years ago.*

*God the Father gave His Son  
Gave His own Beloved One  
To this wicked sinful earth  
To bring mankind, His love, new birth*

*Ring the bells, ring the bells  
Let the whole world know  
Christ was born in Bethlehem many years ago*

*God the Father gave His Son  
Gave His own Beloved One  
To this wicked sinful earth  
To bring mankind, His love, new birth  
Ring the bells, ring the bells  
Let the whole world know  
Christ the Savior lives today  
As He did so long ago.*

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**Christmas is...time of EXPECTATIONS...OBLIGATIONS**

**- but for many TIME OF SEARCHING**

**all TINSEL, PARTIES, GIFTS, EXCITEMENT can't fill EMPTINESS in HEART  
that longs for HOPE**

**The hope they are looking for...**

**was born in an obscure village, a child of a peasant woman.**

**He grew up in another village where he worked in a carpenter's shop  
until He was 30. For 3 years was an itinerant preacher.**

**He never wrote a book, held an office, had a family or owned a home.**

**He didn't go to college or visit a big city.**

**He never traveled more than 200 miles from where he was born.**

**He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness.**



**His only credentials were Himself. While he was dying his executioners gambled for his garments, the only property He had on earth. 20 centuries have come & gone & He is still the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, navies that ever sailed, parliaments that ever sat, kings that ever reigned PUT TOGETHER have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life - Jesus**

**\*\*\*\*\* Starlight...fire..celebrate..hope  
\*\*\* HOPE IS BORN \*\*\* Holly..cider..sound..family – LIFT – PRAISES  
\*\*\*\*\* Thru frost..stocking..where light..growing -  
lift..celebrate**

**For most families - the FESTIVITIES CENTER around Christmas tree  
EAT...SING...SOCIALIZE – can't wait to OPEN PRESENTS**

**In CLEANING UP/PUT AWAY presents – found more!  
brought w/me so we can open TOGETHER!**

**GIFT#1 SALVATION –**

**The gifts you see beneath this tree  
Are gifts that can't be bought, or sold  
though they do have a high price tag on them.  
The cost has been paid with the life of God's Son, Jesus,  
who died on a CROSS to save us from our sin.  
You see, God has His Christmas tree. It's not as pretty as  
the department store tree, trimmed with tinsel & lights,  
but He does have a Christmas tree – it's the cross  
which was trimmed with Jesus,  
the LIGHT OF THE WORLD.  
In fact, the proper name for CROSS is TREE.  
The first gift under the tree(or cross) is marked Salvation  
and it has your name on it.**

**If you open & receive THAT GIFT you'll see that the others  
will have your name written on them, too,  
because they are given to you when you receive Christ as  
your Savior. They are the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.**

**GIFT #2 LOVE –Rom. 5:8 God commended HIS LOVE to us in that while  
we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.  
God COMMENDED(introduced)HIS LOVE, Jesus, to us.**

**Jesus' gave up His GLORY, confined himself to body, walked among sinful  
man, & allowed Himself to be crucified so we can be RECONCILED to GOD!**

**Why?**

**John 3:16 For God so LOVED the world that He gave His only Begotten  
Son that WHOSOEVER believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting  
life.**

**WONDER of CHRISTMAS is - GOD LOVES YOU & wants your fellowship!  
We can KNOW GOD'S LOVE because of Christmas!**

**GIFT #3 JOY – Heb. 12:2 says that Jesus endured the cross, considered the  
shame he bore NOTHING compared to the JOY he'd receive in redeeming us  
for Himself.**

**SONG says...Joy to the World the Lord is come – TO US  
Angels appeared to shepherds saying...**

**Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of GREAT JOY  
which shall be to ALL PEOPLE. (Jews/Gentiles)**

**For unto you is born this day in the city of David, A SAVIOR,  
which is Christ the Lord.**

**1 Peter 1:8-9 Though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and even though  
you do not see Him now, you believe in Him & are filled with an  
inexpressible & glorious JOY for you are receiving the goal of your faith,  
the salvation of your souls!**

**Nothing brings more joy than to be in presence of someone who loves  
you...In the presence of the LORD there is FULLNESS of JOY  
Joy is not the absence of trouble rather the PRESENCE of Christ.**

**Neh. 8:10: Joy of the Lord is your strength (undiminished by trials)**

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\* HALLELUJA \*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

*I heard about this baby boy  
Who came to earth to bring us joy  
And I just want to sing this song to you  
It tells of God's amazing gift  
From Heaven He came my soul to lift  
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah  
Hallelujah 4X*

*A couple came to Bethlehem  
Expecting child, they searched the inn to find a place  
for You were coming soon  
There was no room for them to stay  
So in a manger filled with hay  
God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah  
Hallelujah 4X*

*The shepherds left their flocks by night  
To see this baby wrapped in light  
A host of angels led them all to You  
It was just as the angels said  
You'll find Him in a manger bed  
Immanuel our Savior, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah 4X*

*A star shown brightly in the east (bright up in)  
To Bethlehem, the wise men three came many miles  
and journeyed long for You  
And to the place at which You were  
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh they gave to You  
and cried out Hallelujah  
Hallelujah 4X (up last)*

*I know You came to rescue me  
This baby boy would grow to be a man  
who'd one day die for me and YOU*

***Our sins would drive the nails in You  
That rugged cross was my cross, too  
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah  
OH Hallelujah 4X***

**GIFT # 4 - PEACE John 14:27...Jesus said before His ascension...  
Peace I leave with you, peace I give unto you, not as the world  
gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither  
let it be afraid.**

**JESUS came to REMOVE OUR FEAR of DEATH...**

**Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed  
on Thee because he trusteth in Thee.**

**Angels praised God and said...  
Glory to God in the HIGHEST & on earth PEACE goodwill toward men.**

**Jesus is Heaven's GRACIOUS KING – PRINCE OF PEACE**

**BEAUTY of CHRISTMAS is seen in the peaceful sleep of a little baby  
who is EMMANUEL - GOD with us!**

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**\*\*\* WORSHIP THE GIFT \* It came upon the midnight clear**

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**GIFT #5 - GOODNESS James 1:17 Every good & perfect gift is from above.  
Only GOOD in this world because GOD is GOOD -**

**Phil 1:6 We can rest assured that He who began a GOOD work in you,  
will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ.**

**God had Isaiah foretell Christ's coming 700 years before it can to be.  
He also prophesied His death in great detail.**

**You see, Jesus came to DIE – so we could LIVE forever**

**God has GOOD PLAN for us – a plan to make us more like CHRIST  
To be able to RULE & REIGN WITH HIM**

**GIFT # 6 MEEKNESS – means...**

**Patient submissive humbleness – soft/mild – of a tender nature,  
DOVELIKE -easily imposed on – not easily provoked**

**similar to GIFT # 7 GENTLENESS Meekness demonstrated**

**Matt. 11:29-30 Jesus said...**

**Come unto me all you who labor & are heavy laden & I will give you  
rest. Take my yoke upon you & learn of me for I am MEEK and lowly  
in heart & you shall find REST unto your SOULS.**

**DO people feel comfortable COMING to You?**

**Jesus came here as a BABY not a KING – every one loves a baby**

**He felt all we feel & more.**

**He showed us that we can Approach HIM because HE UNDERSTANDS**

**GENTLENESS Goes w/GIFT#8 LONG-SUFFERING -Patience**

**-- epitome of Christian maturity**

**James 2:4 Let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect  
& entire, (mature & complete) wanting(lacking) nothing.**

**Eph. 4:1-2 Paul puts them altogether...**

**I beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you  
are called with all LOWLINESS & MEEKNESS, with LONG-SUFFERING  
FORBEARING one another in love (patience), endeavoring to keep  
the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

**these fruits pave way for GIFT #9 TEMPERANCE (self-control) – GOD  
CONTROL - willing to DO WHATEVER HE WANTS – the WAY HE WANTS**

**Paul wrote Phil 2:4-8 Look not every man on his own things, but every  
man also on the things of other. Let this mind be in you which was also  
in Christ Jesus. Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to  
be equal with God but made Himself of no reputation, & took upon Him**

**the form of a SERVANT & was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man He HUMBLER HIMSELF & became OBEDIENT unto DEATH even the death of the CROSS. (Christ set example)**

**We're not necessarily called to DIE on CROSS – but to DIE TO SELF**

**Mary did -when she said...**

**I am the Lord's servant...May it BE TO ME as YOU HAVE SAID**

**Mary's unquestioning obedience to Lord – gave eternal blessings to all Who knows what can BE ACCOMPLISHED in our lives if we're willing to SUBMIT to GOD the way MARY did**

**Think of the blessing Mary would have MISSED if she SAID 'NO'**

**9-12 BARB**

**\*\*\*\*\* ONE DAY WALK - SAVE - COME - LITTLE - SOON  
\*\*\* MARY DID YOU KNOW \*\*\* GIVE SIGHT - CALM - HAS WALKED - KISSED  
\*\*\*\*\* BLIND..DEAF..DEAD..LAME..DUMB  
LORD - ONE DAY RULE - HEAVENS PERFECT - SLEEPING**

**GIFT #9 FAITH (faithfulness) – poem inside**

**If I were to give you a box with a gift designed to please and delight  
Would you be thrilled if it were filled with  
material wealth - welfare & health - silver & gold - riches untold?**

**Or would you prefer to receive for yourself - things you can share with  
others -gifts to be used to help mankind like  
patience & love - strength from above - peace & joy - fruits to employ?**

**The things you hold onto will soon be gone  
The things you give - they will live on.  
When you've departed your friends will say  
You live in their hearts for you gave YOU away.**

**What are you FAITHFUL IN DOING?**

**CHRISTMAS should be EVERYDAY in our hearts...  
Christ came to give GIFTS that keep on giving...**

**Fruit on the tree ROTS – benefits NOONE**  
**The FRUIT of the SPIRIT, only operates in our lives as**  
**we pull it from our heart VINE and give it out -**

**We need to herald His MESSAGE of PEACE to ALL**  
**Let our LIGHT so shine before men that they may see our good**  
**works and glorify the Father which is in heaven.**

**He chooses to use US to spread His GOOD-NEWS message**  
**CALLS us to BEAR FRUIT!**

**That night in Bethlehem was just a BEGINNING**

**He came to bring us HOPE & SALVATION**  
**AND FAITH TO BELIEVE - He WILL COME AGAIN**  
**- to GIVE us GIFT HE PROMISED – eternal LIFE**

**We will REIGN WITH HIM FOREVER!**

**5-10**

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**\*\*\* MESSIAH MEDLEY \*\*\* Bethehem moring**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Just as the wise men fell on their knees when they saw the BABY**  
**King- we will fall on our knees when we see THE KING OF KINGS**

**BARB**

\*\*\*\*\***When blossoms flower amid snow..was Born**

**\* GESU BAMBINO/O HOLY NIGHT \*They angel sang Shepards.Gratefulearth**

\*\*\*\*\* **& at His blessed birth the stars in exaltation voiced**

**ORDER OF SONGS**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*\* RING THE BELLS \* Bea & Barb**  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*\* HOPE IS BORN \*\*\* Barb**  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*\* THE PERFECT TREE \*\*\* Bea**  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*\* ROSE OF BETHLEHEM \*\*\* BEA**  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* **BEA & BARB**  
**\*\*\* JOY TO THE WORLD \*\*\***  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*\* WORSHIP THE GIFT \* Barb**  
\*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*\* A CRADLE IN THE SHADOW OF A CROSS \*\*\* Bea**  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*\* THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE \*\*\* Bea**  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*\* MARY DID YOU KNOW \*\*\* Barb**  
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**\* GESU BAMBINO/O HOLY NIGHT \*\* Barb**  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*\* CAROLE MEDLEY \*\*\* Bea & Barb**  
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