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This portion of the drama is for your perusal only. Should you decide to use this drama in your production, you may order a copy of the full companion from your favorite music supplier or Word Music at 888-324-9673.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

by Randy Vader, Jay Rouse and Dan Burgess

Narratives by Randy Vader
Drama Companion written by John R. Plastow

CHARACTERS

Dad (D)	Typical contemporary father
Mom (M)	Typical contemporary mother
Carrie (C)	Young daughter
Tim (T)	Teenage son
Policeman (P)	Contemporary policeman

GENERAL PRODUCTION NOTES:

THE STORY:

This drama is about a family who has gotten out of the habit of going to church, and is now stuck in a snow storm on their way to see their old church's Christmas presentation. As they deal with the snow, they find that they've been missing what the church and Christ have to offer.

TIME PERIOD: Modern day

SETTING:

The main stage area needs to look like a church in the middle of its Christmas cantata. The family of characters spends most of their time in their car off to one side of the stage or the other. The car needs to look as real as possible, and a snow machine or snow hammock should be well stocked and functioning right above the car.

SPECIAL EFFECTS:

An enthusiastic snow machine or snow hammock and plenty of "snow" are necessary, as well as a basic police spinner. The spinner can be purchased at most consumer electronics stores or rented from your local theatrical supplier.

COSTUMES: Modern-day clothes and a realistic policeman's uniform.

PRODUCTION NOTE:

The acting scenes and the musical are really happening simultaneously, but to avoid distraction, have one group stay still and unlit while the other is doing their song or scene. Narrations in the musical book should be done as written as part of the church's presentation. The narrations, as well as the staging suggestions on page 124 & 125 of the choral book, can be done in their entirety in conjunction with the additional drama in this companion. This companion drama will add approximately 15 minutes to your musical presentation.

SCENE ONE

SONG: Overture for the Infant King

SONG: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Production Note: The family is in the car, the snow is falling rapidly, and it is evident by the dad's tension that they are getting nowhere fast.

D Well, this is just fine. Look at this snow! I can hardly see beyond the next telephone pole.

M Can't you go any faster, dear? The program started five minutes ago.

D Can't you see that I'm going as fast as I can? The snow is really coming down. (The actors must act as if the car suddenly stops.) Oh, great. Now what?

M What is it?

D Looks like traffic is backed up.

T Hey, what's going on? Why are we stopping?

D Look around.

T Yeah, so what? Let's go.

D Don't you see that everyone on this road is stopped?

T Yeah?

D Well?

T Fine. (He settles back into his seat.)

C Mom, I told Sarah that we'd be there for her solo. Can't we hurry?

D (Snapping) Listen, I'll get us there as soon as I can, okay?

C (Whining) Dad!

T (Whining) Mom, tell her to stop whining.

M Both of you stop right now. Your father will get us there as quickly as possible. Won't you, dear?

D Yes.

M You know, if we had just left when I told you we should leave, then we wouldn't be in this mess right now.

D I know, I know, but I had to change my socks. My socks had holes in them.

M You could've dealt with them for one more evening.

D Fine, but I would've caught pneumonia from my cold feet.

M Fine.

(Pause)

D (Opening the window and looking out) Hey!

M What are you doing, dear? It's a blizzard out there!

D I'm trying to get the attention of that policeman. Hey!

C Mom, it's cold.

M Zip up your jacket. Harry, would you please roll up the window?

D (Rolling it up) Fine.

M Thank you.

(Pause)

T Hey, what is this thing we're going to tonight, anyway?

M It's the annual Christmas program at Aunt Tillie's church.

(Tim moans.)

D Now, don't start. My sister works on this for months, and the least you can do is to go and listen to it. She is your only aunt, you know.

T But, Dad, it's always so lame. Last year it was a bunch of old men in bathrobes...

M But there were live animals, dear.

T One sheep, Mom, one sheep. The best part of the program was when the sheep got loose and they had to stop the program to go and catch it.

C Remember, it ran right down our row and tried to crawl under my seat!

(They all laugh.)

M Come to think of it, it was sort of funny.

T It took 'em ten minutes to catch it, and it just about killed a few of the shepherds as it ran them down.

(They all laugh.)

C What are they doing this year, Dad?

D Probably more of the same, but I bet they're doing it without the sheep!

M Most likely it will be a similar story about the birth of Jesus, the angels and the shepherds.

T I hope they find better costumes.

M I'm certain it will be lovely.

D If we can get there. Look at the time. We've missed the first ten minutes.

C What do you think we missed, Mom?

M Well, right about now, they're probably talking about where Jesus came from. You know, how God sent Him to be born not as a king, but as a man...not as a king, but as a servant...not with fanfare, but with simplicity.

(The lighting fades as the narration on page 20 picks up.)

SONG: The Way He Came

SCENE TWO

(After the song, The Way He Came, the family acts as if the car has begun to move again.)

D There. Finally. Now we can make some progress.

T Go around this car, Dad.

D Son, that's a highway patrol car. I don't think that would be a good idea.

T Dad, where's your sense of adventure?

D It left the last time I got a ticket.

T Oh, Dad.

D We'll see how adventurous you'll be when you have to pay for a ticket for pulling a stunt like that.

(The police spinner needs to be activated to allow red lights to spin.)

D Oh, now what?

M Looks like we're stopping again.

T Oh, man!

C Mom, I want to get there!

(The family moves as if the car is stopping.)

T Hey, Dad, he's getting out! What'd you do?

D I didn't do anything.

M Well, you must've done something.

D I didn't do anything!

(Mom opens the glove compartment and tries to find the car registration. Dad rolls down the window as the policeman walks up to the window.)

D Good evening, officer.

P Good evening. This isn't a good night to be out on the road.

D We know that, sir, but you see, my sister is singing in a Christmas program and we promised her that we'd be there.

P I don't know if you're going to make it. There's been a pile-up down the road a mile or so. Everything is backed up and not moving.

D When do you think it will clear?

P Get comfortable. It's going to be awhile.

(Moan from the kids)

D Thank you, officer.

P Stay warm! (He salutes and exits as Dad rolls the window back up.)

D Well, this is just dandy.

T Dad, nobody cool says "just dandy."

D I guess I'm not cool, then.

M It'll be all right, dear.

D But Tillie is going to shoot me. She knows how much I don't like coming to these things and she'll think that I did this on purpose.

T Yeah, right, Dad. You planned this big blizzard and the pile-up just so that you could sit in your car and not make it.

D She might think that!

M (Trying to get positive) Let's all get comfortable. It'll work out fine.

C What do you think is going on now, Mom?

M What?

C In the Christmas program. What do you think is going on now?

M Well, let me think. I bet that right about now they're quoting the scriptures that tell about Jesus' coming and how He came from a royal lineage.

C (Mispronouncing it) Lin-e-age?

M His family tree, dear. His parents and their parents and so on.

T Wasn't there a king in there somewhere?

M Yes. King David.

C Is that the David who beat up the giant?

M He didn't quite beat him up, dear.

D A rock in the eye? I'd say he beat him up!

M Well, he won the battle that day and then God made him king.

C Was Jesus related to him?

M Yes.

C Wow. I wish I were related to a king.

D Me, too!

C You sure know a lot about this, Mom.

M Oh, just what I remember from a long time ago.

C You know more than me.

M Right about now, I bet they're showing the manger and the angels and the shepherds...

(The lights fade with the last line, and the musical progresses into the narrations on page 37.)

SONG: Alleluia! Unto Us

SCENE THREE

- D They're probably halfway through by now. Sorry, kids.
- T It's okay, Dad. It's probably pretty boring stuff, anyway.
- D Oh, I don't know, Tim. Your Aunt Tillie was telling me about their new music director. She says he's pretty hip.
- T Dad, nobody cool uses the word "hip."
- D Sorry. But still, the music was supposed to be a lot of fun.
- T Sure, Dad, sure.
- D You'd be surprised what they do in church these days.
- T I can just imagine! But how would you know? We haven't been to church for a long time.
- M When is the last time we went to church, Harry?
- D (Thinks about it) I guess it has been a little while, hasn't it?
- M Yes. I can't even remember when the last time was.
- D Except for our annual trip to hear Aunt Tillie sing, I don't know when we last went to church. I think if I showed up on a Sunday, they'd have to shut down for fear the roof would cave in!
- (They all laugh.)
- C Why don't we go to church anymore, Dad?
- D Well, we've been busy. You've had camp outs and Tim's been playing in that soccer league. We're a pretty busy family...especially on the weekends.
- C Are we that busy?
- D Have you looked at the calendar recently? Your Mom has to carry this giant book just to keep track of it all!
- C Hmm, I guess we are pretty busy, but it seems like church should be kinda important.

D We've just been doing other things instead.

C I don't remember much about church, but I think it was fun.

D It has been a long time.

M We've sort of gotten out of the habit, haven't we?

D I guess so.

C What's church all about, anyway, Mom?

M It's about Jesus.

C Yeah, I know the story. But does it really matter if we go to church or not?

M (Searching for the right words) Yes, Carrie, I think it probably does.

T Why? We're doing all right.

M Yes, but even though we haven't been for a long time, I feel like we should've been there. I remember that I always felt a special peace when I sang the songs and listened to scriptures. Something has been sort of missing.

D Yeah, you're right.

C Is that what Jesus is all about?

(The lights change and the narrations for the next song with the narrations from pg. 64 begin immediately.)

SONG: And the Glory

SCENE FOUR

D You know, I think I miss church, too.

M I do, especially at Christmastime. It's too bad that we've missed the program. I would've enjoyed hearing the story again.

T You seem to know it pretty well, Mom.

M Not really, only what I remember from a long time ago.

C What else do you remember, Mom?

M One of the things that I always liked about the Christmas story was how Jesus' mother responded to it all. Maybe it's because I'm a mom myself, but I've always felt a sort of connection. There's a special relationship between a mother and a baby, and Mary even knew that this Child was the Son of God. Can you imagine what it would've been like to know that your baby was brought into the world by God Himself to fulfill a very specific purpose?

D Do you think she knew the whole story?

M I don't know. It would have been overwhelming to me.

C I wonder what it was like out there in the fields where Jesus was born.

T He was born in a stable, you know.

D That's still not much.

M My guess is that after all the commotion of the shepherds and angels died down, it was very peaceful...just the sounds of the animals moving around and the wind blowing outside...just Mary and Joseph and the little Baby.

(The scene fades into the next song. As the narrations continue, the family remains in their auto, still.)

SONG: Sleep Holy Child of Bethlehem

SONG/TESTIMONY: A Mother's Story

SONG/TESTIMONY: A Son Remembers

SONG: Be Born in Me

NOTE: If you are using the accompaniment trax, it will be necessary to fade the trax after the song BE BORN IN ME as it is a direct segue into THIS TINY CHILD.