

The Reason for the Season

Humorous Christmas Play for Children's Ministry

by Angela and Jessica Simmons

Characters (in order of appearance):

TREE: thinks he is the main attraction

STAR: thinks HE is the main attraction

ANGEL: sweet, but spunky

CARD: extremely cheerful

CANDY CANE: grumbly; not so sweet

BELL: fast talking, knows all and tells all

PRESENT: vain, self-absorbed

STOCKING: feels useless, empty

CANDLE: friendly, personable

DAD

MOM

GIRL

BOY

*ALL CHARACTERS ARE DRESSED TO MATCH THEIR NAMES AND/OR PERSONALITIES.

SCENE ONE: THE LIVING ROOM

Tree is standing proudly at center stage, fluffing out his branches and singing to himself.

Tree: O, Christmas Tree! O, Christmas Tree! How lovely are your branches!!...

Star comes in pouting. One of his points is bent.

Star: What are you so happy about? All you ever do is stand there!

Tree: Yes, but I have a very important job! I stand here proudly reminding everyone of the reason for the season!

Star: Which is?

Tree: Er...ummm. I forget. Oh, well, what's wrong with you?

Star: I'm really mad at Angel. She thinks she's so perfect! I told her I was going to sit on your top branches this year, and she said one of my points is bent and that she is going to be the main attraction!

Tree: Now wait a minute! You both know I'm the main attraction!

Star: But without us, you'd just be a plain old green tree! You need us!
Admit it!

Tree: Whatever!!

Angel Enters.

Angel (to star): There you are! I've been looking all over for you!

Star: What's wrong, Angel? Up in the air about something again?

Angel: Very funny! Thanks to you I'll be tossed in the trash dumpster this year! What did you do with my halo?!

Star: What??!! It wasn't REAL??

Angel: Just give it back!

Star: Can't do it.

Angel: What do you mean you can't do it? Why not?

Star: We-e-e-ll, I sorta' dropped it, and it....got sucked up in the vacuum cleaner!

Angel: Oh no! My shiny halo! I'll...I'll...

Star: You'll what? Tickle me to death with your feathers?

Angel: Ohhh! (runs away crying)

Star (following after her, taunting): Hey, angel, how many halos does it

take to break a vacuum cleaner? ONE! ha ha ha...

Tree shakes his head and dusts himself off.

Tree: Now where was I? Oh, yes, (starts singing) O, Christmas Tree! O, Christmas Tree! How lovely are your branches...

Card enters and runs up to Tree and shakes his "hand".

Card: Hello! How are you, Tree? Isn't it a wonderful day?

Tree: Who made you the official greeter?

Card: Well, nobody exactly...it's just that I have this sunny personality, I guess! Did I mention what a wonderful day it is?

Tree: Only 852 times!

Card: Oh, well, did I mention that you look extremely lovely today?

Tree: Uh...no. Thanks. I think?

Card: Isn't it exciting? Christmas...with the snow...the logs on the fireplace...

Tree: We don't even have a fireplace!

Card: Oh, I know. But if we did, wouldn't it be great? Life is so good. Life is wonderful!

Candy Cane enters with a sour look on his face.

Cane: Life Stinks!

Card: Excuse me?

Cane: I said life stinks! Oh, sure, it's fine if you're a tree or a card- you guys get all the best jobs! But for us candy canes it's miserable! First they wrap you in this hot cellophane, then they hang you on a tree near a light so you'll be sure and melt before Christmas, or they give you to some

dirty-faced grubby kid who slobbers all over you, or if you're one of the really lucky ones, you get a ribbon tied re-e-e-eal tight around your neck and BAM you're stuck to a present!

Present enters grandly.

Present: Did someone call?

Card (runs over to Present and shakes her "hand") What a lovely ensemble! You look radiant! How are the children?

Cane: O brother! Don't encourage her- she's already wrapped up in herself!

Present: Well, darling, aren't you sweet? When you look this good, it's hard to be humble.

Cane: Oh, yeah? I bet you're held together with lots tape!

Present: Perish the thought! My Scotch brand invisible tape came directly from the mall! My specialty paper is sold exclusively at the Christmas Store, and, just in case you were wondering, my bow was handmade with the finest ribbon available to man! Only the biggest, the brightest, and the best- that's my motto, you know!

Cane: I thought your motto was 'tacky is as tacky does'.

Present: That was last week, darling. Get with the program!

Bell enters.

Bell (speaks fast): Hello everyone! Did you hear the latest? Tree was singing to himself again, Star is mad because his point is broken, Angel lost her halo, the vacuum cleaner is broken, and Cane feels miserable! Card is still flattering everyone and Present is flattering herself again...and...

Cane: And Bell is gossiping again!

Bell: Oh, it's not gossip if it's true, silly! And besides, I'm not saying anything behind your back that I wouldn't say to your faces!

Tree: Actually, Bell, repeating what you hear and see IS gossip...

Bell: Oh, don't worry, Tree- I won't repeat any of it. I only tell it once!

Present: Oh, don't pay any mind to them, dear. It takes a certain kind of girl to appreciate good news. Come along, let's take a little stroll and chat for a while...

Bell and Present leave together.

Card: Well, Cane, isn't there someplace you need to be? I have to "spruce" up a bit! It IS Christmas Eve, you know.

Cane: Yeah, I guess I'll just go jump in a candy bowl somewhere and wait to be broken up or slurped or something...

Cane leaves.

Tree (singing again): O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!...

Stocking enters singing.

Stocking: O, Woe is me! O Woe is me!...

Tree: Oh, put a sock in it will ya'?

Stocking: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to mess up your song. But I'm always messing up everything anyway.

Tree: What do you mean? How could YOU mess things up?

Stocking: Oh, so now you're saying I'm not important enough to mess anything up!

Tree: No. That's not what I meant at all...I just meant...

Stocking: It's ok. I'll just go over here and hide in the corner and wait for all the celebrating to be over. I wouldn't want to get in anybody's way

or anything. (Stocking goes over to the corner and slumps down in the floor, looking all dejected.)

Tree: Oh, great! How am I supposed to get ready for the big night if that old empty sock's laying around here? Well, maybe no one will see him over there in the dark...Ahem... (starts singing) O, Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!...

Candle enters, singing.

Candle: This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...

Tree: Who are you?

Candle: Oh, don't be alarmed. It's just me- Candle.

Tree: I've never seen you around here before.

Candle: No. Every year the family buys one new thing to add to their Christmas stuff. This year I guess I get to be the "New Kid"!

Tree: Just great! Now I have to explain to somebody else why I'm the main attraction around here!

Candle: Oh, I already know what's so special about YOU, Tree!

Tree: You do?

Candle: Of course! Everybody knows what's so special about you!

Tree: They do? um, I mean, THEY DO! But just to be sure YOU know why I'm special...tell me...

Candle: Because evergreen trees are green and alive all year round- they represent everlasting life!

Tree: Oh, yeah. I knew that. But just to refresh my memory, why is everlasting life so important at Christmastime again?

Stocking jumps up, startling Candle.

Stocking: I know what my mom and dad say! They say it's because Jesus, the Giver of eternal life, was born on Christmas!

Candle: That's right! Your mom and dad are right! Do you know why YOU are so important, Stocking?

Stocking: I'm not special. I'm just...empty...

Candle: You're empty for a reason! You're gonna be filled with treats and toys for the children tonight. You're going to be the first thing they reach for in the morning!

Stocking: I am?

Candle: Yes! You show that even the emptiest heart can be filled to the top with Jesus' love!

Stocking: Wow! I never knew that! I'd better get back to my place! Thanks, Candle! I'll never forget this!

Stocking runs off happily.

Tree: So, Candle, have you met the rest of the gang yet?

Candle: No, actually, I just got here a little while ago.

Tree: Well, let me introduce you to them. Cane should be in the next room. Cane! CANE! That's strange. He was just here a few minutes ago. Maybe Card is still around. . .Card!

Card enters enthusiastically.

Card: Hello, Tree! Who's your friend? (Card goes over to Candle and shakes his "hand") Very nice to meet you! I'm Card. I'm the official greeter. My goodness, you are bright and cheerful!

Candle: Thank you, Card. It's nice to meet you, too.

Tree: Card, why don't you round up the others so Candle can meet them?

Card: Ok! (Card yells loudly, right past Tree's face) Angel! Bell! Cane!
Present! Come in here, please!

Tree (to Card): I could've done that!

Bell and Present enter.

Present: Oh, heavens, what IS it! It's not time for the celebration yet is it? Bell and I were just catching up on the latest goss...er um...news.

Bell: Guess what, everyone? There's a new kid in town and I hear he's very bright!

Candle goes over to Bell, who didn't see him at first, and holds out his "hand" to shake hands.

Candle: Hello. You must be Bell. I'm Candle, the new kid.

Bell (a little embarrassed): Oh...hello...I'm sorry, I didn't mean to...

Candle: It's ok, Bell. I know you have to talk all the time- it's your job!

Bell: It is? I have a job?

Candle: Yes. Tomorrow morning people will know it's Christmas because all the church bells will ring out loud and clear! And all the little bells like you will jingle and jingle!

Tree: If you can hear the jingle over Bell's yacking!

Candle: Now, Tree. I'm sure Bell's just excited and doesn't know what to do with all her energy.

Bell: That's right! I never realized it before, but that's why I always tell everything I know- But now I'm just going to jingle the good news about Christmas everywhere I go!

Bell shakes the bells attached to her costume.

Bell: What is Present's job, Candle?

Present: Job?! I don't have a JOB! I'm merely here to please the eye. I look good. It's what I do! It's ALL I do!

Candle: Present! I can't believe you think that's all you're here for! You DO have a job! Your job is to represent the greatest Gift ever given!

Present: It is?

Candle: Yes! Jesus was God's gift to the world, and that's why people give gifts to each other at Christmastime. It's not the pretty paper and bows- it's the love that counts!

Tree: Hey, everybody, where's Cane?

Angel and Star enter.

Star: Yeah, where's CANE? Never mind about Star! Hey, who's the new kid? Oh, I see how it is! Star's got a broken point so we need a new light around here, huh?

Angel: At least you've GOT all your parts!

Star: Still bitter about the halo thing, Angel? (Star walks over to Candle) So, you think you're gonna take my place, huh? You and whose army?

Candle: Oh, no, Star! I could never replace YOU! You stand for the great light that led the wise men to Jesus! You remind people that wise men and women still seek Jesus!

Star: I do? I mean, I DO! So...what're YOU here for?

Candle: Well, I'm not exactly sure. I know God has a purpose for me, but I was hoping someone here could tell me what it is.

Tree: Maybe Cane would know. Where is he? I've been a little worried about

him lately.

Star: I don't know, but we saw a kid with something sticky all over his face...

(Loud gasps from all and lights go down)

SCENE TWO: CENTER STAGE IN FRONT OF CLOSED CURTAINS

Spotlight on Angel.

Angel: I can't believe I've been so selfish. I'm worried about a missing halo and Cane's gone! What kind of Angel are you if people can't tell you're an angel when your halo's not on? I wish Cane were here. (Cane walks up slowly behind Angel and hears all she says from this point on) I'd tell him how he is so important because he reminds people of the staffs the shepherds carried and because his red stripes remind people of Jesus' blood that was shed. I'd tell him that he's shaped like the letter "J" for Jesus. I'd tell him that I miss him and...

Cane: Angel...

Angel: What? Wh...Who's there?

Cane: Angel, it's me, Cane. I found something for you. It's a little bent, but here it is. (Cane puts a halo on Angel's head and straightens it.)

Angel: Oh, Cane! (She hugs him) I'm so glad to see you! We've got to tell the others you're ok!

Cane: Do the others miss me, Angel-- REALLY miss me?

Angel: Yes! Very much! And there's a new kid... (they exit and lights go off)

SCENE THREE: THE LIVING ROOM

Tree, Star, Card, Present, Bell and Candle are standing around worrying about Cane. Cane and Angel enter.

Angel: Hey, guys, look who I found! (Everyone is happy to see Cane. They give him hugs and smiles, etc.)

Star: Hey, Angel, you got your halo back!

Angel: Yeah, Cane found it for me.

Star: I'm glad. You look much better with your halo. I'm sorry I lost it.

Angel: That's ok. I'm sorry I made fun of your broken point. Maybe I can fix it a little... (Angel goes over to Star and straightens his point)

Cane: Boy, things sure have changed around here since the new kid came! I hardly recognize anyone!

Tree: You know, Cane, you're right! Candle, I think I know what your job is!

Candle: You do?

Tree: Yep. Your job must be to lead people to the Truth. You showed each one of us how important we are to God, and now we're treating each other better, too!

Candle: I think you're right, Tree!

Tree: Well, we'd better get ready for the celebration. I think I hear the family coming! Places, everyone! Look alive! (Tree gets strange glances from everyone regarding this command) ...Ok, so don't look alive!!

ALL FREEZE. A family of four enters.

Dad: Look how nice the tree looks this year!

Mom: It's perfect!

Girl: I like the new candle!

Boy: Look, Mom! A CANDY CANE!!!

LIGHTS OUT.

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