Hatch Patch Creations

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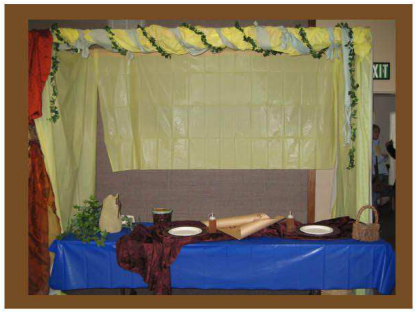
"a night in Bethlehem"

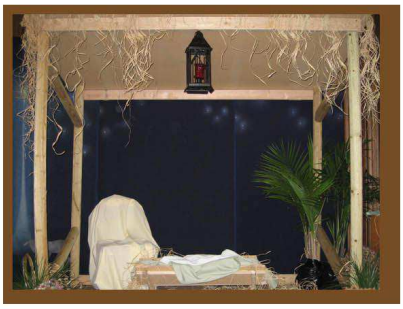
Objective: To have a more Christ Centered Christmas Party

Invitations: Copy the Scroll sheet onto a cream or light brown cardstock (make sure you change the time and date or else that might be awkward ha ha). We then rolled them and tied with jute.

Dress us Young Men in tunics, and other proper biblical attire. We hand delivered the invitations to members of the ward. We painted plungers gold like trumpets. I know it sounds gross but they were so cute. They would blow the fake trumpet and read the scroll.

Decorations: Collect carpet rolls, as well as Christmas tree stands. Simply place each roll and screw the carpet rolls directly into the stand. These made up the sides of each booth. We then covered and decorated them with plastic table cloths or material. I assigned out the inside of each booth.





Food: We had 6 booths that provided food.

: Pita and Hummus

: Boiled Eggs and cheese

:Dried and Fresh Fruit

: Nuts, Honey, and Crackers

: Roasted Chicken Legs

:Shortbread cookies

Additional Booths

Gift Shop: We had displays of (fake) Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. As well as little bags that contained all three. At this booth we also had tops, marbles and other inexpensive little items that the Primary children could buy with their gold coins.

Currency: I thought this was such a fun part of the party. I ordered hundreds of gold coins from Oriental Trading. We gave each person a canvas draw string bag (I had an amazing woman in my ward make all of these.) Each bag contained enough coins to buy their food and a few other items. It was fun to watch people try to barter with the booth owners to get more of something.

Program: As everyone was finishing up dinner we transitioned into the program without announcing it. We simply had our Mary and Joseph walk through the crowd, stop at the "Inn" booth (this was also our Chicken leg booth) and then continue up to the stage. The piano joined them half way through their journey. They sat in the Stable while the program started. We had a narrator and musical numbers. The entire program was less than 20 minutes.

During the program we made simple coloring books for all the primary age children. This really helped with reverence during the program. (see attached)

Ward Gift: We also bought really inexpensive little Nativity ornaments. We placed a label on the back that said our Ward name as well as the year. We had the young women hand them out in baskets. It was a nice touch to end the party with.

Advertising: Besides the invitations we placed "Tax Notices" throughout the church. The Sunday before we placed a tax notice in each program. (see attached)

Costumes: I am always so surprised how supportive most ward members are when you ask them to dress up. We had a "fabric" booth where we had misc. pieces of fabric that they could put together their own costume if they didn't have anything at home.

"a night in Bethlehem"

Night in Bethlehem is a Christmas experience. As a participant, you come dressed in time period costumes and enter a re-creation of what the city of Bethlehem may have been like. You will have the opportunity to "pay" your taxes, interact with merchants and sample simple foods. You will see the inn, and watch the sweet young couple, desperate for accommodations be turned away. You will share the innkeeper's concern, as he directs Joseph and Mary to a nearby stable. You will see the shepherds and hear from the angel, the wonderful news that Christ the Savior is born. Lastly, you will see Mary and Joseph and the newborn babe in the stable and feel the true reason for Christmas.

Please dress up in a costume, however simple, will enhance your experience and help it feel real. Easy costumes can be fashioned from things you already have, like towels, robes, fabric scraps, etc. Even if you only wrap a large scarf around your head, come with some sort of costume!

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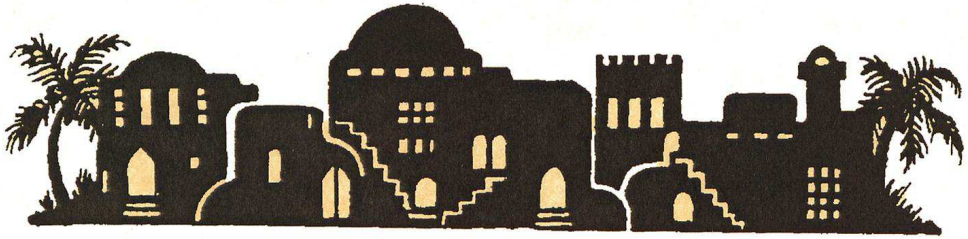
Final Tax Notice



"a night in Bethlehem"

This coming Thursday, Dec. 2nd

Hear ye, Hear ye

Tax time is **4** days away

(**1** can of food per person for food bank)

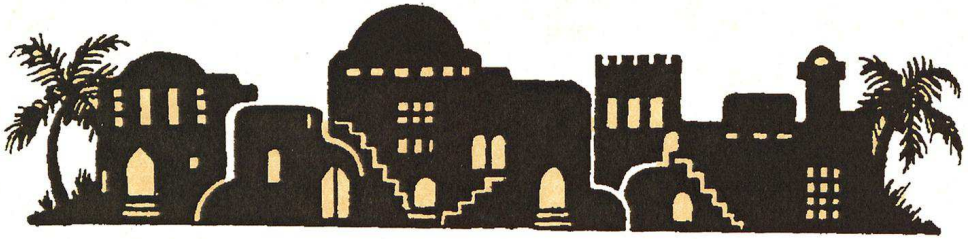
Please arrive in Bethlehem at **6:30** p.m.

A light supper will be available in the street market for weary travelers. Remember your blanket to sit on for the Inn may be full.

Those who do not appear will be sentenced to a holiday season without the true spirit of Christmas

So let it be written, So let it be done!

Final Tax Notice



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So let it be written, So let it be done!

By order of his Royal Majesty the Emperor, it is decreed that all the world
is to be counted and taxed.
Therefore, let each person and family come for
"A Night in Bethlehem" to be taxed according to law.
Donkeys must be tied on the south side of the building and
enter through the proper gate.
Everyone must be dressed in Biblical attire to enter the city.
Bring a blanket for your family to rest on from
your long journey, you may find that the inn is full.
Each family will be assessed taxes.
(1 can of food per person for "Haven House")
Watch for tax notices. A light supper
will be available in the open market.
All taxing will take place on the date, time and
place shown below
Those disobeying this law to appear will
be sentenced to a holiday season without the true spirit of Christmas.
So let it be written. So let it be done.

Caesar Augustus
Date: Thursday, Dec. 2nd
In the year of our Lord **2010**
Time: **6:30**p.m.

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is to be counted and taxed.
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Image found in the “Mary and Joseph” FHE packet
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