

The Birth of Jesus

Joseph and Mary traveled from their hometown of Nazareth to Bethlehem at the command of the Roman Government, which was occupying their land. A census was to be taken by the Roman Government. Poor timing for a pregnant woman.

The parents of Jesus must have been among the last wave of people to arrive in Bethlehem. The inns were full. There were no homeless shelters and no family members or friends with whom to stay. They found a stable.

The events surrounding Jesus birth were not glamorous. And Jesus birth in a stable was not glamorous either. We all know what stables are like. There was no advance sanitation crew.

I've witnessed some very unglamorous events at Christmastime. You have too.

Will you be surprised when I tell you that more than once I've been called to a home on Christmas Eve because of a domestic disturbance? Will you be surprised if I tell you of a time when an intoxicated worshipper was cursing the people who were too slow to leave the late night Christmas Eve Service?

Real life won't be shoved aside for the celebration of Christmas. But that's just the point of Christmas, isn't it? Jesus was

Born in an unglamorous stable,
With real life unglamorous events surrounding Him and His
parents.

A careful reading of the birth story shows it all.

Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to see Jesus born into the unglamorous parts of our lives. I think that He would welcome the invitation, if He's not already there.

You have probably noticed, as I have, that it is often

The broken lives,
The shattered lives,
And the unglamorous lives
Into which Jesus is invited.

You've probably noticed too that He always accepts the invitation.

Roger