

Nick Allen FC Grant CC

CHRISTMAS NIGHT, LONG AGO

DJ: Hello and goodevening if you've just joined us. This is RADIO BETHLEHEM broadcasting to Judea and the surrounding provinces.. You've just been listening to (or else you've just missed) the latest song by MOSES AND THE PHAROAHS called SWING LOW SWEET CHARIOT. (Pause) I'm your nighttime presenter, taking you all the way through the night on this cold Winter evening in BETHLEHEM, the CITY OF DAVID.(Pause) OK, before we play some more music, let's go out and about and find out who's out there, who's up and around and what exciting and interesting things are going on in the city on this...cold and dark winter's evening..late....in the night. And first up, let's talk to our man on the ground: HELLO Nic are you out there.

NIC: ~~Yes~~ hello. Tonight, I'm here just outside the city where I've been told there are shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

DJ: That's very interesting Nic.

NIC: Yeah. (Long pause)

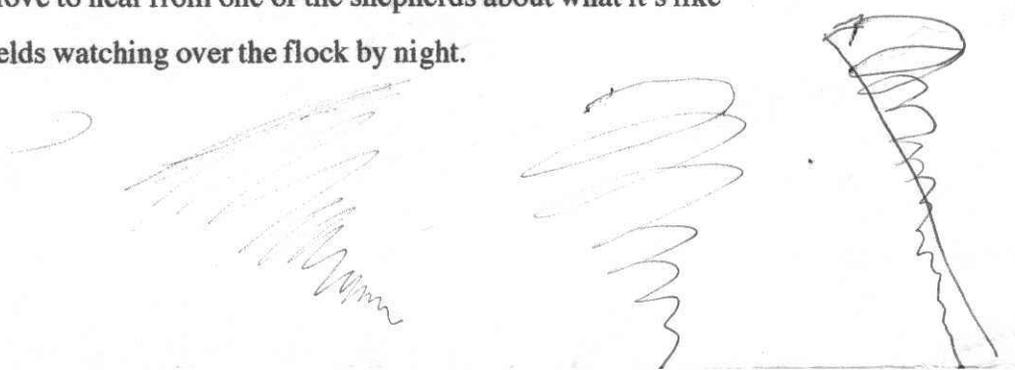
DJ: SO, tell us all about shepherds abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night. What do they get up to?

NIC: Umm ...well....they just...abide and watch.. you know....how shepherds do. And err...they have SHEEP - that are WHITE with woolly coats and er...four legs, that's FOUR legs, one at each corner, which I guess is to stop them falling over. I can see 1..2...3...4...5...6...7...8...9. sheep in that corner and over there are 1...2...3...4...

DJ: I'm going to interrupt you there Nic, because I just know our late night listeners would love to hear from one of the shepherds about what it's like abiding in the fields watching over the flock by night.



With feeling
K



NIC:

Ah. Yeah. Right. Got you. Slight problem there. You see... there aren't any. .

DJ:

No shepherds? Where are they?

NIC:

Dunno. They were definitely here last night, but tonight ..er.. they've all gone somewhere.Sorry.

DJ:

I see. No shepherds abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night ???.

NIC:

No. I can give you some good recipes for roast lamb.....

LOUD

DJ:

SIGH. OK I think we'll pass on that one Nic. And now over to our girl with the latest interesting weather... Anna. Hi Anna!!!

ANNA:

Hello there. Well, I'm up here on a rooftop overlooking Bethlehem, the city of David. And I can tell you that it's a clear and starry night across the city. (pause) Yes, that's right. It's a starry night. (Pause) There are a lot of stars out tonight in the clear night sky over the city, making it...a...verystarry..night....(tails off)

DJ:

Umm... Right. Any **interesting** stars up there, ANNA??

ANNA:

Well, you know, a star is a star. There's quite a bright one just above me. Oh yeah - there's another one, not quite as bright over there...and...uh, I can see some sparkly ones over to the left of me.

DJ:

Well, thank you Anna. Sounds like another clear starry night over Bethlehem. Rather like the clear starry night we had last night. And the night before that. OK, before we listen to some more music, let's hear from our man in the street about the interesting and exciting nightlife. Hello John.

JOHN: Hello from the streets of Bethlehem, the city of David. I'm standing outside the Two Camels, a local inn.

DJ: Uh-huh. I gather there have been reports that there is no room in the inn. Can you confirm this ?

JOHN: Seems OK to me.

DJ: Oh. So no rioting crowds, no groups of protesting holidaymakers carrying placards and causing mayhem on the city streets?

JOHN: Afraid not. The streets are absolutely deserted.

DJ: Um ... when you say absolutely deserted..can you give us some INTERESTING details??

JOHN: Well, there's me. And..err.... umm.. well...it's a cobbled street. Umm... grey cobbles. Sort of round and...cobble-like probably come from the Judean hills. They do a nice line in cobbles, I believe. And - oh yeah, over there there's a mudbrick wall. Umm, probably about four hundred bricks...do you want me to count them??

DJ: Oh I GIVE UP!!! Sheesh!! (SIGH) This is RADIO BETHLEHEM, listeners, broadcasting on a cold Winter night when there are no shepherds abiding in the fields, watching over their flocks. The streets are deserted. There are a couple of bright stars in the sky, but that's about it. In other words, it's another BORING night and once again NOTHING, absolutely NOTHING OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE OR IMPORTANCE is happening AT ALL. (Pause) Right. Everybody got that? Good. So now let's have some more music.