

Merry Christmas!

12.24.09
MEMBER OF THE STATE
COLLEGE CITY-CHURCH

God-Stories are places where we see God at work around us. Tonight we celebrate a God-Story from Stacy Sublett.

"I'll be home for Christmas." That's a popular sentiment around State College. Most of the PSU students have hit the road, and parents are looking forward to their kids coming home. Folks around Happy Valley are making travel plans to see friends and family. We'll be headed to Bedford, just like usual, spending some time with Kim's family over the Christmas break.

But that's not really where we wanted to be.

Don't get me wrong—we love being with family. But Kim and I thought we'd be flying to China today to meet Annabelle face-to-face, finalize the adoption, and bring her home. We haven't received our travel approval yet, so we have to wait – again.

It's been a long process—almost five years now. Plans have changed big time. We were going to adopt a baby girl that we would name Annabelle. Turns out that Annabelle is a 9-year-old girl, who is named Mei Yun. During our extended wait, I've learned a lot about patience, had my heart stolen by a girl I haven't even met, and come to gain a new perspective on orphans.

The adoption process has taken longer than we expected, but the finish line is in sight. Within a month, we should be in China. I have a hunch that getting through the adoption process is probably only the beginning, though. There will be lots of hurdles and unforeseen situations that develop as we adjust to life with Annabelle, and she to us.

But to have her with us, here, at home...it's so close now we can almost taste it. To quote Alvin and the Chipmunks, "We can hardly stand the wait..."

Do you have a God-Story to share? Send to:
God-stories@calvarysc.org

www.calvarysc.org • info@calvarysc.org • 814.238.0822

Make a Note!

Worship Changes for January 2-3, 2010

SEVEN GATHERINGS CONSOLIDATED INTO FOUR!

- No Table (6:30pm, Sat.), Traditions (8am), or Midtown (9am)
- 9:15am Classic combined with Traditions @ Calvary 1250
- 10am Calvary Gray's Woods @ GW Elementary
- 11am Midtown @ Calvary 1250
- 6:30 Encore @ Calvary 1250

- Regular offering can be put in the drop boxes.
- This Sunday (12/27): Instead of our normal worship gatherings, join us for City-Church Joint Worship at State College Assembly of God; 9 & 11am services.

[ONE]
CHRISTMAS

to get it right.

SERMON NOTES

Come Home!

Pastor Dan Nold

CHRISTMAS:

WHEN JESUS LEFT HOME TO GIVE US A FAMILY

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:4-7 (NIV)

AM I ON THE RUN OR LOOKING FOR A FAMILY?

WHAT DOES COMING BACK LOOK LIKE?

GOD IS MY FATHER. HE knows me.

"Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption... If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all."

—J.I. Packer

I CAN TAKE A risk.

I WILL COME home.

1% Offering gifts will be accepted after Christmas as well. Mail to Calvary's offices or toss in offering, drop box, or online.

www.calvarysc.org/sermon

