



First Christmas

Do you remember your first Christmas? I do, at least part of it. I camped out by the fireplace on Christmas Eve, determined to see Santa if it meant staying there all night. It was during my only bathroom break that everyone began to scream that Santa had arrived. I didn't get there as fast as I'd planned because it was hard to get traction in my footie pajamas on a freshly waxed hardwood floor, and to my dismay, I'd missed the old man, but under the tree was a sleek red tricycle.

Some things about Christmas eventually changed. After a few more attempts, I gave up trying to spot the happy fat man who visited us every December 24th.

Two things however, have remained through the years. The presence of loving family and friends and the reminder of God's amazing gift through Jesus Christ. Focus on those things this Holiday season, and this could make your holiday a delightful one!

This is Stephen Chitty, pastor of Christian Life. Remember, *Life Matters*, and so do you.

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.