



## Away In a Manger

*Away in a Manger*—what a beautiful song and what memories it stirs! The fact is that Jesus probably wasn't born in a wooden barn as our western images indicate. He would most likely have been born in a cave—one of many dotting the hillsides of Bethlehem.

That's where most animals were kept, so it makes sense that in the fourth century Constantine's mother had the Church of the Nativity built over a small cave that may well have been the birthplace of the Savior. The cave theory doesn't take away from the Christmas story. The Bible only tells us they laid him in a manger, which is either a stall or feeding trough.

So our images are correct even if modernized a bit. The important thing is not *how* Jesus was born—but rather *that* Jesus was born.

This is Stephen Chitty from Christian Life Church in Columbia on Bush River Road. Remember friends, *Life Matters*, and so do you!