

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1997

This is the first newsletter from the Little Brown Studio. We have nearly said goodbye to 1997. Here we are in the month of December preparing to celebrate the birth of One who came to earth almost two thousand years ago to live and die and live again for us. Before long, we won't have to say "nearly" two thousand years ago, we will be able to say "over" two thousand years ago. Today I was looking at the title page of a book trying to figure out the roman numerals. As I stared at them in my usual mathematical confusion, it suddenly dawned on me that soon we will be finished with the MCM years and living in the great M&M. Chocolate fans should have a heyday with that thought. At the end of this century we will also celebrate the end of ten of them in a row. I reckon I will have to learn how to spell millennium (I looked it up in my Noah Webster 1828 dictionary. Yep, you read that date correctly).

This first newsletter is being sent to the faithful friends on "The Letter Book" mailing list. I just wanted to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you. I also wanted to say a great big thank you to all of you for hanging with me for the three and one half years of my first attempt at writing a book. I still don't believe I have finished it. After it was completed Easter Week '97, I experienced what my more "motherly" friends called "post partum" blues. It was as though I had given birth to something really special that had been growing inside of me for a very long time. Let me just say that "partum" me was glad it was gone while "partum" me was sad it was over. "Mostum" me was just relieved and frankly in shock that I actually tricked myself into writing a whole book.

This has been a year of many new births. Four new songs were brought to life through some very special

experiences. A bible study on the book of Joshua was written during 1997. It is called "Joshua and the Stones of Remembrance". I had the privilege of teaching this bible study to a group of ladies here at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where I live and work. I have recently felt led to begin working on another bible study entitled "Water, Wind and Fire: The Keeper of the Light". Pray for me as I write and sing and teach about the Lord of Life and Light.

It is my heart's desire to be used in His kingdom's work to reach others for Him by using the gifts He has given to me. This work has always involved music and singing and songwriting and bible teaching. Now it also has been made plain that the Lord is drawing me into a special form of ministry that I have only dreamed about being able to do for Him. This is the ministry of writing. Right now, I am trying to do a lot of listening and am seeking to be sensitive to the directions He is leading in this area of ministry. I have a deep desire to be a "word" artist. As you might recall from the "unfamous" artwork in "The Letter Book", I certainly am no artistic artist. I want to be able to paint word pictures that would draw the hearts of readers to know the Word Himself. If I could ask you to pray about one thing for me in 1998, it would be that I would walk in a manner worthy of a servant of the Lord in all areas of my life. Give yourself away this Christmas. He did.

*For you I pray...
...that the Lord of Christmas will be a special guest in all of your celebrations.
...that the Spirit of Christmas will rule and reign in all of your homes.
...that the Christ of Christmas will be born anew in your hearts.*

*In the beginning was the WORD.
Wonder which word Mary taught Him to say first?*

DECEMBER 1997

A Merry Christmas Song?!

Hey, Mary, did you know that the little drummer boy passed by the other night on his way to the little town of Bethlehem? He claimed that there was a song in the air and a star in the sky over in that direction. Right in front of our house he yelled: "oh, come on all ye faithful!" (Is that guy talking to me?) For a minute or two I thought I heard the bells on Christmas day myself. It wasn't bells after all. It was just a bunch of dumb sheep. What a way to spend a holy night. Just for grins, I decided to tag along. He might need help carrying that drum after a while. We came upon a midnight clearing and found out for ourselves why everyone had a reason to go tell it on the mountain. Why, joy to the world, there were angels from the realms of glory winging their flight over all the earth! The whole hillside was flooded with light. No silent night here! Why, this might just be a good time after all. Hark and the herald angels were there. They were singing about some child in a manger. "What did you say was the baby's name?" I yelled over the din. "His name is called Emmanuel!". Away in a manger down the hill, we found the reason for the angel song lyrics. Two or three kings were there. I kinda lost count. Kings think they know everything. They even brought gifts but they couldn't hold a candle to the sight of this newborn king. I felt like singing myself. I decided to just stand there and hold the drum while the little boy played. Holy silent night. On the drums. A worshipful little number. I never knew drums could sound so sweet. I really hate that he had to use wet drum sticks but maybe my tears helped him to play softly and tenderly...

Love to you all from my house to yours
Christmas 1997 +B+B+

Ministry Dates:
December 14 Lakeview BC New Orleans, LA
December 21 and 28 Lowrey Memorial BC Blue Mountain, MS
January 9 and 10 Fountainbleu State Park Retreat with Lakeview BC
January 30 and 31 Charter Oaks BC Ladies Retreat Pearl River, LA

Meet the new kids!!!

I mentioned that four new songs were born this year. Let me share their names and birth dates with you:

March 97

**"Preserving the Treasures"
Written as a theme song for a ladies retreat.**

June 97

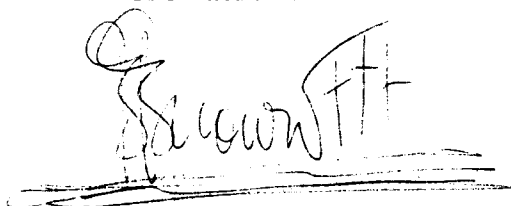
**"Another Joseph's Son"
A tribute to my father who baptized me into the kingdom of the other Joseph's SON.**

June 97

**"Spirit Wings"
Another song written in the stairwell. My way of returning the praise to the One to whom it certainly is due.**

August 97

**"All of One"
In memory of Kirk and Brittany White in the arms of Jesus.
They showed me that we are all one Father's children.**



BATMAN and BARBIE:

The Greatest Kids I Never Had

There is a dream to one day write a book of some fashion about the Taylor twins, the kids who have taken me to MAMA school for the last six years. Till then, I will just share some twin times with you. Jessica Rebecca drew me a special picture last night. It is your basic manger with a star (she asked me to draw the star). Then she drew a rainbow near the star. A nice touch. Hearts, too. She always draws hearts. Finally, right there in the manger she drew baby Jesus and she painted him blue. She knows that blue is my favorite color. That's my idea of a really BLUE Christmas. My favorite Jordan story is the one about the grapes. He and I were sitting in my recliner watching Saturday shoot 'em ups and eating grapes. He selected a flat one and I told him not to eat it because it was rotten. He stared at that flat grape for a long minute. I KNEW a question was coming. "Bec, did God make the grapes, Bec?" (when they say your name twice, it is a deep question and you will have to answer it without assistance). Yes, buddy. He was still staring at that flat grape so I knew we were not out of the woods yet. "Bec, why did God just blow up SOME of the grapes?" As usual, I heard myself saying: Well, buddy, I don't know...

MAY WE ALL FIND SOME TIME TO SPEND WITH A CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS. SIT IN THE RECLINER AND WATCH A FEW SHOOT EM UPS. BETTER YET, TURN OFF THE TV AND FIGURE OUT HOW JEEZIS BLEW UP ALL THOSE GRAPES....

(...and let me know).

Tell the Story Sing the Songs Draw the Hearts