

# †.my Shepherd

The Lord is *my Shepherd*, I shall not want.



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### The Candymaker's Witness

A candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols of the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus; and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and a firmness of the promises of God.

The candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to the earth as our Savior. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs, who like all sheep have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the bloodshed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as a candy cane—a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the meaning is still there for those who "have eyes to see and ears to hear." I pray that this symbol will again be used to witness to the wonder of Jesus and His great love that came down at Christmas and remains the ultimate and dominant force in the universe today.

(Reprinted)

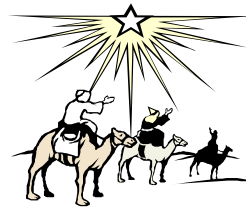
### His Name Will Be Called...

*The Gospel of Luke 2:6-16:*

And it came about that while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped him in cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terrible frightened.



And the angel said to them,

*"Do not be afraid: for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

*And this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."*

And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."*

And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds began saying to one another.

*"Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing which has happened which the Lord has made known to us."*

And they came in haste and found their way to Mary and Joseph and the baby as He lay in the manger.

### Isaiah 9:6

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Might God, Eternal, Father, Prince of Peace.



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### HIS MYSTERIOUS WAYS

In September last year Sister Grace began forming a picture of a Christmas tree in her mind. As the director of pastoral care at Charleston's St. Frances Xavier Hospital, Sister Grace had been asked to decorate the tree that would be placed in the lobby of the Omni Hotel. The tree would have angels on it and snowflakes-lots of snowflakes, exquisite ones crocheted by hand. By Thanksgiving Sister Grace had acquired the angels, but the snowflakes were not to be found.

On the day before Thanksgiving, Doris Hartvig was admitted to the hospital for tests, Doris detested idleness, and she was soon busy at work with needles and yarn.

"Could you do a snowflake?" one of the nuns, Sister Mary Joseph, asked her.

"I can," Doris replies, in fact, not long ago she had bought a book that described how to crochet snowflakes. They weren't easy to do, and each one required a lot of time.

With renewed hope, Sister Grace went to see Doris. She described in detail the Christmas tree she had her heart set on: a blue bow on top, angels clinging to the branches and lacy snowflakes hanging from the boughs.

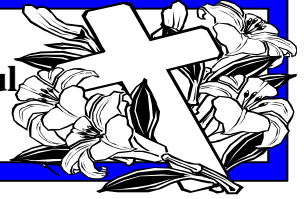
"How many snowflakes do you need?" Doris finally asked. "We should have sixty," Sister Grace replied, "but there's no time to make that many."

Doris smiled. She reached under her bed and took out a bag of needlework, and then drew out one beautiful crocheted snowflake after another-40, 50, over 60 of them! They were ironed, starched and ready to be hung.

In September Doris Hartvig had felt a great urge to crochet snowflakes. Now she knew why.

Robert Hawkins  
St. Johns Island, South Carolina  
Guideposts December 1988

**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
**To Encourage the Faithful**  
**To Save the Lost.**



For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NIV

It's your responsibility, do it today.



### A Genius for Living

In the fourth year of his layoff from his job, Dad gave Mom a dishwasher for Christmas.

You have to understand the magnitude of the gift: Our old house had its original wiring and plumbing, and neither could handle the required installation. There was no spot in the small kitchen for such a large appliance. And we hadn't even been able to meet the mortgage interest payments for over six months.

But Dad hated the thought of washing dishes; he would rather do anything else. And Mom had undergone major surgery that spring, a radical mastectomy for breast cancer, and found it difficult to do any work requiring the use of her arms.

No large box appeared, no new plumbing or wiring was installed, no remodeling of the kitchen occurred. Rather, a small note appeared on a branch of the Christmas tree, handwritten by Dad:

"For one year I will wash all of the dirty dishes in this household. Every one."

And he did. He really did.

Judy Rogers, Westerville, Ohio

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**IS THE**  
**REASON**  
**FOR THE**  
**SEASON**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

