

PFOX

The Official Newsletter of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays

Christmas Thoughts 2021

By Flo Hubbs, PFOX Director

Many times in December, we think of the Scriptures that speak of the birth of Christ, especially the passage in Luke 2:8-14, which Linus recites in "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

Timeless carols come to mind, such as "What Child Is This," "Away in a Manger," "Silent Night" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

We give gifts to each other at Christmastime because God gave us all the greatest gift of all – a Savior. We put up bright Christmas lights because *He* is the Light of the World.

God knew us before we were even born or even in our mother's womb. He has plans of hope, peace and success for us when we allow Him into our lives.

As a parent, please don't blame yourself for choices your child makes. Parents need to temper their grief with hope and look forward. Whatever happened in the past, remember that change is possible. Restoration of relationships is possible. Redemptive love is possible. Hope truly does spring eternal because it comes from an eternal place – Heaven.

The heartache that comes from an announcement like, "Mom and Dad,



I'm gay," or "I'm transitioning" is truly incalculable to a parent or grandparent who had high hopes of seeing their family grow naturally with children and grandchildren to carry on the family name.

It's very hard when children do things that don't please our Heavenly Father . . . and which harm themselves and others. We need to pray not only for them but for those who helped lead them astray. No one is beyond God's salvation, and we do not know who eventually will turn to Jesus.

God created the first perfect couple,

and they disobeyed His instructions, surrendering to temptation instead of being obedient. Yet, God forgave them and provided the first blood sacrifice and animal skin for clothing. God also sent his Son to die for those who have sinned, which is all of us.

Walking a Fine Line

During the holidays we need to be loving and considerate but truthful. It's sometimes difficult to walk that line. There's a difference between acceptance of the person and approval of his or her lifestyle. When we see a young child

disobeying and playing in the middle of the street, we step in before they are harmed. We don't just let it go and say, "Well, it's their choice."

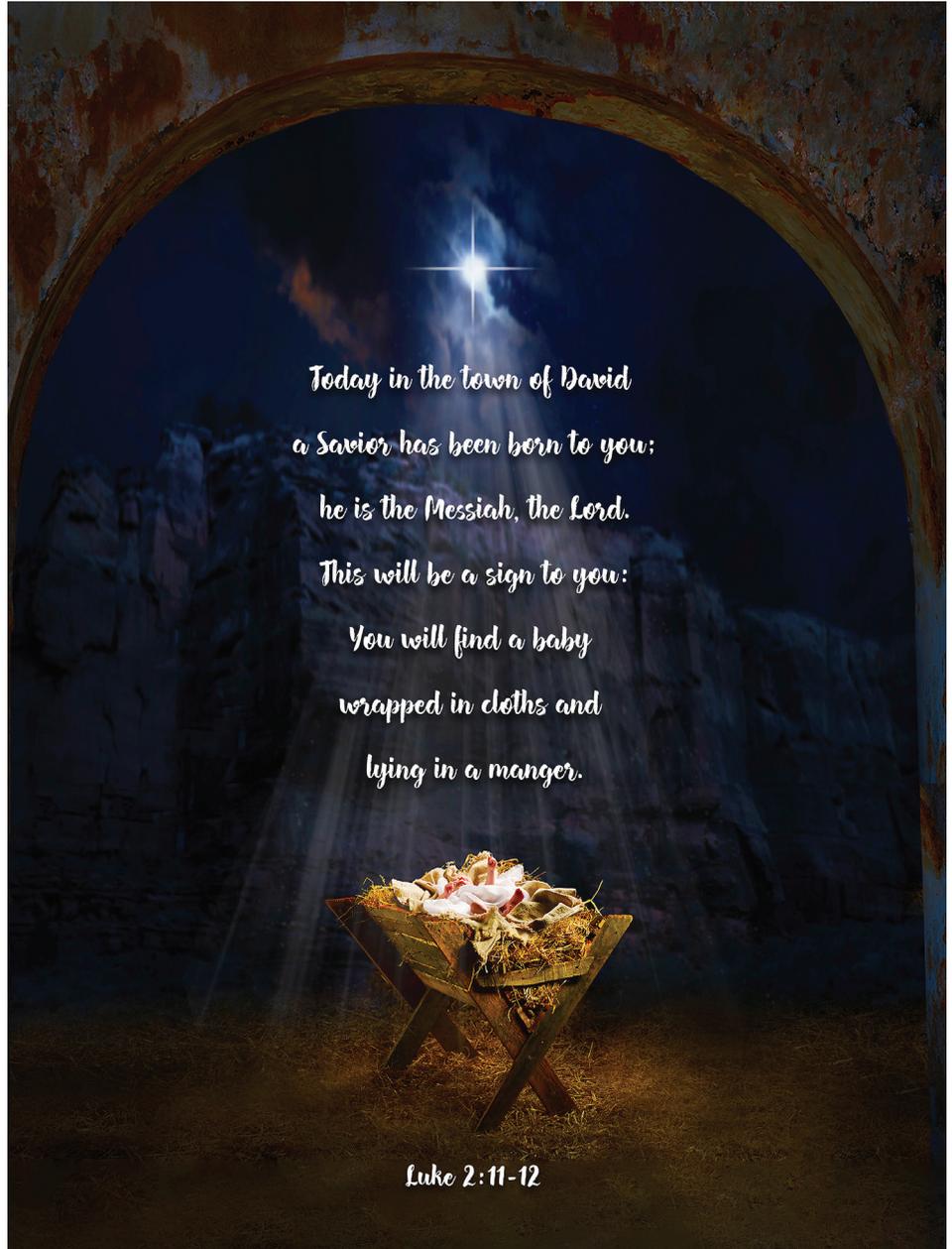
Neither should we approve of same-sex-attracted actions, especially if the children are being blatant about it and disrespectful. Parents must set appropriate boundaries in their household, especially when there are younger children living at home. There is a big difference, for example, between a holiday hug and displays of affection that validate unwholesome choices.

There may be times when the child or other loved one is testing the boundaries. They may retaliate with negative attitudes and pull away. I think of the prodigal son, who took his inheritance and blew it. He went to a faraway country. When he was at the bottom of his pit, he decided, now chastened, to return to his father's house. His father lovingly welcomed him home. That's how God is: When we turn to Him with genuine repentance, anything is possible.

The best approach for many parents is to have open, frank conversations with your children who embrace an alternative lifestyle and who don't realize how it puts them in eternal danger. It's okay to let them know their same-sex relationship makes you uncomfortable not because you're a "bigot" but because you love them and want what is best for them. One question you can ask is: "What makes you think you were born gay?" Then, listen to them. Really listen, respectfully. Your child may be respectful in return, or maybe not, and you may have to try again another day.

Some of my own story

I had been involved in the lesbian life for 14 years. During the holidays both of our mothers welcomed us into their homes. We honored our mothers by showing restraint; we refrained from publicly showing affection. Deep down, though, there were times I really wanted my mother to tell me I was on the wrong path. Many children misbehave precisely to get their parents' attention.



*Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be a sign to you:
You will find a baby
wrapped in cloths and
lying in a manger.*

Luke 2:11-12

She herself had suffered through two divorces and she wasn't sure about relationships. She didn't want to create trouble. Years later, she walked with me on the journey of freedom in Christ. When I apologized to her for dragging her through the pit, she said, "A mother loves her child!"

In the support group that I have led for years, parents have learned that sharing the love of Christ also means speaking the truth. We all must try to reflect Christ, Who ate with sinners but did not condone sin.

Some people may not change as fast as we would like them to. We need to trust God and keep faithfully praying for our loved ones.

In closing, I want to ask everyone to pray for Regina's family at this difficult time. Her servant leadership will not be forgotten.

To all of our wonderful families and supporters, we here at PFOX wish each and every one a most blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Flo