

LILLIE KNAULS

"The treetop angel is beautiful," exclaimed my mother as she opened the gift-wrapped box. I could see that she was very happy with my gift. She smiled as she examined it carefully. I wanted it to be on the tree for the family to see when they gathered for dinner. I placed it on a small table and plugged it in. When she saw that the angel's head turned from side to side and the wings fluttered, she seemed even more excited! So when the family arrived, there the angel was, lighted and perched atop the Christmas tree.

Each year at Christmastime she brought the angel out to put on the treetop and plugged it in for all visitors to see. In 1998, our final Christmas together, there was the angel doll on the tree. And when my mother went to be with Jesus in 1999, the day after the home-going service, the family gathered at the apartment to divide her belongings. She had told us that she wanted everyone to have back "what they had given her." So now, each Christmas season—I like to decorate the day after Thanksgiving—I bring out the angel doll and put it in a prominent place for all my friends to see her move from side to side and those fluttering wings. I am always reminded of my dear godly mother and her love to make certain we knew that Jesus is the reason for the season.



Lillie's Christmas Angel

About the tiny baby Jesus who was born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, and about the angel coming to the shepherds, how the glory of the Lord shone around them. The angel boldly proclaimed, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a savior, who is Christ the Lord."



I personally know how angels have been in my life as I have traveled the world alone for 35 years speaking and singing about Jesus, the precious gift from Father God. I know angels are encamped around me, because I fear the Lord. I am thankful that God's Word also says He has given his angels charge over me. I have come to depend on and welcome their protection. Often it seems as though I can hear the brush of angel wings. And I know, surely—as that beautiful song says—the presence of the Lord is with me.