

It was Christmas Eve. And there was a man who simply could not accept his family's ideas about God and Jesus Christ.

They were going to a Christmas Eve service. His wife wished he would go along to church with the family, but remembering all the times he had refused before, took the children and left for church. He said he would read the paper and when they got back they could open the presents and have a happy Christmas together.

Dad got his paper and sat down beside a blazing fire to read. But as he read he heard the sound of thumps coming from the front of the house. He put down the paper and walked to the front of the house and noticed that the birds were trying to get into the living room. A storm had started. It was snowing, blowing and howling.

The birds were dying, hurting themselves from flying into the window.

The man was an atheist. He didn't believe in God. Surely not that God had become a man.

But he said to himself, "I'll help those birds."

He got his boots and heavy coat and went outside and looked at the birds hitting the windows.

He went to the barn/opened the barn door and turned on the light. He tried to shoo the birds into the barn.

He said to himself, "If I can just get them into the barn they will be safe." But they scattered and flew off—

He tried to catch them, to hold them, tried every way he knew, but it was no use. Each time they scattered and flew away.

He said to himself, "They don't understand, They think I'm trying to hurt them; I'm trying to help them."

As he looked at the birds he thought, "If I could only become a bird I could tell them.

"I love them, I'm trying to help them.

"They could have life if they would accept my help."

And at that moment the hills began to ring, "O Come, all Ye Faithful."

And the man who had not believed in God fell on his knees in the snow and cried out, "O God, I didn't understand,

"I didn't understand—"

And he made his way to the church and accepted Christ as his Savior and went home with his family as a brand-new man.

God in the person of Jesus Christ became a man and came to Earth to live among us to show us the way of salvation. He died to pay for our sins, rose again to guarantee our resurrection, and if we will accept him he will give us the Holy Spirit as a seal of our future redemption.