

The Christmas Mission Across America

by
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DEDICATION

This play is dedicated to children who are trying to live for Jesus in spite of their difficult circumstances.

STORY OF THE PLAY

The children are given a *Mission Impossible*-type assignment to take a trip across America to find things that remind them of the original Christmas story. The young "agents" travel to Texas, Iowa, Alaska, Maine, Hawaii, and Florida to find things in each state that remind them of the nativity. In between stops to the various states, younger children may sing or recite poems. The play concludes with a reminder that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and a prayer that we won't be at war for any Christmases in the future. Optional corresponding scripture readings throughout and a nativity scene add more beauty and meaning to the play. This short Christmas piece (about 25 minutes) is geared for child actors to perform for other church children. Props and costumes are minimal.

CAST

AGENTS 1-10- These actors become the Christmas agents. There are no character names assigned, only line numbers. Numbering can be changed to accommodate a larger or smaller cast. Children in grades 4 and up are best suited for these speaking roles.

YOUNGER KIDS- These younger actors (children grades 3 and below) sing carols or recite poems between scenes. Any number may be used.

OFFSTAGE VOICE – Adult or older child to read instructions

PROPS

Remote control helicopter or paper airplane or an envelope attached to fishing line

Optional: Projected images of a barn at Christmas, a farm in winter, the northern lights, a lighthouse, a beach Christmas scene

Optional: American flag, map of the United States

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A NOTE TO THE DIRECTOR

As each scene ends, the Christmas agents will exit and go backstage for a quick costume change. The outfits are simple to switch. From scene 1 to scene 2, simply have the children put on a cowboy hat. From scene 2 to 3, take off the cowboy hat and put on a pair of bibbed overalls or anything that looks like farm clothes. From scene 3 to 4, put on a coat and hat on top of the farm clothes. For scene 5, put on a flannel shirt or jacket and a hat with ear flaps— something that looks like cold New England style clothing. Scene 5 to 6 takes the longest— switch into shorts and a tropical shirt, leis, sunglasses, etc. For scene 7 just remove the leis. You should also have other children ready for Scene 7 wearing scout uniforms or military outfits.

There are **song suggestions** for the younger kids to sing between scenes. These songs are optional and you may choose to do more traditional Christmas carols. If you have children gifted in piano or other instrumental performance, a short selection would be nice to include between scenes. Another option would be a song using hand bells. Ideally, the agents will be ready and waiting in the wings to re-enter the stage as soon as the younger children conclude their performance. In the original production, we had the younger children sit in the first few rows of the sanctuary so that they could quickly get on and off stage, and still able to watch the play.

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Scene 1

(AT RISE: ALL CHILDREN, dressed in school clothes, are excitedly talking about the start of Christmas break.)

AGENT 1: This is awesome! The first day of Christmas break. What are you guys gonna do while we're out of school?

AGENT 2: I want to sleep late every morning and then watch cartoons till lunch time!

AGENT 3: I can't wait to make Christmas cookies with my mom!

AGENT 4: Maybe we'll have snow and can go sledding!

(ALL look up in surprise as a remote control helicopter, a paper airplane, or an envelope attached to fishing line mysteriously comes into the room, with a note attached. Optional SFX: Helicopter.)

AGENT 5: Hey! What's this?

AGENT 6: It says, "Classified. To be opened only by the Christmas agents."

AGENT 7: Christmas agents? Who are they?

AGENT 8: I think they must be us. I don't see anyone else around here.

AGENT 9: Open it! Open it!

(MUSIC: "Mission Impossible"-type music begins to play).

OFFSTAGE VOICE: Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to travel across America searching for things that remind you of the story of the first Christmas. Santas, reindeer, and shopping malls do not count. You must observe things that make you think about the Nativity Story in the Bible. You must decide quickly. This message will self-destruct in 5 seconds.

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AGENTS 1-10: Five! Four! Three! Two! One!

AGENT 10: *(Looks at note in amazement.)* Wow! Did you see that? The ink just disappeared!

AGENT 1: That is so cool!

AGENT 2: So, what do you think? Should we do it?

OTHER AGENTS: Yeah!

AGENT 3: Road trip!!!

AGENT 4: Let's go!

AGENT 5: We're on a mission!

AGENT 6: A Christmas Mission!

(AGENTS exit excitedly and put on cowboy hats backstage. YOUNGER KIDS enter and can sing a carol, play hand bells, or recite a poem. Optional: "If It's Christmas and You Know It" to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." First verse, clap your hands; second verse, stomp your feet; third verse, ring a bell— and have jingle bells for them to ring at this time.)

(Optional scripture reading Luke 2:7. YOUNGER KIDS exit.)

End of Freeview

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