



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

## Away With the Manger

*I remember that each Christmas season, my parents put up a life-size lighted manger scene. My mother had about 20 nativity sets which I now have. (If someone wants one, I will be happy to give you one.) Every year, my wife and I put up about three sets in our home. I have also taken one to my job and shared the message of Christmas with my coworkers. I remember seeing nativity scenes at government properties, schools, hospitals, businesses, and churches. They are now only putting up Holiday trees. Yes, even Christmas trees now are being labelled Holiday trees.*

*My wife and I were involved with church plays that told the story of the birth of Christ. My oldest granddaughter was the baby Jesus in one of the plays when she was a newborn. But the churches we attended no longer do any Christian acting. I remember going to school concerts that once had Christmas music which referenced Christ, but no more. Christmas cantatas and special music were once part of churches' programs, but now they do not even sing the familiar carols. In many churches, the small praise band has replaced the choir and soloist which limits congregates' expressing their musical talents and chances to serve expressly at Christmas.*

*This year, I visited a church that had all kinds of beautiful season-related decorations with 20 lighted trees on the stage. However, nowhere was the baby Jesus or the real reason for the season. I once walked out of a church during their so-called Christmas program. Several churches are adding flashing outside light shows for entertainment with no reference to the birth of Christ.*

*Christmas and Easter are the two times when our churches are most filled. They are the most opportune times to share why Jesus came to live with man, why Jesus died and rose again for man and why man needs to turn to the Lord Jesus. It is a shame that we are away with the manger.*

*Away with the manger.  
Christ's Christmas is dead.  
The baby Lord Jesus  
is gone from our head.*

*A man in a red suit  
now comes to our place.  
Our Lord and Savior  
has sadly been replaced.*

*The lights from our trees  
now shine for that day.  
Did you know, Lord Jesus,  
they say Happy Holiday?*

*Now all the dear children  
know nothing of Thy care.  
Nor how to get to heaven  
to live with Thee there.*

*By Charles Stambaugh*




Old County Court House

*Charles L Stambaugh Mt Wolf, PA*

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:11,12*



Is this still in your house?

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