

The Promised Present



**Ninety-three in the
Heavenly Visits Series
A Christmas Story**

The Promised Present

by Jerry Mobley



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A Christmas Story

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Come for a Visit or two, or more

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**May the God of hope fill you with all
joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Romans 15:13

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Visit Ninety-three

Irene and her older sister, Robin, have accompanied their mother to the mall because she obtained a part-time sales position at the gift store for the Christmas shopping season. Their father, Mack, has been laid off recently and is out of town looking for employment. Their mother, Ester, didn't have anyone to take care of the girls so they had to come with her to work. Robin is twelve and will take care of Irene who is six years old.

During the day, the girls will sit in the mall lobby or visit various stores until their mother is finished for the day. They especially like to go to the toy stores. On one of their many visits, Robin noticed a play set of jewelry. The jeweled necklace is very pretty and Robin is considering putting this cherished item on her Christmas list. Irene found a blue-eyed doll with blond hair wearing a lacy pink dress.

In the car, on the way home from work, the girls are trying to get their mother's attention and make their Christmas wishes known.

Ester tries to quiet the excitement of her daughters, "Girls, Girls! I can't understand you when you yell and talk at the same time. Robin, you go first. What is so important?"

Robin replies, "There is this jeweled necklace at the toy store that is so-o-o-o beautiful. It's so real. Can I get it for Christmas? Please Mommy?!"

Irene interrupts, "Mommy, Mommy, there is this beautiful doll with yellow hair and a pink dress. I'm going to put her on my Christmas list."

Ester doesn't want to discourage her daughters, but she feels they need to know of the family financial problems. She says, "Girls, you know that your father has been out of work and money is a little scarce. I don't know if there will be any left for Christmas presents."

"We should ask God for help, Mommy", Irene says. "Ms Diane said last Sunday that God will help us if we ask Him. I'm going to pray really, really hard. It will be all good, Mommy."

Ester smiles at her youngest daughter. She says, "You are right, Irene. We should pray. God does want us to be happy. We can ask Him for help."

She continues, "Oh, girls, we are going to stop by Ms. Buenna's house on the way home. She is not feeling well and we need to see if there is anything she needs."

For the next three weeks, Irene was faithful to pray for God's help in their finance problems. Christmas is two days away and Irene is ready for bed. She is sitting on her bed praying.

"Dear God, please give us enough money for presents this Christmas. If you can't do that, please fix it so Robin can get the necklace she wants. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen."

Irene goes to sleep, but is awakened shortly after midnight by a bright light in her room. She sits up in bed and sees a beautiful angel sitting at the foot of her bed. The angel says, "Little one, the Lord has heard your request. You will receive the answer to your prayer soon."

Then Irene finds herself alone in her room. She lays down but has trouble going back to sleep. She is very happy and excited at the news provided by the angel.



Irene can hardly contain her excitement the next morning. She runs downstairs and finds her mother in the kitchen making breakfast. Irene exclaims, “Mommy! Mommy! An angel came to my room last night and told me we would get our presents for Christmas! Oh, Mommy, isn’t that wonderful?”

Ester looks into the innocent eyes of her youngest daughter. She says, “That is wonderful, Irene. When did the angel tell you that you would get your presents? Christmas will be here day after tomorrow.”

“I’m not sure, Mommy. She said it would be soon.”

Savannah and her mother are shopping at the mall for last minute presents. They have finished and are walking toward the mall exit when Savannah asks, “Mother, can I buy another present?”

“I thought we completed our Christmas list, Savannah. Who did we forget?”

“I was just thinking... we have so much and there are some kids that won’t get anything for Christmas. Can I get a present and give it to someone and make them happy this year?”

“Savannah! That is a wonderful idea. I’m so proud of you. How did you think of such a great thing?”

“I... I don’t really know. It just came to me.”

“Now, what kind of present should we get... a boy or girl gift?”

“Mommy, I want to get that gift?” Savannah points to a doll in the toy store window.

“Oh, Savannah, you want a doll like that one but with different hair and eye colors... right?”

“No, Mommy. I want that doll with blue eyes and yellow hair.”

“Why, Savannah?”

“I don’t know, Mommy... I just do... please, Mommy.”

It is Christmas morning and Irene wakes and springs out of bed. She waits until she hears her mother in the kitchen preparing breakfast. Then Irene makes a dash to the living room and she beats Robin to the Christmas tree.

There are a few presents under the tree. Irene is a little disappointed because she doesn’t see a present that looks big enough for the promised doll.

Robin whispers, “I don’t see a package that is very big, Irene.”

Irene replies, “Maybe Mommy has them hidden in a closet for later.”

“Yes. Let’s wait and see. Maybe daddy is bringing them with him.”

They hear the front door opening and they run to greet their father. He found a job and he has Christmas and tomorrow off to be with them.

They don’t see any presents and are a little disappointed. They know that the family has very little money and they understand. Maybe Irene misunderstood the angel’s promise.

The family has a good breakfast. After the table is cleared and the dishes washed, they gather in the living room to open the presents.

Irene receives a package of lacy handkerchiefs and a new blue blouse. Robin opens her present to find a new dress. The girls are happy with the gifts.

Their mother comes from the kitchen carrying a square box. Robin asks, “What’s in the box, Mother?”

She replies, “It’s a box of cookies for Ms. Buenna. She likes to see you girls. Take the cookies, wish her a Merry Christmas and see if she needs anything. I worry about her living all alone. Come home after you are finished and we’ll have ice cream and cookies for dessert.”

It is a short distance to Ms. Buenna’s house. When they arrive on the front porch, she calls from inside, “Come in, girls. The door is unlocked.”

Ms. Buenna is sitting on the sofa. Irene runs to her and gives her a big hug. Ms. Buenna exclaims, “My! My! ‘Renee. I love you too. Come here, Robin, and let me see how you’ve grown.”

Robin says, “We came to wish you a Merry Christmas and give you this box of cookies.”

“Well, thank you girls. Your mother makes the best chocolate chip cookies. You tell her thank you and Merry Christmas to your family also.”

Irene says, “Ms. Buenna, there are two people at your front door.”

“They are from my church. They have brought me my lunch. Ask them to come in, ‘Renee.”

Irene opens the door and says, “Hello, my name is Irene and that is my sister, Robin. Come in, Please.”

The young girl says, “Hello, I’m Savannah and that’s my mom.”

Savannah’s mother says, “we’ll take the food to the kitchen, Ms. Buenna. You can eat when you are ready.”

Robin says, “we’d better get home, Ms. Buenna. We just wanted to see if you needed anything.”

Ms. Buenna says, “Robin, go into my bedroom and you’ll see a box on the dresser. Bring it to me, please.”

Robin finds a Christmas wrapped box and brings it to Ms. Buenna. She says, “Robin, you have helped me so much this year and I want to give you a present. Please open it.”

Robin opens the present and exclaims, “Oh my! It’s a beautiful pearl necklace. Ms. Buenna, it’s too expensive. I don’t think I can take it.”

“You can and you will. I wouldn’t have given it to you unless I wanted you to have it. I’m sorry, ‘Renee. I don’t have anything for you.”

“That’s okay, Ms. Buenna. I prayed that Robin would get the necklace she wanted and the angel said that God would answer my prayer.”

Robin says, “But Irene, you prayed for a doll also.”

Irene says, “No matter, I’m so happy that you got the present you wanted. I’m happy as it is.”

Savannah says, “Well, I think I have something that God wants you to have. I didn’t know why but He put it in my heart that I should buy this for someone for Christmas. You must be the one, Irene.”

Savannah gives Irene a Christmas gift bag. Irene reaches in and pulls out the doll with blond hair and blue eyes. She exclaims with joy, “This is wonderful! It’s the exact doll I wished for. The angel was correct. God DID answer my prayer.

Ms. Buenna says, “God does that a lot, ‘Renee. You girls have a Merry Christmas and thank you for helping me.



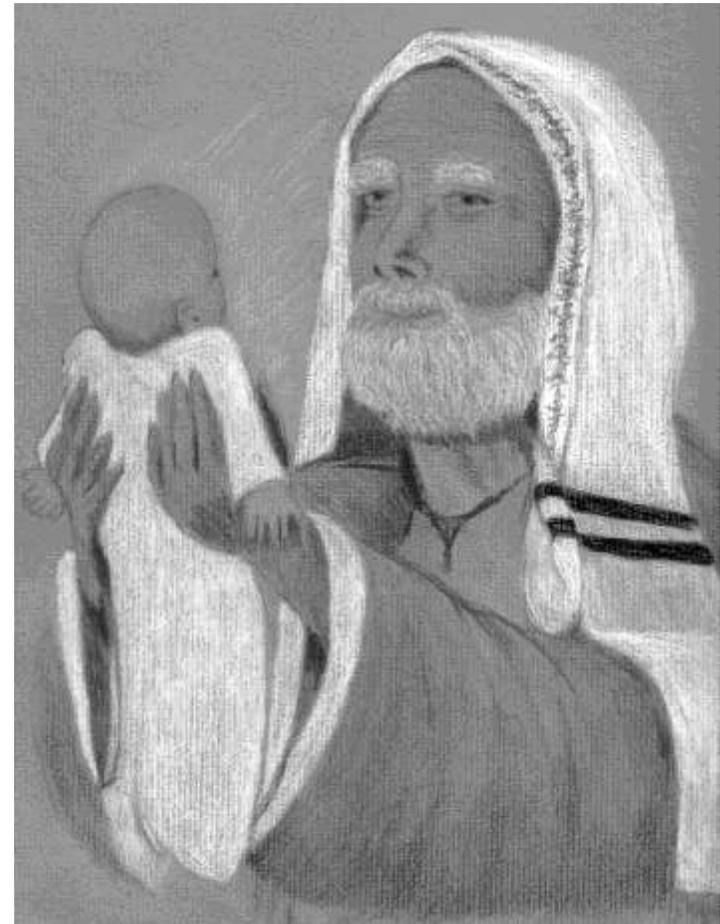
**To answer a child's improbable prayer,
we must understand
the Lord may require the delivery by a
stranger's hand.**

**When God whispers an unusual
request in our ear,
the Father will require a pure heart to
obediently do what we hear.**

**Simeon took him (Jesus) in his arms and praised
God, saying:**

**“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation....”**

Luke 2: 28 - 30a



Jesus, the promised one

Merry Christmas

The Promised Present

**Angels announced the birth
of the promised messiah,
God's Son,
Jesus.**



Merry Christmas

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