

men@trinity

Newsletter

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THE NATIVITY STORY

(cert PG)

chronicles the arduous journey of two people, Mary and Joseph, a miraculous pregnancy, and the history-defining birth of Jesus. This dramatic and compelling story comes to life in a major motion picture starring Academy

Award nominee Keisha Castle-Hughes (Whale Rider) as Mary, Oscar Isaac (Guerilla) as Joseph, and Academy Award nominee Shohreh Aghdashloo (House of Sand and Fog) as Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. THE NATIVITY STORY is directed by Catherine Hardwicke (Thirteen) from a screenplay by Mike Rich (The Rookie).

“This story means so much to people all over the world, I hope audiences can relate to the film on a personal level and find some inspiration to get through their own challenges and difficulties”

Director Catherine Hardwicke

The filmmakers are bringing an unprecedented level of commitment to ensure the authenticity not only of the nativity story itself, but of the film’s look as well. Director Catherine Hardwicke, a former production designer, was adamant that every detail from the locations, to the sets, to the props, look and feel authentic. As a result, Hardwicke, writer Mike Rich, and production designer Stefano Ortolani spent countless hours researching the era. Reference www.premier.org.uk 2006.

For more information go to www.thenativitystory.co.uk

www.trinitymethodist.org.uk

Page 1

Sent via email, Author unknown.

One day, when I was a freshman in high school,
I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school.
His name was Kyle.

It looked like he was carrying all of his books.

I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd."

I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him.

They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him.

He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him and as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye.

As I handed him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives."

He looked at me and said, "Hey thanks!" There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived.

As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before.

He said he had gone to private school before now.

I would have never hung out with a private school kid before.

We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books.

He turned out to be a pretty cool kid.

I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends?

He said yes.

We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came! , and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again.

I stopped him and said, "Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!

" He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship. Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak. Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him. Boy, sometimes I was jealous! Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled." Thanks," he said. As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach...but mostly your friends... I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story." I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable." I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his Mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize it's depth. Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way.

FROM THE POTTING SHED

Greetings

Well Christmas is coming and if we're not careful we gardeners will be getting fat over the festive season so make sure you get out there and get busy!



This month I thought I'd give you my definitive guide to Christmas trees to help you make the right choice of tree. Artificial trees have got better and there's a big range to suit all budgets, and they have the advantage of lasting for years. However, nothing beats a real tree and now there are loads to choose from. Living trees are fine as long as you keep them outside until as near Christmas as possible and water them well when they come in. They can be planted in large pots or the ground to keep them for another year, but water them in dry spells. They must be replaced when they get too big to dig up. Cut trees are easier but need to be kept in water to prevent needle drop. So which variety is best?

Norway spruce: The traditional variety and a cheap option. However it is prone to losing a lot of needles and the shape is often poor – the choice for a low budget or short life-span.

Blue spruce: Another cheaper option. Loses a lot of needles which is a sharp. Not a good choice with children or pets about. Better shape than Norway spruce.

Noble fir: Native to USA this is less common but has good shape and keeps its needles quite well. The flexible branches make it harder to decorate and can look tired after a while.

Fraser fir: A recent introduction which originates in USA. It needs the least water and the needles keep well. The shape is compact making it good for smaller rooms.

Lodgepole pine: Something different from the Rocky Mountains. This tree keeps its needles well but those that drop are long and harder to Hoover up. It has good shape but harder to decorate. A good choice if you want something unusual and more expensive.

Nordman fir: The best for keeping its needles, shape, and easy to decorate. More expensive than many others: but the best value for money, especially if you want a tree to keep for 2-3 weeks indoors.

Happy gardening and God bless.