



Sunday School Children's Christmas Program was held on December 9 during the worship service. Check out the web page for photos. It got off to a rocky start with the weather, but the children did an excellent job. Following is a copy of an email that Maxine sent on Monday after the program.

I just have to tell you this story about yesterday. We definitely have a God that has a sense of humor. (It's a little long, but thanks for letting me share.)

It all started on Saturday when the weather began turning bad. I was stressing out about our children's Christmas program anyway, just because I do. The children had been working very hard preparing for the program on Sunday. I kept going through everything in my mind, every detail, the lights, the sound, the props, the children. I wanted everything to be just right so that the kids would have a good time and be able to bring a good program to the congregation. I got a call that one of the children would not be able to be there on Sunday. I got another call that "The Voice" was not going to come out in the ice after falling last year and breaking multiple ribs. I totally understood. No problem, I thought, someone else can read the parts. We are very flexible.

I began wondering if we would even have church on Sunday with all of the ice. A lot of area churches were closing. I was worrying that the kids would not be able to get there and then that no one would show up from the congregation. And I definitely did not want anyone getting hurt trying to get out. We could schedule it for next week, but we were ready. It was okay, whatever happened, happened.

On Sunday morning, I got up early so I could be ready in plenty of time. The phone started ringing. First phone call was one of the kids that was going to do tech for us, he wasn't feeling good. Then are we having the program was the question over and over as the phone kept ringing. A minister from another church called, are you having church he asked. I told him as far as I know, I hadn't heard any different. He said the Baptist were not, but they were and I could see Methodist minister's car at the church. The kids were ready for the program, the Outreach and Worship departments had the Christmas dinner ready to go, so the higher ups decided to go ahead with church. It really wasn't so bad out, sleety more than icy.

By now, I was hurrying to finish getting ready. My husband had gone out and cleaned the windows of our van. He was going to drive me the big three blocks to church.

I was ready to go, I had prayed my prayers that everything would go great for the program and that everyone would get there safely. I opened the passenger door to the van just as Cliff put on the wipers. As I stood there with a head full of ice chunks from the front windshield, my dear hubby couldn't keep from laughing. So much for spending time on my hair. He apologized through his laughter, and I told him, I would laugh too, only later. (Do you see God's sense of humor?)

When we got to church all of the children started arriving. One of the older youth was my first victim. He said yes when I asked him to run the CDs and the power point. All the rest of the kids came and were ready for the program. We usually pray at the end of Sunday School, well today, I told them, we are praying before we even begin. The kids were excellent and so were the teachers, they helped think of all of the things that I had forgotten.

We went through it once during Sunday School. They say, a bad rehearsal makes for a good program. I was hoping that was true. The kids weren't bad, it was just very unorganized. But the kids were ready as the people began to come in for church, and a lot of people came. A thought crossed my mind, these kids didn't have a chance to go to the bathroom before church or have a snack like they usually do. Someone is going to have to go, I was sure, but they didn't. They all sat in the front pews and I told them it was time to start church and then we would do our program. One little girl looked at me and said, we're going to do it again? I told her that was just practice and now was the real thing.

Church started and the kids were angels. Everything went smoothly. The kids said their lines, the big kids pitched in as angels, prop movers and microphone holders, behind the scene helpers, etc. The teachers helped out. The children were great: they presented a great program as we stepped back in time to Bethlehem through the help of a time machine. They showed us that indeed our God is an awesome God. I know that God was with us. Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

After the program, here comes more of the sense of humor part, my hubby told me something. I really wanted to tape this program, so he was set up in the balcony all ready to tape. He told me that he wasn't able to tape. I thought it was cool that we turned the lights out for the program, but when they were switched off, it turned out the outlet for the camera. Funny, huh? That's okay, the kids still did an excellent job, we just don't get to watch it again.

The Christmas dinner was excellent also. Thank you to the departments that prepared and set up. Thank you also to everyone for my Christmas gift and the flowers.

We have a wonderful God and I am so glad that he has a sense of humor and helps us have one too. And that he helps us focus on the positive, not the negative, because the positive outweighs the negative.