



The traditional place of Jesus' birth

Visitors to today's Bethlehem are sometimes taken aback. It's just not what they expected. Where is the greeting card scenery? Why are there so many religions represented here? Why does that Santa Claus seem so out of place in this, mainly, Arabic / Palestinian town? Why does a deceased Yasar Arafat seem to have more prominence than Jesus? A tourist visiting this town for the day ends up quite perplexed. The truth is that the birth of Jesus as the King of kings and Lord of lords also seemed incongruous. The Romans were the occupiers and the Jews were trodden down. A feeding trough for barnyard animals was the "throne" for this humble king. It was in this setting that a "wildman" of the desert pointed to a now grown Jesus and said "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." No, it isn't and it wasn't a religious theme park that Jesus entered into. It was a rough and tumble time where thievery and murder were the order of the day for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. When Jesus and family travelled to and from Jerusalem they would have remained in a group, for safety reasons. Orthodox, moderate and conservative Jews argued and battled each other for supremacy of the newly reconstructed Temple. Both Roman and Jewish politicians continually attempted to land "butter side up" with whoever was in power. Corruption was everywhere - from the taxman to the soldiers. Every moment of every day was an administration nightmare. At any moment the latest Caesar could call for a new tax and a head count to be sure he received it all. Herod's playgrounds were often places of debauchery and murder. All of this is, unsurprisingly, absent from the frosted Christmas cards of cherub angels and airbrushed history. These are the turbulent times that the Son of God chose to be "published" in flesh form. It was for such a time as that and for such a time as this that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Jesus was the Messiah for the 1st century. He also was the Saviour for the first millennia. He is even more needed as the answer to 21st century London's problems and Tel Aviv's and Baghdad's and Kabul's and - even Bethlehem's and Jerusalem's.

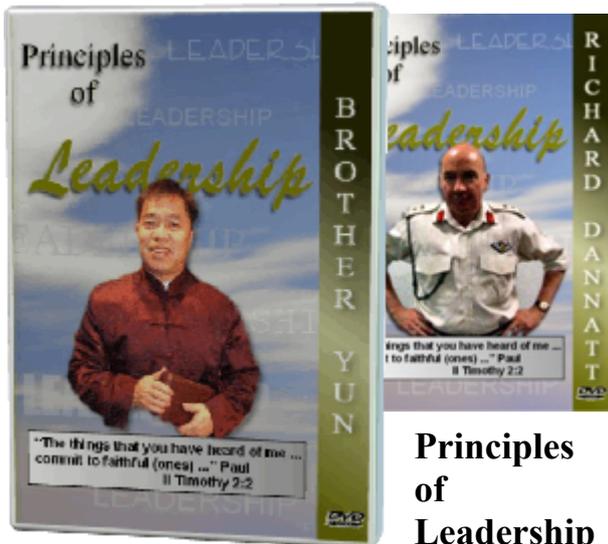


O not so little town of Bethlehem



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A Word in Your Ear



*Executive Producer
David Sullivan*

Dear Prayer Partner & Friend,
In almost every way the "little town of Bethlehem" has changed. The humble manger in the humbler stable is no more. Today a gold and jewel encrusted church stands over the traditional spot where Jesus lay. Yet, millions of pilgrims through the churches to remember and pay homage to the King of kings and Lord of lords. They don't seem bothered by the "trappings" that surround. In the same way we have been given a "season" in which to celebrate, on an almost worldwide scale, the birth of Jesus. Yes, it's garish and tinsel-filled, but it's still a golden opportunity. Many people decry the media of television. Yet, again, we have the chance to reach millions worldwide through this method. I have heard quite a few stories about Christians being in a place that other Christians say that they shouldn't be. God gave a very sure and distinct indication that HE was in that place. Have we sanitised everything around us to make this a "Christian world" when it just isn't? Jesus reached the "down and outers" in their down and out location. He also attempted to reach the "up and inners" in their place. Christianity is not a "come and get it" thing. It is a "go and bring it" Gospel. That's why we've chosen to be in films, TV, music, drama, documentaries, in "closed" countries and in "tough" places. Some say that the church is made of pioneers and settlers. Yet isn't settling for the "later" and pioneering for the "now". Heaven won't need faith pioneers. We are all needed now. Christianity is also not a "comfort zone" or comfort clad religion. Just ask Peter, Paul and Mary (the Bible people not the singers). They were pilgrims in a "foreign land" (earth). There's work to be done because dusk is on the way!

Yours for the Harvest,

David Sullivan

Photos On Location



*Filming on the Sea of Galilee
for the film
“The Land that God Remembers”*



*Interviewing ICEJ’s
Malcolm Hedding in Jerusalem
for “Principles of Leadership” TV*



*Interviewing
inventor
Trevor Baylis OBE
at his home /
workshop
for the new
“Principles of
Business” TV*



*Filming on the Mt. Of Olives
for the film
“The People of the Book”*

*Interviewing British
Evangelist Don Double
in his favourite
Cornwall.*



OUR NEW LOOK WEBSITE

www.principles.tv

Due to a change of web host providers our planned redesign of our website has gone ahead “full steam ahead”. Redesigning all 200+ pages has been a mammoth task but we are well towards completing it. The look has a fresher and cleaner feel to it and, we believe, is easier to navigate. At some time in the future we will eventually spin-off full fledged websites to cover our TV network, our Christian Leadership Training, our film production and our China outreaches, with a mention to our outreaches in 44 other countries. We have always considered ourselves a very unique ministry and our website seems to be reflecting that. With visitors from approximately 40 countries each and every month it is, obviously, filling a need for Christians worldwide. If you haven’t stopped by – give us a quick peek. And we’d love to hear your comments.

TV BROADCASTS

principles.tv

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www.agapelive.net

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