



December 1, 2016

The Danger Zone 

Dear Friends:

Here's a small exam for you to take...Would the place described below be one you would want for your street address?

Do you want a place that is high risk for small children? How about a hotbed of violence and murder? A place where you would have to literally run from danger? Some place where there is inadequate housing? In other words, would it be a place with lots of weeping and mourning?

Oh, I failed to mention what was just described is the Bible's Christmas story!!!

Deadly for under-age children

A hotbed of violence and killing

"Then Herod, when he realized that he had been mocked by the wise men, was filled with anger, and sent his soldiers and murdered all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the surrounding coasts, from two years old and under." Matthew 2:16

Running from a danger zone?

"And when they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and remain there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." Matthew 2:13

Inadequate shelter?

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

Heaps of weeping and mourning? (see Matt. 2:16)

Of course, a lot of what was just described is found round-the-clock in Memphis' Belt Line Community. Yet Jesus was born into just such a scary locale where a 'saber-toothed tiger of worry prowls.' Jesus arrived here "to preach good news to the poor...[and] to release the oppressed." (Luke 4:18-19). This is both a spiritual and social salvage mission. Will we join prayerfully and financially in supporting such a mission as Jacob's Ladder? My wife and I do regularly, and we urge you also to do so.

Jim Townsend, Retired Instructor
Mid-South Bible College