

## **Busy in Bethlehem**

Two thousand years ago, there were no earthly plans for celebrating Jesus' birth. Quietly and unannounced, Joseph and Mary entered Bethlehem and searched for a place to spend the night.

It was a busy time in the Judean village, but the excitement had nothing to do with the upcoming birth. The crowds had gathered to take part in a census. They didn't know that Mary was about to deliver the Messiah.

As Christmas approaches this year, the story has changed. There are serious discussions about how Bethlehem can get ready for the millions of tourists who will converge on the Israeli city during the holiday. What a contrast to that first Christmas! Now the officials know that it's all about the birth of that Baby in the manger long ago.

We can make all the plans we want to, but the best way to celebrate Jesus' birthday – even more than visiting Bethlehem – is by trusting him as Savior.

--Beecher Hunter