



## When God Came Down

### Blessings!

There is a traditional Cameroon song entitled, "He Came Down." The words are as follows:

*"He came down that we may have love; He came down that we may have love; He came down that we may have love, Hallelujah for evermore.*

*He came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may have peace, Hallelujah for evermore.*

*He came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may have joy, Hallelujah for evermore."*

Between each verse, the Cantor or song leader will sing "Why did He come?"

As I hear and read this song, as I imagine the setting of its origin, I picture the women of a village preparing the food for the feast they will be celebrating - Christmas. Their children are gathered around learning the "tricks of the trade" and learning the lessons of life from their mothers, aunts and grandparents. In this simple song, these children are learning the purpose of His coming. When asked, "Why did He come?" they will forevermore be able to respond with the lyrics of this song and the truth of His promise.

Advent is a time to prepare. We hear John the Baptist preaching that we must "Prepare a way for the Lord..." It is the perfect time to prepare the way in the hearts of our little ones. To open up that space in their hearts for God's coming that we celebrate at Christmas. If our focus is on Jesus, so will the focus of our little ones.

This year, we placed our manger scene on its own little table. We had purposely left the baby Jesus out of the scene so that on Christmas, we could place him there - reenacting His arrival. Well, it didn't last long. Maggie (our #2) immediately went in search of the lost baby Jesus and would not rest until she found Him. She said that the most important one wasn't there. It didn't matter that everyone else was there and in the right place, if Jesus wasn't in the center of it all. Now, she carries this little statue of the baby Jesus with her as she eats her lunch or sits to watch TV. She holds Him and carries Him around the house all the time. We may need to superglue the statue once or twice this year, but that's fine with us. Maggie will keep Him near her heart throughout this Advent and Christmas season. Will we?

Our third little girl will arrive this coming April. Maggie and Emma will hold this baby girl as close and as much as they can. We will probably have to pry them away for bedtime. But we so look forward to them being able to sing the songs of Christmas for the little one teaching her why "He Came Down..." ♪ SC

## Advent Reflections (Another Year)

In keeping with the tradition of our St. Anthony's Advent Reflections Book and my follow-up newsletters, I am including a sampling of what I had submitted this year. Unfortunately, Jen was unable to break through the sleepy stage of pregnancy to submit her words of wisdom this year. Maybe next year she'll be able to kick out a few more (reflections, not babies...).

*On That Day* - Throughout Advent, so many of our Old Testament and Psalm readings look with hope to something possibly near, possibly far off, but certainly inevitable. "On that day" is a refrain heard often in the days leading up to Christmas.

Certain things will happen - certain things will come to pass. Things that once were impossible will be possible. All of this supported or surrounded by rejoicing, singing, shouting and dancing.

Our suburban 21st century American lifestyle often doesn't give us an opportunity to know what joyful hope our ancestors had - what they were hoping for in relation to their struggles. The closest we can get to the extreme plight of these people is to look to our not so distant past and examine the lives of the slaves in America. Living in pitiful conditions unfit for humans, so many of these people

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## Upcoming Performance

**Christmas Concert with Lisa Griffin - December 19, 2004 - 6PM - St. Anthony of Padua Church, 3364 Oneida Street, Chadwicks, NY. Admission is free.**

## Performance Reviews and Stuff

### MAY 12-16, 2004 - CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF MUSICIANS (CAM) CONFERENCE, BERRYVILLE, ARKANSAS

This was by far, one of the greatest things I could have done in my music ministry. Daily mass where I was able to receive my Lord in Word and Sacrament - daily fellowship, learning, sharing and praising God. The weekend was so wonderful for this ministry. I have challenged myself to be a better Christian, a better Catholic, and a better musician as a result of this conference.

Presentations by all the presenters inspired me. I left the weekend drained yet energized. It was a wonderful and beautiful experience.

I enjoyed meeting / talking to and sharing with all the people at CAM. I had a chance to meet some amazing people including *John Michael Talbot, Joe Hand, Joe Moorman, Terry Little, Denis Grady, and Lynn Geyer.*

I am so blessed to have been able to attend this conference despite plane cancellations and travel flubs. It was wonderful! ♪ SC

### JUNE 12, 2004 - RELAY FOR LIFE - CANCER WALK, SAUQUOIT HIGH SCHOOL, SAUQUOIT, NY

This year, I was asked to speak during the Luminaries Ceremony about the ceremony and my thoughts. I wrote "I Will Carry You" just for the event. The speech and lyrics for the song can be found on my website. It is a follow-up to "It Takes A Little Rain," but this time for my brother, father and mother. It is inspired by my dad and brother as they would carry my mom around near the end of her earthly life to bathe or sit on the porch or whatever. Their strength and tenderness were inspiring. It is also a song that is like the Footprints poem about how during the tough times in life, God carries us. I truly hope the song brings comfort to those in need of God's comfort and peace. The song was featured on the video of the event. ♪ SC

### JUNE 21, 2004 - LIMEX GRADUATION DINNER - SYRACUSE, NY

Loyola University offers a wonderful masters degree program in theology of which many people from the area have taken advantage. The people who complete the program are wonderful resources for the parishes throughout the diocese.

I was asked to be a part of the pre-event, prayer service and dinner entertainment. The evening was great as I was able to just sing away for two hours. I received a tremendous amount of feedback and made a few contacts that hopefully will result in some more sharing of this ministry with the world.

I am so thankful to have been able to share with these wonderful people. ♪ SC

### AUGUST 15, 2004 - GOOD NEWS FOUNDATION OUTDOOR CONCERT - UTICA/DEERFIELD, NY

A beautiful night (the hurricane held off) and a wonderful concert. The Good News Foundation's Bible Distribution Program benefited from the free will offering. We hoped for more people, but those who came were very pleased with the concert - the highlight was Maggie singing Animal Crackers In My Soup. ♪ SC

### JULY 31, 2004 - SYRACUSE DIOCESE YOUTH CONGRESS ON VOCATIONS - FAYETTEVILLE, NY

I provided music and Jen and I shared our thoughts and feelings on marriage as a vocation. God called us to be married - to share God's love with the world through our marriage. We were able to share this with some of the youth of our diocese and were so blessed to have had that opportunity. We were able to work with some great people and had a great time with JD (Father John Donovan - our pastor from Colgate, who is now the diocesan Vocations Director).

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## Advent and Christmas Reflections (continued)

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rejoiced in the hope offered by God - hope for freedom from the burdens of slavery and life. Their songs were filled with this hope and rejoicing - "soon I will be done with the troubles of this world - I'm going home to live with God" and "soon and very soon, we are going to see the king." The Jews, the slaves, the troubled, the weak, the battered, the poor, the lonely, the oppressed, the terrorized, the manipulated, the sick, the disabled - all waiting.

So we all wait - do we wait with hopeful anticipation? Are we ready to truly rejoice at the coming of our Lord Jesus? Will we be ready when He comes again?

On that day - on this day. Now is the time to prepare our spirits, minds and bodies for this amazing gift of love. So sing with abandon at Mass with the voice God has given you, in joyful thanksgiving and praise for His love and mercy, for the gift of Jesus. ♪ SC

## Advent and Christmas Reflections (continued)

**"Do I have to?"** A question I remember raising many times as I was growing up. This question was my immediate response to requests for help - "Seanie, can you take out the garbage?" or "Seanie, can you take this over to the neighbor?". It was also the response to "you need to get up and go down to church to serve at Mass (at 7AM on a snow day!). Even now, I struggle with that question and the answers vary from "No, I don't" to "I'd better or else!". Maybe I need to keep my narrow gaze on the two "Yes" answers that made all the difference.

Without the "Yes" from Mary, our God would not have become one of us. Without the "Yes" from Jesus on the cross, we would not have been able to share fully in God's abundant love.

"Do I have to" - go to church when I'm tired? "Do I

have to" - sing at church? "Do I have to" - pay attention when I think it is boring? "Do I have to" - join hands with the person I dislike? "Do I have to" - do more than just "be a good person"? "Do I have to" - suffer? "Do I have to" - surrender myself?

Our amazing fully human, fully divine Savior would answer all these and any other with "No". We don't "have to" do any of it. But don't you want to? Don't you want to let the Father run to us to meet us on the road? Don't you want to be the blind man given sight, or the leper who was cured? If we respond with "Can I..." and "What else...", the joy in Heaven will be felt within our hearts. That joy is the same joy the world can feel when our God comes to meet us at Christmas. ♪ SC

## Performance Reviews – My thoughts (continued)

The day was fun and filled with some wonderful, insightful young men and women who are discerning God's call for their life.

Following this, The Catholic Sun, our diocesan newspaper, asked us to share a bit about ourselves regarding marriage and how faith plays such a vital role in our love and life together. We even had a "huge" picture on the front page. My girlies were so cute that day. ♪ SC

### AUGUST 29, 2004 - FAMILY COFFEE HOUSE - WESTERVILLE, NY

What do you get when you have no power and a big rain storm? Very few people at a coffeehouse to watch me go "unplugged" for an hour and a half. Fortunately, the family was there cheering me on and joining in a bit. It was fun and enjoyable regardless of the power outage. ♪ SC

### SEPTEMBER 3, 2004 - WEST SCHUYLER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - BREAD OF LIFE CAFE, WEST SCHUYLER, NY

This evening was the 28th Bread of Life Cafe. Mark and Sue and all the people from WSUMC are great and have a wonderful ministry. Since it was Labor Day Weekend, Mark said about 15 of the regulars didn't show, but it was a really nice night - people were very happy with the music and message. It was great to share. ♪ SC



Picture from Catholic Sun article about Faith and Marriage.

### SEPTEMBER 25, 2004 - JOURNEY OF FAITH -ANNUAL DIOCESAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM - SYRACUSE ONCEN-TER

All I have to say is... I got to play and sing with MARTY HAUGEN (you know... Mass of Creation, We Remember, Gather Us In, Canticle of the Sun, etc...)!!!!!! ♪ SC

### OCTOBER 30, 2004 - MOLOKAI HOUSE - COFFEEHOUSE @ ST. JOSEPH/ST. PATRICK PARISH CENTER - UTICA, NY

Run by the wonderful people of St. Joe / St. Pat's and Lou DeAngelis, this coffeehouse, was probably one of the best concerts I've had. The people were great and we had a FUN time! I pray that God will give another opportunity to return and share. ♪ SC

### NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, ETC...? 2004 - ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH -

### CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP - NEW HARTFORD, NY

Recently, I have had the pleasure of singing with this group at St. John's. They lead the sung prayer of the assembly on the third Saturday of every month. It has been a great experience so far and I hope to continue to share with them. I love congregational singing and love to hear everyone participating to their fullest potential. I pray that their enthusiasm continues, the support of the parishioners strengthens their commitment, and that their numbers increase. ♪ SC

# CD Review – Catholic Music Network

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Since I have no way of using credit cards at this point in the music ministry, I have been able to work with CatholicMusic-Network.com to provide an online marketplace for my music. This is what they had to say about Tuning Up...

*"Knowing that God is there is a theme that **Sean Clive** uses in his recently released debut album, **Tuning Up**. Blending contemporary acoustic and liturgical music, Sean evokes a tangible expression of the power of God's love. His original acoustic songs as well as his covers of contemporary Christian composers reveal the healing and awe-inspiring presence of God amidst simple joys and tragic circumstances. His album includes a special tribute to his mother, Linda, who died of breast cancer in 1997. She was a source of inspiration for both his singing and his faith. The song, "It Takes a Little Rain," speaks of how in order to appreciate the "sun" or joy in life, we must also experience the "rain" or sadness that life brings. Clive's "October Sun" deals with the awesome handiwork God does with all things, from the tiniest leaf to the highest mountain. God is a true artist. We can see how God loves us in all things, and this is echoed in the song, "I'll Always Love You." If we are hurting then He will heal us with His Son's love. **Tuning Up** is an awesome collection of songs of inspiration. ([http://www.catholicmusicnetwork.com/cmn\\_cd\\_detail.asp?PRODUCT\\_ID=50285](http://www.catholicmusicnetwork.com/cmn_cd_detail.asp?PRODUCT_ID=50285))*

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If you know of any venues (e.g. churches, coffeehouses, events), please pass the word along that I am currently booking through 2005. Feel free to give out my number or website - [www.seanclive.com](http://www.seanclive.com) - for more information about me and this ministry.  
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## A Christmas Prayer

Almighty God and Father of light,  
A child is born for us and a son is given to us.  
Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven  
in the silent watches of the night,  
and now your Church is filled with wonder  
at the nearness of her God.  
Open our hearts to receive his life  
and increase our vision with the rising of dawn,  
that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

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Sean Clive – 8/5 Music  
40 Hartford Terrace  
New Hartford, NY 13413