



NATALIE LINSTROM/DN

Radio program to re-enact story of Christmas through children

DALLAS (AP) — It's the Christmas story from the Bible, but probably not the way you remember it.

In this version, three girls — daughters of the Wise Men — want to reach the stable where Jesus is born. They want to warn their dads about King Herod's plot to kill the baby Jesus.

Along the way, they bump into other kids who help them on their quest, including the son of a centurion, a shepherd boy, and the children of an innkeeper.

In the end, the girls get word to their fathers and foil Herod's evil plan.

That plot is from "A Way to the Manger," a holiday radio program for children and the first installment of "Ancient Heroes Christmas Chronicles."

"It's like an old-time radio program," said Terry Brown, owner of Youth Life Creations, the company that developed Ancient Heroes — a line of trading cards, coloring books and, now, radio programs featuring Bible heroes and villains.

"At the holiday season families can sit around the radio and listen to the programs together," he said. "I think it's a good positive alternative to turning on the television."

For the project, Youth Life Creations teamed up with the Dallas-based USA Radio Network, which distributes the show to its affiliates.

"It's not exactly 'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas,' but it is definitely an opportunity for children to get involved

in the real story of Christmas," said Mike Sala, national director of sales and marketing for the USA Radio Network.

About 180 radio stations have signed up to air the program, which comes in two half-hour installments, Sala said.

KBBW-AM in Waco, Texas, plans to air "Christmas Chronicles" in December. Bill Thrasher, operations manager for the Christian talk station, said he hadn't heard the program yet, but liked the concept.

"We're just really looking forward to it and I think it holds great promise for our listeners," Thrasher said.

Thrasher, who has children of his own, said with all the messages young people receive through media outlets, it's important to have some spiritual messages, like the one sent out by the radio show.

"It's important from a moral and spiritual point of view that young people can have some spiritual grounding," he said.

Rick Eldridge, the show's North Carolina-based principal writer, thinks having children as the main characters will help kids relate.

The underlying theme of the story is that cooperation and trust help the kids reach their goal.

"I think more than anything it just gives a chance for kids to have the message put in front of them in a medium that catches people every day in their car," Sala said.

And, despite the name, the programs won't end when the Christmas season is over. Sala and Brown say there are plans to put together chronicles for Easter and other holidays.

The Ancient Heroes line of products began in 1993 when Brown, a mother of three and retired registered nurse from Muncie, Ind., came up with the idea. Her sons asked her to buy them superhero trading cards, but when she saw them, she didn't like them.

She asked the salesman in the trading card store if there were any alternatives.

"Don't you have any Bible heroes?" Brown asked. "You know, cool ones?"

The answer was no. After searching, the only thing Brown could find that came close was a deck of cards featuring Bible characters. They weren't very exciting, in Brown's opinion, so she decided to make her own.

There are 50 cards in the current set and they feature some typical heroes and villains — Moses, David, Goliath — but also include some possibly less-familiar characters.

On the back of each card is a summary of the life of each character or event, followed by questions whose answers kids can look up in the Bible.

Brown said a new set of cards, featuring characters from the New Testament, is planned and the company is going to keep branching out.

DJs hold Toys for Tots camp-out

From Staff Reports

'Tis the season for giving, and three local disc jockeys will be making sure some less fortunate children will have something underneath the tree on Christmas morning.

In support of the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve's Toys for Tots program, Tim, The Animal and Johnny Royal, morning personalities from KIBZ-FM 106.3 The Blaze, will be holding the Fifth Annual Toys for Tots Winter Camp-out.

The camp-out will be in the Super KMart Center parking lot at 3300 N. 27th Street. It begins at 6 a.m. Friday and runs until noon on Saturday.

Some of Lincoln's finest will be stopping by to make guest appearances, including Mayor Mike Johanns; Lt. Gov. Kim Robak; Lincoln Stars coach Steve Johnson and members of the team; Cornhusker Basketball Coach Danny Nee; and Steve Taylor, a former Cornhusker and Canadian Football League quarterback.

Beavis and Butthead differ from their creator

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"Unsolved Mysteries") as the head of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms division of the government, and screen veteran Cloris Leachman as the old lady who encounters the duo several times on their voyage.

While Judge was not allowed to name some of the other voices, there is speculation that Demi Moore is the voice of the lead female character.

Judge himself does the voices of both Beavis and Butthead, as well as schoolteacher Van Driessen and their neighbor Tom Anderson.

Despite the popularity of the show, Judge rarely gets recognized. "I do overhear people doing Beavis and Butthead, and they don't know I'm me," Judge said. "I went to University of California San Diego for college and I was down there

visiting someone, and I was walking across the campus and this guy behind me goes 'Hey Beavis' and I turned around and said 'Hey' and then I realized, he's looking at me like, 'Who's this idiot?'"

"I've had weird things like that happen," Judge said.

He may end the series when Beavis and Butthead "score," he said.

"I think if they ever did score, it would be Beavis and a much older woman, probably," Judge said. "If they ever score, it would be like Charlie Brown and the football. She (Lucy) always pulls it away at the last minute, and if he ever did get a piece of that football, it would be the end of Charlie. So maybe when it's finally time to end all of this, maybe that'll be the way."

"Beavis & Butthead Do America" opens in theaters Dec. 20.

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