



He Loves to Be with the Ones He Loves

Holiday travel. It isn't easy. the airports? You know the answer. We love to be with the ones we love.

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The four-year-old running up the sidewalk into the arms of Grandpa.

The cup of coffee with Mom before the rest of the house awakes.

That moment when, for a moment, everyone is quiet as we hold hands around the table and thank God for family and friends and pumpkin pie.

We love to be with the ones we love.

May I remind you? So does God. He loves to be with the ones he loves. How else do you explain what he did? Between him and us there was a distance—a great span. And he couldn't bear it. He couldn't stand it. So he did something about it.

Before coming to the earth, "Christ himself was like God in every-thing.... But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant" (Phil. 2:6-7 NCV).

Why? Why did Jesus travel so far?

I was asking myself that question when I spotted the squirrels outside my window. A family of black-tailed

squirrels has made its home amid the roots of the tree north of my office. We've been neighbors for three years now. They watch me peck the keyboard. I watch them store their nuts and climb the trunk. We're mutually amused. I could watch them all day. Sometimes I do.

But I've never considered becoming one of them. The squirrel world holds no appeal to me. Who wants to sleep next to a hairy rodent with beady eyes? (No comments from you wives who feel you already do.) Give up the Rocky Mountains, bass fishing, weddings, and laughter for a hole in the ground and a diet of dirty nuts? Count me out.

But count Jesus in. What a world he left. Our classiest mansion would be a tree trunk to him. Earth's finest cuisine would be walnuts on heaven's table. And the idea of becoming a squirrel with claws and tiny teeth and a furry tail? It's nothing compared to God becoming a one-celled embryo and entering the womb of Mary.

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

Michael Brooks, one of Holmes County's oldest bus drivers, is real sick. He is in one of the hospitals in Jackson.

Mr. William Wright is still in the rehab in Kosciusko.

Viola Dixon fell and broke her hip in October. She was

But he did. The God of the universe kicked against the wall of a womb, was born into the poverty of a peasant, and spent his first night in the feed trough of a cow. "The Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14 NRSV). The God of the universe left the glory of heaven and moved into the neighborhood. Our neighborhood! Who could have imagined he would do such a thing.

Why? He loves to be with the ones he loves.

From *Next Door Savior*.

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carried to the Baptist hospital in Jackson. Now she is in the rehab in Kosciusko.

Mary Hester, owner of the Village Club, was in an auto accident. At the time of the accident her son Fitzgerald Hester was in the hospital. Now he is out of the hospital. Mary went home; but she had to go back to the hospital. I don't know which hospital she's in.

Ella Benson, one of Lexington's alderwomen, had knee surgery about six weeks ago. Now she is trying to get around without a walker, crutches or a cane. It seems like she is doing good on walking.

Some of Joe Morgan's children came home for Thanksgiving. One of Lee Henry Wright's grandsons came home too. Also one of his brothers came home. Mr. William Wright is their brother.

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