



Washington Street
MISSION

408 North Fourth Street
Springfield, IL 62702
(217) 544-9011

Wonder

Several years ago, we stayed in a pop-up camper in Amish country in Ohio. The area we were staying in was miles from any streetlights and the stars lit up the sky. As we gazed at the stars that night, I was amazed at how many there were! I could see clusters of stars that I had never seen in the city.

I can only imagine what the wise men saw when they were studying the stars! Then one night, one man called the others over and said, "Look over there. Is that a new star?"



These men were so overcome with wonder and curiosity that they packed up expensive gifts and travelled from the East to see the baby who changed the stars. They did not stop until they found Jesus with his mother Mary.

Scripture does not tell us how Mary and Joseph responded to the wise men's visit, but Luke is sure to tell us how she responded to the shepherds: "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 1:19). Then at his presentation at the temple, Luke records: "The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him" (Luke 2:33).

I'm sure that Mary and Joseph were continually awed and marveled at Jesus as he grew up. Our hope at the Mission is to help people develop a sense of wonder and awe about Jesus as they build a relationship with him.

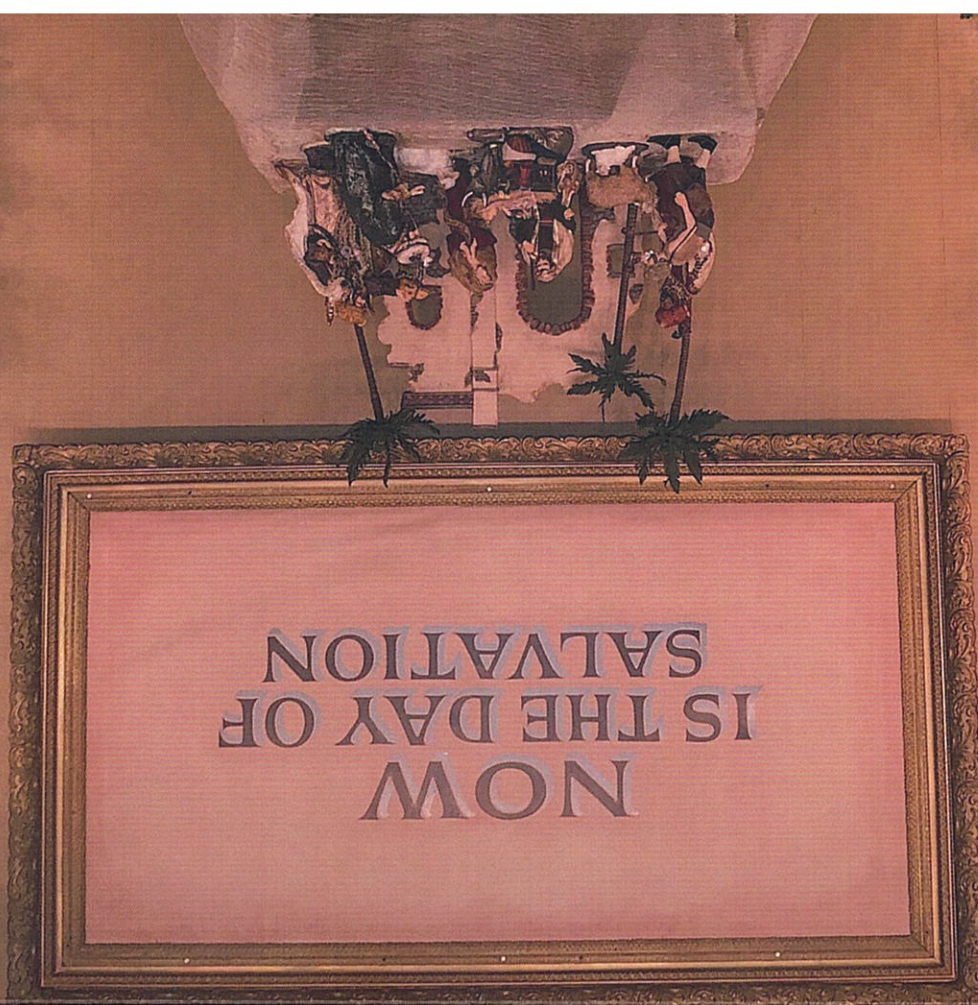
Recently, we started a monthly gospel service to more intentionally talk about Jesus with our guests. Several have attended already, and many other conversations have been started as a result. We look forward to seeing what God has planned for the Mission in 2019!

Thank you for your generous support of the Mission as we complete another year! Your donations make our ministry possible! I hope that this Christmas season is full of wonder for you as you celebrate with family and friends. May Jesus be at the center of your celebrations, your gatherings, and your hearts!

Blessings!

David Swihart, Executive Director

Christmas 2018



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