

# Bed in Hell

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



## Theme and Purpose

The point of Christmas is not just that God came to earth for an all-too-short lifetime, but that God came to enter lives "until the end of the age." The promise of Emmanuel is a real and vibrant promise for today – for all our situations. Even if, willingly or unwillingly, we find our bed in hell.

<b>Cast list</b>	Soldier (man or woman) dressed in desert fatigues
<b>Approximate Running Time</b>	3 ½ minutes
<b>Scene Description</b>	The scene is an army tent.
<b>Prop List</b>	Folding Chair Christmas Card Pen Paper Snowflake
<b>Other Production Notes</b>	None
<b>Related Scriptures</b>	Matt 28:20; Matt 1:22; Heb13:5; Deut. 31:8; Psalm 139:8-10
<b>Song Suggestions</b>	O' Come O' Come Emmanuel; Nothing is Beyond You (Rich Mullins)

*Soldier is sitting on a camp stool with a pad of paper on knee, writing a letter.*

**Soldier:**

Dear Doug and family. Merry Christmas, though it doesn't seem much like Christmas here in the desert. Some of the guys made sand angels the other day. And we cut up paper to kind of resemble snowflakes and stars.

*Stops writing and holds up a paper star.*

Pretty sad looking actually. And yet it's one of the most real things here. I guess it's the promise of home - of hope - of deliverance. Like the promise of a baby in a manger. Emmanuel - God with us. Who knew that God could be present in as simple a thing as a paper Christmas star?

The captain says that tomorrow we go on patrol. He says it's just routine. But he isn't fooling anyone. They're tightening security for all convoys, but when we go out in the field anything can happen. Too often it does.

*Puts the notebook down and stands up, speaking the rest of the letter as a monologue.*

You asked in your last email if I was afraid of dying. You know what, bro? I don't know anymore. At first, I was convinced I couldn't die. I just knew it couldn't happen to me. But I've seen too much this past year to believe that anymore. Right now, hours from setting out on one more patrol, I don't feel particularly afraid. Maybe I'm just too tired.

But there's another thing. Do you remember all those Bible verses they made us memorize in Sunday school when we were little? I haven't thought about them in years, but now they just keep popping into my head. OK, you can pick yourself up off the floor now. I'm as surprised at this as you must be.

"The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; Do not be discouraged." I have to tell you, Bro, those verses

have been real big for me. I have this picture in my head of walking through the desert with Jesus right beside me.

Which is not to say that I won't be killed. Jesus was. But I know I'm not alone. "If I ascend into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, thou art there." (*looks around, laughs wryly*) And by the way, this place seems a lot more like hell than it does heaven. "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there thy hand shall lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me." Even here in Iraq.

Well, I have to go on guard duty, so I need to close. Give everyone my love. Tomorrow I'll be in the field. (*Looks at star. Folds it and puts it in jacket pocket.*) Emmanuel. Even in Iraq.

*Fade to black*

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