



Advent Day 25 (written by Deb Bakken)

Shoes

Luke 2:1-5

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

(This was the first census that took place

while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. (NIV 1984)

Mary's baby was getting bigger inside her. The time for the baby's birth would soon come. Joseph was ready to stay close to home, so he could be there to help. No more out of town carpenter projects—at least not for awhile.

Then came the orders: register to pay taxes in the town of your family line. The walking shoes had to come out of the closet again, and it was not a convenient time!

There are times in our lives when things happen, and it doesn't fit our plans. There are times when we plan things that just never get to happen.

God planned for Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem—just then—in order to fulfill a prophecy. In our lives, many things happen to fulfill a promise. God says that “In all things God works for the good of those who love him.”

Even though it was an inconvenient time for Mary and Joseph's trip, they trusted God to take care of them all the way. We can have the same kind of confidence that God cares for us.

Prayer: When our plans don't work out and we are tempted to feel bad, remind us, O Lord, that you care for us every day and will work out everything for our good. Amen.