

Friday, December 15

### **Magnificent Manifestations!**

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

As a child, my daughter would show me her little jack-in-the box, and say, “Wait for it! Wait for it! ... There it is! Now, whenever I go north, the wonder of it all is sustained by that same anticipation! Where will I be surprised by God’s awesome presence and activity?”

I may be on a one-lane dirt road out on the land wondering where it will lead me. “Wait for it! Wait for it! ... There it is! The path opens to the most stunning display of God’s life-giving power and creativity in the awesome water falls near Yellowstone or What’Ti!

I may be in any one of the 25 villages partnering with *On Eagle’s Wings* just before Bible Camp, wondering what God has in store. “Wait for it! Wait for it! ... There it is!” God shines through the little ones who come, cautiously or exuberantly, as their wonder of it all is sustained by that same anticipation! The “come-as-you-are” community and gracious love that only God can give makes even the liveliest moments magnificent manifestations of our Immanuel!

The Israelites knew God was up to something just before Jesus was born. The prophets proclaimed it and the people longed for their lives and nation to be restored. “Wait for it! Wait for it! ... There it is! God’s son, our Immanuel came to warm the hearts of the shepherds and light up the sky with angels announcing the beginning of God’s presence and activity forever more!

**O God of Magnificent Manifestations. Come to us as lively or as quietly as you will this Advent season. We will wait with faith-filled confidence that your Son has, and will forevermore, shine through the most joyous, ordinary, uncertain and bleakest moments of our lives, because he is our Immanuel. Amen.**

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