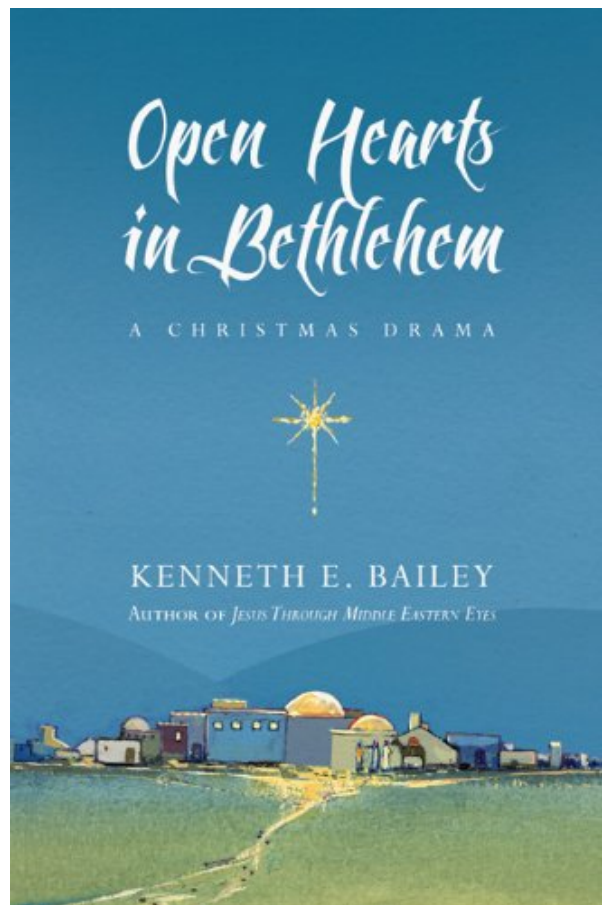
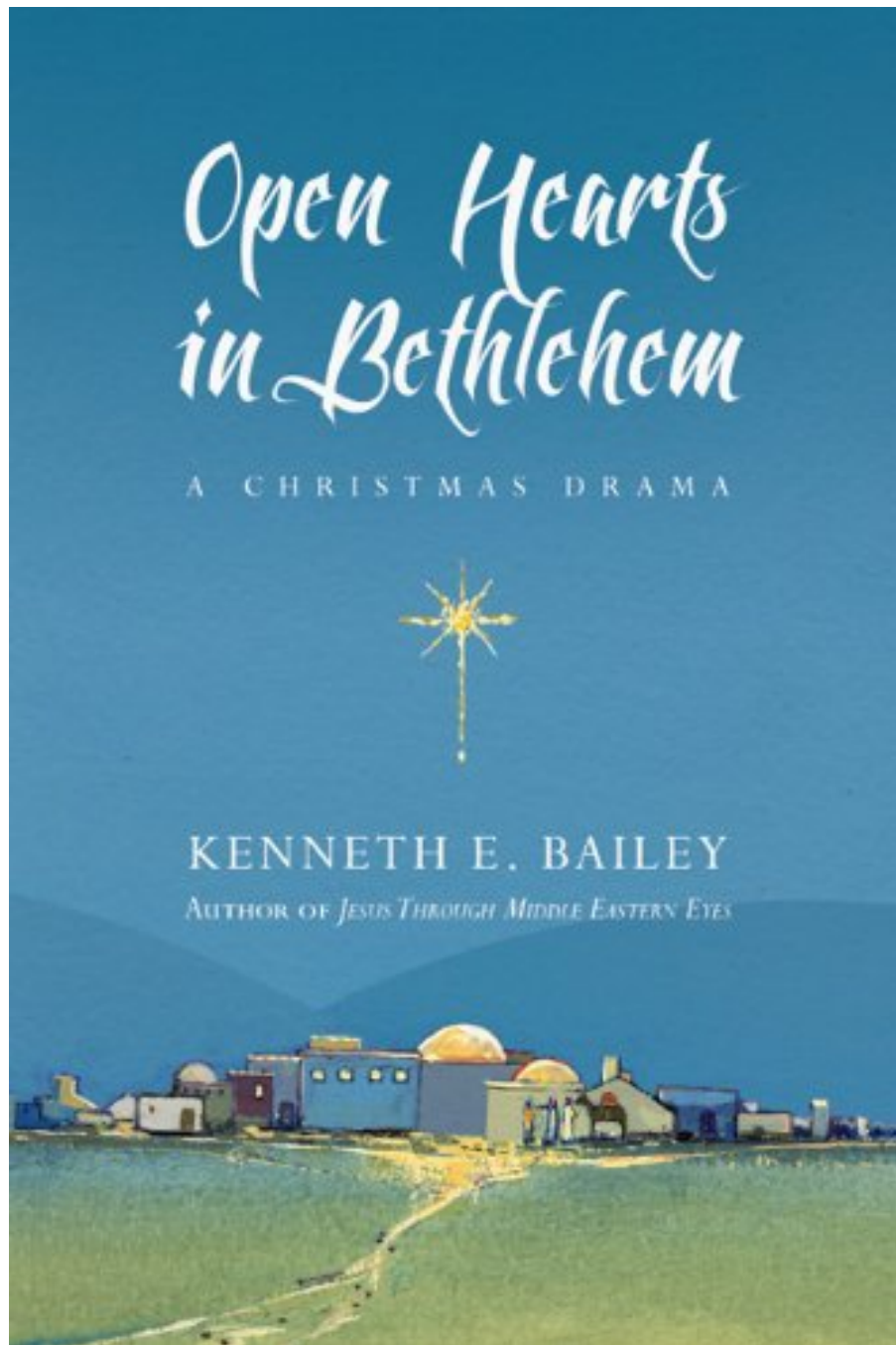


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CHRISTMAS DRAMA (OPEN HEARTS IN
BETHLEHEM SET) BY KENNETH E. BAILEY**



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Review

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The traditional story of Jesus' birth is well known and beloved. A long journey from home. A pregnant mother. The crisis of birth. Remarkable visitors. But there is more. For the first time, here is a drama that accurately presents what the Bible actually says rather than what tradition and mistranslations of Scripture have portrayed. This fresh Christmas drama from world-renowned Middle Eastern and biblical expert Kenneth Bailey is full of wonder and hope. Pastors, Christian educators, musicians and others will welcome the opportunity to present to their congregations this drama of hospitality, grace and joy. Five original contemporary folk songs for guitar and a (SATB) choral anthem are also available to give the production delightful musical accents. InterVarsity Press also provides a PDF download musical score as well as a music CD or MP3 download in which all these songs are performed twice, once with vocals and once with accompaniment only. Without music, the drama can be performed in 25-30 minutes. With music, the performance time is 45-50 minutes. Here is a drama that is biblically accurate, heartwarming and perfectly suited for church performance.

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Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Love it

By Joel L. Watts

Some years ago, I walked into the First Presbyterian Church of Logan, West Virginia as a near-rabid fundamentalist. Everything was black and white and King James 1611. I was there to meet with the pastor to secure his help in a worker's rights campaign. When I left, I had his signature on the petition, but in a rather unusual manner, I also had a book recommendation that has remained with me ever since. The pastor knew Kenneth Bailey and recommended to me his book on the parable of the Prodigal Son. Eventually I would get the book and my eyes would be opened to the world under the words on the page.

Included in that book, *The Cross and the Prodigal: Luke 15 Through the Eyes of Middle Eastern* (2005, IVP-Academic), was a short skit that really brought the academic statements Bailey had made in the book to a demonstrable light. This book, *Open Hearts in Bethlehem: A Christmas Drama*, rather a play with a longer

introduction, reintroduces me to the artistic side of the academic Kenneth Bailey.

The book is rather small, but includes an introduction, notes on the cast and music, and of course, the play itself. It is a wonderful, short, drama about the birth of Jesus. Why another play? As the book description implies, there are often mistranslations and poor understandings that make it into our traditions. I am not saying this a bad thing, but to see a new understanding of the Christian story is to see it almost afresh. It helps to pinpoint those areas we simply miss because of our patina of tradition. Simply, it is a beautiful play from a wonderful academic, preserving the magic and majesty of Christianity while helping to clear away the cobwebs of previous plays.

I highly recommend this and hope you warmly receive it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Open your mind to deeper truth with Dr. Bailey.

By marissa franklin

I have all of Dr. Bailey's DVD's, books, and now, new book, "The Good Shepherd", which I know I will benefit from when it is released. There is no human on earth with all truth, but Dr. Bailey's search for that Truth over the decades and his finding it have finally found there way to my life and my heart and changed me in many ways. Having learned from his own research over these many years of the greatness and majesty of our Lord Jesus, he has himself learned humility from the example of Jesus' true, costly, sacrificial love for all of us. Would that more Christians would read, watch, listen, to what this kind, gentle, Christian man has, along with his lovely wife's help, done to bring a deeper and more accurate picture of what our discipleship should reflect based upon Jesus' own true teachings as seen through the culture in which He lived and reached out to. Open your minds and hearts, shallow Christians! Wake up to deeper truth for a blessing you cannot find anywhere else! M Flynn

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Learn the REAL story of Jesus' birth.

By RB

After reading Dr. Bailey's research in Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes, I realized I had misunderstood the logistics of the Nativity for decades, and I am not alone. Most of our Christmas dramas include elements of that confusion. This past autumn I was lamenting to my high school students that we're continually misrepresenting the events in most of our churches and that I wish someone would write a play based on Dr. Bailey's book. Within a week, I discovered Dr. Bailey had written the play himself. Open Hearts includes several pages of the research from Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes as a preface to the script. In addition, original songs are available separately. I hope everyone hears about this drama and our churches buy it and teach the next generation a more accurate Nativity account.

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