



Kenneth E. Bailey, Th. D.
 Research Scholar and Lecturer
 in Middle Eastern New
 Testament Studies and author
 of *Open Hearts in Bethlehem: A
 Christmas Drama*
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Renowned Scholar Presents Christmas Play

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. *Open Hearts in Bethlehem*, a fresh Christmas play (thirty minutes without music or fifty minutes with music) from world-renowned Middle Eastern and biblical expert Kenneth Bailey is biblically accurate, heartwarming and perfectly suited for church performance.

After undergraduate and seminary studies, Dr. Bailey completed degrees in Arabic language and literature and systematic theology, as well as a doctorate in New Testament. Ordained by the Presbyterian Church (USA), Dr. Bailey spent forty years living and teaching in seminaries and institutes in Egypt, Lebanon, Jerusalem and Cyprus.

Dr. Bailey's area of specialty is the cultural background and literary forms of the New Testament. In addition to more than 150 articles in English and in Arabic, he is also the author of several books; his most popular titles include *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*, *The Cross & the Prodigal*, *Jacob & the Prodigal* and *Finding the Lost Cultural Keys to Luke 15*.

Dr. Bailey has authored scripts for two professionally produced feature-length films and has also professionally recorded more than one hundred video lectures on a variety of New Testament themes. He has taught at Columbia and Princeton and was for a time an adjunct professor at Dubuque, McCormick, Fuller and Pittsburgh theological seminaries. Dr. Bailey has lectured in theological colleges and seminaries in England, Ireland, Canada, Egypt, Finland, Latvia, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia and Jerusalem. He is active as a Bible teacher for conferences and continuing education events in the Middle East, Europe and North America. His writings have been translated and published into more than twenty languages.

Open Hearts in Bethlehem will follow in the footsteps of his previous writings, inspiring readers to take a closer look at what really happened during the first Christmas and to celebrate, with accuracy, the joy of our Savior's birth.

"Having seen a production of Ken Bailey's *Open Hearts in Bethlehem*, I can say that it is the new and important Christmas play many of us have been longing and waiting for," said the Venerable Mark Stevenson, academic dean at Trinity School for Ministry. "It reflects Dr. Bailey's lifelong immersion in Middle Eastern culture and his brilliant grasp of theological scholarship. Add to that the beautiful, original musical score and the result is a fresh and original approach to the Christmas story. As an actor-director and former professor of theatre I highly recommend this production."