

## **Christmas: The Time of Our Lives**

**By Pastor Richard Boatman**

Time. We often complain that we don't have enough of it. And yet sometimes we talk as though we have too much: "Well, I'm just killin' time." The great hymn says, "Take Time to Be Holy." Another one celebrates the "Sweet Hour of Prayer." We all get twenty-four hours a day of this thing called time. And it is truly precious because it is the time of our lives.

This marvelous season called Advent is all about time. Ancient Israel looked for the coming or the "Advent" of the Messiah. Jesus the Christ came and his very life divided time. B.C. means *before Christ*. A.D. refers to *anno Domini*, meaning *in the year of our Lord*. Every time we glance at a calendar, we can be reminded that Jesus is our reference point for life. As we celebrate this time called Advent, it is to be with a renewed sense of expectation and openness to his coming, to his permeating, if you will, the time our lives.

So much meaningful tradition is built around the Advent and Christmas seasons. And we in our church families anticipate this time together. It is sacred time, i.e. time set aside for a shared focus. The familiar songs, the inspired narrative of the shepherds and angels, the manger and birth—we take time to enter again into God's story. For it is this story that has created our core, our center for meaning and values and purpose. This Christmas story is, indeed, the time of our lives.