

# *The Wonders of His Love*©

*An enchanting story, written by David Burke,  
that will captivate people of all ages.*

*Come with us on this miraculous journey  
that will lift your hearts with laughter, enrich your  
souls with spirit, and fill your eyes with tears – an  
endearing sacred adventure that will enhance  
your faith and change your life.*

## SYNOPSIS

### SETTING OF THE STORY

*Private Catholic high school academy where seven students are members of an exclusive show choir. One member is the mascot, a deaf mute who assists the group.*

### PRIMARY CHARACTERS

*Jesus – He has asked Mary to bring the seven students to heaven for a brief visit to receive a special message from Him.*

*Virgin Mary – She is on a mission by God to bring the seven students to heaven to receive His message.*

*Mark – A student who is an atheist. His parents died when he was only five years old. His father died shortly after a car accident, and his mother died a month later giving birth, and Mark has no knowledge of where his one and only sibling is. Mark was raised in an orphanage. When he turned 18, he inherited several million dollars from his parents. He attends the academy because it is very prestigious and will enable him to get into an esteemed college.*

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*Meagan* – A student who is Mark's girlfriend. She is very holy but has difficulty staying on God's path of righteousness. Her mother died three weeks ago.

*Emily* – A student who is Meagan's best friend. Emily is holy but also feisty with a somewhat cocky personality.

*Joey* – A student who has mixed feelings regarding God's existence. Joey may lose his scholarship because of budget cuts at the academy.

*Andrea* – A student who has mixed feelings regarding God's existence. Andrea may lose her scholarship because of budget cuts at the academy.

*Kelly* – A student who has mixed feelings regarding God's existence. Kelly may lose her scholarship because of budget cuts at the academy.

*John* – The choir's mascot, who is a deaf mute. He also has mixed feelings regarding God's existence. John is Mark's younger brother, but this is not revealed until the heaven scene.

*Mr. Johnson* – The choir's demanding director, who also teaches music history.

*Dave* – The boastful, uncanny gatekeeper of Purgatory.

*Meagan's mother* – She appears in heaven for Meagan and the others to see.

*Mark's parents (and John's)* – They appear in heaven for Mark, John, and the others to see.

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## PLOT / SUBPLOTS

*The story of *The Wonders of His Love* has one main plot and three subplots. The main plot is the Virgin Mary appearing before seven Catholic high school choir students and bringing them to heaven, where they are reunited with deceased relatives, discover a surprising revelation, experience a miracle, and hear a special message from Jesus, who makes the students his new disciples and charges them with a sacred mission, which will renew faith and spread peace throughout the world.*

*The first subplot is the students preparing for their annual show choir concert, for which the choir director, Mr. Johnson, feels they are not ready. The next subplot involves two students (Mark and Meagan) who cheated on a music history test and will get expelled if Mr. Johnson can prove that Mark stole the test beforehand. The last subplot pertains to three students (Joey, Andrea, and Kelly) who are from poor families and will have to drop out of the academy because the school is not providing scholarships next year due to budget cutbacks.*

## BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

### ACT ONE

*The state's best show choir is rehearsing for its annual concert. After a rehearsal, Mr. Johnson, the choir director and music teacher, congratulates Meagan, a struggling student, for her perfect score on a music history test – a test on which she cheated, thanks to the help of her atheist boyfriend, Mark, who stole the test beforehand and shared it with her.*

*Two days later, before the next rehearsal, Joey, Andrea, and Kelly talk despondently about how the school is taking away their scholarships due to budget cutbacks. Their parents cannot afford the tuition without the help of the scholarships.*

*After rehearsal that day, when everyone other than John leaves the area, the Virgin Mary appears to him. He runs and catches up with the group and frantically motions them to come back to the rehearsal area. When they return, the Virgin Mary is still there, but no one other than John and Mark, can see her or hear the things she is saying. Mark and the group argue back and forth about who is trying to trick*

whom regarding the apparition of the Virgin Mary, who Mark thinks is some ordinary lady helping out with a prank that the other students arranged.

Mark gets Mr. Johnson to come see the lady to put an end to the joke. When Mr. Johnson arrives, he says that he sees nothing. He then pulls Mark away from the other students and asks whether he and Meagan cheated on the music history test, because Mr. Johnson says that his secretary saw Mark a few days ago leaving the music office, where a copy of the test was found in the recycle bin next to the copy machine. Mr. Johnson tells Mark that he is going to the security department in the morning to review the surveillance cameras that monitor the music office. He tells Mark that if the video tapes reveal that he stole the test, both he and Meagan will be expelled from the academy. When Mr. Johnson leaves, Mark says to himself that he will foil Mr. Johnson's investigation by paying off one of the security guards to destroy the surveillance tapes.

Mark then returns to the group where everyone is still mesmerized over John's bizarre behavior about what he claims to see. Shortly thereafter, Mary appears to the rest of the group and explains to the students that God has sent her to bring them to heaven for a brief message to receive a special message from Him. Mark still believes that everything is a big joke – a prank to make him religious.

## ACT TWO

The group begins its march to heaven. Mark follows them, although he is still in disbelief. During the journey, Mark tells Meagan that Mr. Johnson is going to expel them if he can prove that they cheated on the music history test. Mark says they must get back in time so that he can pay one of his buddies in security to destroy the surveillance tapes.

The group stops at Purgatory, where the uncanny gatekeeper, Dave, makes them sing songs to earn their passage along their way to heaven. Afterward, the group continues its journey.

When the group reaches heaven, they hear upbeat music and observe that heaven is full of people who are eating, drinking, dancing, and being merry. Jesus appears and sends the festive group of people in heaven to another dinner party, and then he invites the students and Mary to come into heaven. The students ask Jesus questions. Mark still believes that nothing supernatural is taking place until Meagan's mother,

who died three weeks ago, appears. Then Mark's parents, who died when he was only five years old, appear. Jesus then reveals that John is Mark's younger brother, who survived the childbirth that took their mother's life. Jesus then miraculously heals John of his inability to hear and speak.

After John sings a song, Jesus tells Meagan, Mark, and John to say goodbye to their parents, and tells everyone to say goodbye to Mary. He then gathers the students privately to tell them His special message. Jesus says that he is very concerned about everything happening on earth nowadays, because His teachings continue to be removed from society: prayer from schools, the Ten Commandments from public buildings, and His name from the Pledge of Allegiance. Additionally, Jesus says that acts of terrorism are increasing and doing nothing other than harming innocent people. Jesus says that these occurrences are a result of people losing their faith in God and heaven. Because too many people on earth don't believe in the graces of God and life after death, these people have no reason to live good lives so they can earn eternal life in heaven. People are becoming more selfish, vengeful, and manipulative with total disregard for morals. Jesus makes the students his new disciples and assigns them the mission of telling everyone on earth the story of their journey to heaven so that faith can be renewed and global peace can be restored.

At the final scene, while the group is getting ready for the concert, Mr. Johnson enters the practice area and is totally shocked to hear Mark say that he is a believer in God, and, more surprisingly, to find out that John can now hear and speak.

Mark and Meagan ask everyone to leave so they can speak privately with Mr. Johnson. They confess that they did cheat on the music history test, which Mark admits he stole from the music office. Mr. Johnson extends his Christian ways by forgiving them. Mark then tells Mr. Johnson that he wants to make a \$5 million contribution to the academy. Mr. Johnson becomes ecstatic and asks if he can tell Joey, Andrea, and Kelly, so they will know that their scholarships will be saved. Mark says okay but asks Mr. Johnson to keep the source of the contribution a secret. Mr. Johnson calls Joey, Andrea, and Kelly. They come in the room and Mr. Johnson gives them the good news. Then Mr. Johnson gathers everyone and starts the concert. The students sing the main song ("WE WILL SING"), which the audience sings too (call/response), followed by a medley of all the upbeat songs previously sung in the show.

DETAILED SUMMARY OF EACH SCENE  
(SONGS LISTED IN PARENTHESIS)

ACT I

SCENE I

*Scene 1 opens with a Monday choir rehearsal (“THE WONDERS OF HIS LOVE”) for the school’s annual concert, which will take place the following Saturday. After rehearsal, Mr. Johnson meets privately with Meagan, a struggling student, and tells her that he is very proud of her grade of 100 on a recent music history test. Meagan barely keeps her composure because she cheated on the test, which her atheist boyfriend, Mark, stole from the music office and gave to her. Mark eavesdrops on Mr. Johnson’s conversation with Meagan, and afterward Mark tells her that she shouldn’t have made a perfect grade on the test. She and Mark argue about morals, and he reinforces his disbelief in God and how everyone should manipulate life’s situations with no regard for ethics. Mark maintains that if God really existed, He [God] wouldn’t have let Mark’s parents die so young -- within a month of each other. Mark leaves, and Meagan sings an emotional song (“THE LORD OF LOVE AND GRACE”) asking for God’s forgiveness and help. Emily sees Meagan crying and approaches her. Emily hears about the test and the argument with Mark, and she comforts Meagan.*

SCENE II

*Scene 2 opens on Wednesday at noon with Joey, Andrea, and Kelly in the school cafeteria talking despondently about each of them receiving a letter from the academy stating that their scholarships would be taken away next year because of budget cutbacks. They each agree to keep the matter a secret. When Mark and John arrive to join them, Mark asks where Meagan and Emily are. When he finds out that they dined somewhere else for lunch, he comments that he is glad to get a break from them because they act too holy, especially Meagan. Joey, Andrea, and Kelly give Mark a hard time about his attitude, and they emphasize that he should be sympathetic toward Meagan because her mother died only three weeks ago, and, in*

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addition, Meagan is Mark's girlfriend. Mark then questions Joey, Andrea, and Kelly about their faith in religion, and they sing a comical song ("WHAT IF") about their beliefs/disbeliefs. Afterward, the group, while singing another cute tune ("OFF TO PRACTICE"), leaves the cafeteria to attend the next rehearsal, which is outside on the school's parade ground.

### SCENE III

Scene 3 opens with the rehearsal, which is outside. On the first song ("THE GOD I KNOW"), Mark, who is singing solo, forgets the second verse, and Meagan forgets the choreography. Mr. Johnson stops the rehearsal, scolds the group for its poor performance, and vehemently voices his discontent about the choir not being ready for the annual show, which is only three days away. Joey interrupts Mr. Johnson by singing the next song ("WE GIVE OUR SOULS TO THE LORD"), and the rest of the members join in. Mr. Johnson is calmed down upon hearing how well the group sounds on the song. After rehearsal, Mark tells everyone to join him at a nearby coffee shop for dessert and ice cream, on him, but he says that he has to go to the ATM first. Everyone agrees, but before they leave, Mr. Johnson pulls Joey, Andrea, and Kelly aside for a moment so that he can further explain why they will lose their scholarships. Joey, Andrea, and Kelly express their deep disappointment because they will have to drop out of the academy. Mr. Johnson tells them that he is sympathetic about the situation but cannot help. He suggests that they pray about it.

### SCENE IV

Everyone leaves the rehearsal site except for John, the deaf mute mascot, who is collecting music and other materials that were used during the practice session. The Virgin Mary (who is hidden) calls out John's name. John is startled, for never before has he heard anything. She calls out his name again, and he turns toward the sound of her voice. When he sees Mary, who is illuminated next to a tree, he reacts hysterically and runs in fear. He keeps running until he reaches the front of the coffee shop, where everyone is waiting for Mark to return from the ATM. John acts

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like he is literally going crazy and signals everyone to come with him back to where the group was practicing on the parade ground. Extremely concerned about John's erratic behavior, the group follows him. When they reach the parade ground, John, while continuing to act in a frantic manner, points at the Virgin Mary, who is next to a tree. The group is completely bewildered because the only thing they see is a tree; *only John sees Mary.*

Mark shows up and upon seeing everyone, he asks why they didn't wait for him at the coffee shop. He also exclaims: "And what's with the lady praying to the tree?!" The rest of the group is further confused because they see only a tree. Mark and John are the *only* ones who can see Mary. Mark keeps trying to convince the group that a lady, who looks like the Virgin Mary, is kneeling and praying next to the tree. But the group keeps insisting that the only thing they see is a tree, nothing else. Then Mark thinks that everyone is playing a trick on him to make him become more religious. The group acts more and more confused with Mark's comments, as well as perplexed over John's strange behavior. Then Emily exclaims that she believes Mark is playing a trick on them, and John is helping him. The group and Mark argue back and forth about who sees the Virgin Mary, who doesn't, and who is trying to pull a prank.

Mark, in an effort to end the mayhem, goes to the school's music office and brings Mr. Johnson to see the lady so that he [Mark] can put an end to the trick. When Mark tells Mr. Johnson to look at the lady next to the tree, Mr. Johnson says that he doesn't see anything other than a tree. Now Mark thinks Mr. Johnson is part of the trick.

Mr. Johnson then pulls Mark away from the other students and asks whether he and Meagan cheated on the music history test, because Mr. Johnson says that his secretary saw Mark a few days ago leaving the music office, where a copy of the test was found in the recycle bin next to the copy machine. Additionally, he said that Meagan, a struggling student, made a 100 on the test, and Mark made an A. Mr. Johnson tells Mark that he is going to the security department in the morning to review the surveillance cameras that monitor the music office. He tells Mark that if the video tapes reveal that he stole the test, both he and Meagan would be expelled from the academy. When Mr. Johnson leaves, Mark says to himself that he will foil

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*Mr. Johnson's investigation by paying off one of the security guards to destroy the surveillance tapes.*

*Mark then returns to the group where everyone is still mesmerized over John's bizarre behavior regarding something he sees by the tree. When Mark says that he is tired of the trick and begins to leave, Mary starts talking to him. When Mark answers her, the group becomes even more confused and disturbed by Mark's actions. Mary asks Mark to tell the group to sing to her. Mark conveys the message and, to give Mark the benefit of the doubt, they decide to sing ("HAIL MARY"). About midway through the song, the Virgin Mary suddenly appears to the rest of the group. When this happens, everyone, other than Mark and John, is totally shocked and reacts with screams. The students, other than Mark, slowly approach Mary. Mark still maintains that everything taking place is a joke. Mary then explains to the students that God has sent her to bring them to heaven for a brief message to receive a special message from Him. She also tells them that no one will know that they are gone during the journey, and they will return home soon. Mary then sings to the students ("HOLY LORD").*

## END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

### SCENE 1

*Mary and the students sing ("MOTHER MARY, SING TO US" and "MARCHING TO THE LORD") while holding candles and walking on their journey to heaven. Mark follows them but does not sing. After the end of the songs, Mary tells the students that they must make a stop in Purgatory. Mark admits to Mary that something weird is happening, although nothing sacred, and asks her when they will return home, because he has some important business to take care of (paying off security to ruin the surveillance tapes). Mary tells Mark to forget about home and focus on meeting Jesus. Immediately before reaching Purgatory, Mark pulls Meagan aside and tells her that Mr. Johnson suspects them of cheating on the music history test,*

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and they will be expelled if Mr. Johnson can prove it. Mark tells Meagan about his plan to destroy the surveillance tapes.

Mary and the students arrive in Purgatory, where they meet a boastful, uncanny gatekeeper named Dave. The students approach Dave, but he doesn't know that Mary is with them. Dave asks them for their sin sheets, but the students don't know what he's talking about. Dave is confused because every soul arriving in Purgatory comes straight from St. Peter's office, where they are issued sin sheets, which list the sins on a person's soul -- the ones that were not confessed before he or she died. Dave calls Heavenly Service to find out why St. Peter did not issue sin sheets to the students. St. Peter tells Dave that Jesus approved of the students passing through Purgatory, and Dave should have received this information in a memo. Dave finds the memo and sees that Jesus says Mary is with the students. Dave, who does not see Mary, thinks the memo is incorrect. The students then tell Dave that the Virgin Mary is with them. He doesn't believe them, but then she approaches him. She tells Dave about her mission. When Dave finds out the students are musicians, he makes them sing a couple of songs ("LET THE RAIN BEGIN" and "HOLY ONE ABOVE") to test their Biblical knowledge, so that they can earn their passage through Purgatory. After singing the songs, Dave allows the students to pass through Purgatory and continue their journey to heaven.

The students then sing another song ("KING OF GLORY") before reaching heaven. When they get to the pearly gates, they sing another song ("COME HOLY SPIRIT, WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU") to make the gates open. When the gates of heaven open, the students hear upbeat rock 'n roll music, see people dancing, see people eating and drinking, see people fishing, see kids bouncing on clouds -- it's all a big party! Jesus comes out and talks with each little group of people in the party to make sure they have everything they need to continue the merriment. He uses his powers to grant their requests, such as getting them more food and wine, getting the children more candy, and getting a giant fish on the fishing pole. Purgatory Dave comes on the scene and yells out, "Hey every soul, come and get it; the food's ready on cloud nine!" Then everyone leaves the heaven scene, and Jesus invites the students and Mary to come into heaven and sit with Him on the clouds.

Jesus asks all the students to introduce themselves because he likes hearing their voices. Mark still does not believe that anything supernatural is taking place. Then

Jesus asks the students if they have any questions. The children ask Him a few questions and He answers them. Then Jesus tells the students that He wants them to meet someone. At this point, Meagan's mother enters the heaven scene. When Meagan sees her mother, Meagan becomes extremely emotion and starts crying. The students, other than Mark, embrace Meagan, and they walk slowly up to her mother. A strong emotional hug with lots of crying (by Meagan) takes place between her and her mother. Mark observes this interaction and can't believe what he is seeing. Mary asks him if he is okay. He says that he went to Meagan's mother's funeral. Mary tells Mark that the time has come for him to start believing that everything taking place is real. The students and Meagan's mother gather around Jesus. The students, even Mark, ask Meagan's mother questions about heaven.

At this point, Jesus tells Mark that some other very special people are also in heaven and want to see him. Then Mark's parents appear. Mark recognizes them, approaches them, and they hug. Jesus then tells John to join his family. "Yes, John," says Jesus. "You are Mark's brother! These are your parents too!" John and Mark are astounded! John runs up and hugs Mark and his parents. Jesus then brings everyone together and asks John to kneel before him. Jesus puts his hand over John and heals his inability to hear and speak. Then Jesus asks John to sing a song ("MORNING PRAYER").

After the song, Jesus tells Meagan, Mark, and John to say goodbye to their parents, and Jesus tells everyone to say goodbye to Mary. He then gathers the students privately to tell them His special message. Jesus says that he is very concerned about everything happening on earth nowadays, because His teachings continue to be removed from society: prayer from schools, the Ten Commandments from public buildings, and His name from the Pledge of Allegiance. Additionally, Jesus says that acts of terrorism are increasing and doing nothing other than harming innocent people. Jesus says that these occurrences are a result of people losing their faith in God and heaven. Because too many people on earth don't believe in the graces of God and life after death, these people have no reason to live good lives so that they can earn eternal life in heaven. They are becoming more selfish, vengeful, and manipulative with total disregard for morals. Jesus makes the students his new disciples and assigns them the mission of telling everyone on earth the story of their journey to heaven so that faith can be renewed and global peace can be restored.

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Jesus says that if more people believe in God and heaven, they will be excited about living better lives, knowing that someday they will receive their reward in the most wonderful place in the world: heaven. Jesus says, "Spreading faith to all my children will spread peace throughout the earth." The students then sing a song to Jesus ("I WANT FOREVER TO BE NEAR YOU"), and then depart while singing another song ("WE SAW THE LORD").

### FINAL SCENE

The final scene opens on Saturday, the day of the annual concert, and the students are in the academy's performance hall getting ready – putting the final touches on their outfits. Emily signals the group to exit the dressing area and go to the practice room to rehearse with Mr. Johnson. As they are leaving, Mark tells them that he will join them in a few minutes. He then talks privately to God and thanks Him for the most wonderful experience in his life, an experience that has changed him and made him a total believer in God and heaven. Mark sings alone about his renewed belief ("I DO BELIEVE"). During the last verse, the rest of the group sneaks up behind Mark and surprises him by singing the final refrain with him. After the song is over, Mr. Johnson comes in the room and asks them why they are not in the practice room. Mark then exclaims, "Mr. Johnson, I believe! I believe!" Mr. Johnson's response is, "I believe too, Mark, I believe you're nuts! Now let's get going!" When John steps forward and tells Mr. Johnson to chill out because "it's only a concert," Mr. Johnson is shocked, for he has never heard John utter a sound until now. Mr. Johnson is further stunned when John responds to his astonishing remarks, realizing that John can hear too.

Mark and Meagan ask everyone to leave so that they can speak privately with Mr. Johnson. Mark then tells Mr. Johnson that he has been through a miraculous experience and is now a total believer in God. Mr. Johnson is completely bewildered, because Mark now believes in God, not to mention John suddenly being able to hear and speak. Mark and Meagan tell Mr. Johnson that they want to get off to a new start by confessing that they did cheat on the music history test, which Mark admits stealing from the music office. Mr. Johnson extends his Christian ways by forgiving

*them. Mark then tells Mr. Johnson that he wants to make a \$5 million contribution to the academy. Mr. Johnson becomes ecstatic and asks if he can tell Joey, Andrea, and Kelly, so they will know that their scholarships will be saved. Mark says okay but asks Mr. Johnson to keep his contribution a secret. Mr. Johnson calls Joey, Andrea, and Kelly. They come in the room and Mr. Johnson gives them the good news. Then Mr. Johnson gathers everyone and starts the concert. The students sing the main song ("WE WILL SING"), which the audience sings too (call/response), followed by a medley of all the upbeat songs previously sung in the show.*

**The End**