

Cries at Birth

And she brought forth her firstborn son. –Luke 2:7

I remember when my children were born and I waited anxiously for them to cry. The cry at their birth signified that their days here on earth had begun. It represented the beginning of life.

There are many momentous cries in life: cries at the birth of a child, cries of joy by the one who has worked hard and earned a degree, cries of parents who are proud of their children, cries of relief when one is told they are cancer free. We can all remember times when we celebrated with tears of joy.

Unfortunately many of us can also remember tears of sorrow at the loss of a loved one, of devastation from a flood or a fire, of heartache of rejection and betrayal.

Jesus' birth well might have been marked by Mary's tears of joy in anticipation of what the Christ child meant to the world. The end of his earthly life was also marked with Mary's tears, but this time tears of sorrow at what Christ was going through to be our Savior.

The cry of the baby that first Christmas night in Bethlehem was more than just a cry of life. It was a cry of *eternal life*. "*Life itself had been born in Bethlehem.*"

History's most famous cry is the cry of the baby in a manger some 2000 years ago. And my prayer is that that cry will resound in your heart today as you celebrate the new life that the Christ has brought to you.