COWS DON’T LOW; THEY MOO!
by JOHN R. PLASTOW

GENRE: Light Drama/Reader’s Theatre
SYNOPSIS: A reader’s theatre approach to the carol “Away in a Manger”, as seen by children.
DIRECTOR’S TIP: If not played by actual children, the scene should still be performed simply, with child-like innocence.

TIME: 4 minutes
CAST BREAKDOWN: 4M or F
TOPIC: Christmas
SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 2:1-16; Philippians 4:5b-7
CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas
SUGGESTED USE: Christmas Service
CHARACTERS: 4 CAROLERS
PROPS: None
COSTUMES: None
SOUND: Wireless microphones
LIGHTING: General stage
SETTING: None
Lights up.

C: (singing) Away in a manger, no crib for a bed...

1: You mean the baby Jesus didn’t even have a crib?

2: Nope, He had to be laid on the hay in a stable.

3: I bet that wasn’t very comfortable.

4: Well, His mommy and daddy wrapped Him in cloth so it wouldn’t be too bad.

1: Why didn’t they just go to the hospital?

2: They didn’t have hospitals back then.

3: They didn’t?

2: No. Women had babies in their homes, or in tents, or wherever they were when it was time for the baby to come.

3: Oh.

C: (singing) The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head...

3: Why didn’t they have baby Jesus in their home?

2: Jesus’ parents were a long way from home, in a different city, and they couldn’t find a place to stay, so they had to settle for a stable with all the animals.

1: Wow, Jesus got to be born with the animals!

4: I wish I could have been born with the animals.

C: (singing) The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

1: I bet it was cold.

2: But His mother took good care of Him.

C: (singing) The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes.

1: Hold it.

2: What’s the matter?

1: Cows don’t low; they moo!