

December 2010

From the Pastor 

## Twenty Five Questions for Mary\*

As I think of Christmas this year, I am again amazed that the God of the universe came to earth as one of us. Max Lucado, in his book, *God Came Near*, listed twenty five questions he would like to ask Mary if he ever had the chance.

- What was it like watching him pray?*
- How did he respond when he saw other kids giggling during the service at the synagogue?*
- When he saw a rainbow, did he ever mention a flood?*
- Did you ever feel awkward teaching him how he created the world?*
- When he saw a lamb being led to the slaughter, did he act differently?*
- Did you ever see him with a distant look on his face as if he were listening to someone you couldn't hear?*
- How did he act at funerals?*
- Did the thought ever occur to you that the God to whom you were praying was asleep under your own roof?*
- Did you ever try to count the stars with him...and succeed?*
- Did he ever come home with a black eye?*
- How did he act when he got his first haircut?*
- Did he have any friends by the name of Judas?*
- Did he do well in school?*
- Did you ever scold him?*
- Did he ever have to ask a question about Scripture?*
- What do you think he thought when he saw a prostitute offering to the highest bidder the body he made?*
- Did he ever get angry when someone was dishonest with him?*
- Did you ever catch him pensively looking at the flesh on his own arm while holding a clod of dirt?*
- Did he ever wake up afraid?*

(over)



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*Who was his best friend?*

*When someone referred to Satan, how did he act?*

*Did you ever accidentally call him Father?*

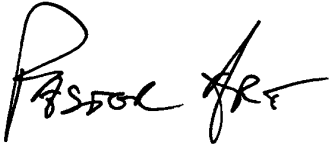
*What did he and his cousin John talk about as kids?*

*Did his other brothers and sisters understand what was happening?*

*Did you ever think, **That's God eating my soup?***

*<sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (Philippians 2:5-7 NIV)*

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Arif". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.