



**THE KSA 2026 EXECUTIVE Committee includes, l-r Jonathan Reynolds of Clinton, President; Clay Wells of Clay, Vice President; Drew Langley of Elizabethtown, Secretary; and Matt Gajdzik of Shelbyville, Treasurer.**

# A Trip Across The Desert

By Van Yandell  
Matthew 2: 13 “And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.”

We are told in the scripture (Matthew 2), when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a star appeared to wise men in the east. Those wise men saw the star and followed it to Jerusalem seeking the Christ child.

“In the east” may have been in Israel or it may have been in the country we today know as Jordan or Iran (Persia or Babylon). Considering their gifts, the wise men may possibly have come from Arabia.

Many have attempted to provide natural phenomenon such as a gathering of planets, to explain the star. This writer believes the star was a special, supernatural, one-time appearing object to guide the wise men to Jesus.

Matthew 2: 9 states emphatically the star “went before them and stood over the place where the child was.” A celestial gathering of stars or planets would not have done this. The only reasonable explanation is that God provided the “star” for a guide.

I also am inclined to think the “guiding star” was in the atmosphere and not a star since we know stars to be light years away from earth.

In Jerusalem they enquired, “Where is He that is born King of the Jews for we have seen His star?” Becoming aware of this, the king of Israel, Herod, was “troubled.” Sending for the priests and scribes Herod asked “Where is this king to be born?” They answered his question with an Old Testament prophesy, Micah 5: 2. The king was to be born in Bethlehem.

Herod then sent the wise men to Bethlehem to find the child and return to him so he could go and worship Him as well. His ruse was intercepted by a dream in which the wise men were told of Herod’s plan to kill the child and to “return to their own land by another route.”

The trip from Jerusalem (Bethlehem is southeast about six miles) to Egypt would have been a very difficult journey. Since Mary had recently given birth to our Jesus and was nursing and caring for Him the conditions of the desert would have been excruciating.

We crossed that same

Saini Peninsula in an air conditioned bus. I well remember watching the blowing sand with the road appearing almost molten. Road graders were placed along the highway at intervals because the drifting sand had to often be removed.

Scripture tells us they traveled “by night” and many assume that was to be in hiding. Being partially the case, the daytime conditions would have been too harsh for foot travel.

We do not know how long their journey took or where they lived for two years in Egypt. The distance from Rafah to Cairo is a little over 225 miles. Rafah is on the border of Israel and Egypt. The distance to Jerusalem is about 60 miles from Rafah making their journey almost 300 miles.

We also are not told where exactly in Egypt they stayed for two years. Their place of refuge was most likely in the Nile River delta area since the rest of Egypt is desert and not suitable for human habitation.

As extensive as the Holy Bible is, it leaves out a lot of the details. I suppose however it would have to be in volumes to answer even a part of our inquiries.

I’ve often wondered what the baby Jesus awareness may have been. The scripture

tells us He was God in human form and the creator of all things (John 1: 1-3).

Therefore is it reasonable to think Jesus may have been aware as an infant of what was happening?

Research shows that the unborn fetus hears and responds to sounds outside the womb, such as language, music and loud sudden sounds. Expectant mothers have often reported at sudden noises, their baby moved within them. A woman may not have the voice of an angel but her baby will love to hear her sing.

I can’t avoid thinking Jesus was aware of His final destination, the cross of Calvary, during His lifetime. In such a case, Jesus’ suffering would have been the mental anguish of knowing His final hours before death would be nailed to a cross.

The sacrifice by God Jesus is so much more than we at times can begin to comprehend. For two years in Egypt and three years in His earthly ministry, Jesus was a homeless person.

Luke 9: 58 “And Jesus said unto him, foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath no where to lay his head.”

We normally envision Jesus’ suffering to be on the cross and of course that was the ultimate sacrifice for the souls of mankind. His shed blood and suffering gives us eternity and all He asks of us is to believe (John 3: 16).

To even begin to comprehend His anguish (Psalm 22), we must begin at His infantile years and possibly at His conception.

We must also consider the suffering of Mary and Joseph in order to be the earthly parents of our Savior. They were foreigners in the strange land Egypt.

God of course, provided for them during those two years but what did Joseph do for his families’ survival during that time? The life of Jesus and His parents is a witness of a supernatural presence.

A trip across the desert was just the beginning. What an ordeal that must have been! For their existence to have been placed in

such an inhospitable place was a part of the misery they endured. And of course, after the two years they had to cross that same desert to return home.

Never underestimate the unpleasant existence of that family and our glorious Savior. Thankful is a place to begin but to realize and relate to their lives is an understanding we must have.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com

## Union County Man Elected To KSA Executive Committee

The Kentucky Soybean Association (KSA) Board of Directors elected its 2026 Executive Committee during the January 14 board meeting.

Jonathan Reynolds of Clinton will serve as President, Clay Wells of Clay as Vice-President, Drew Langley of Glendale as Secretary, and Matt Gajdzik of Shelbyville as Treasurer. The slate of officers was elected unanimously.

“It’s an honor to serve with these farmer-leaders,” Reynolds said. “I’m grateful to serve as KSA President, but this is not a one-man show. Having a solid executive committee is crucial to the success of our organization, and this officer team is just that.” Reynolds added that he was pleased to see that the officer team is composed of farmers from four different areas of the Commonwealth.

“I think it’s great that we have farmers willing to step up and serve as directors and even as officers from across the state,” he said. “It wasn’t that many years ago that KSA went from having five Areas to having six, to provide growers throughout the state with more representation, and having a President from the Purchase Area, Vice-President from Green River, Secretary from Lincoln Trail and Treasurer from Central Bluegrass gives us several different geographic perspectives. I think that’s ideal.”

FOR SALE  
6’9” x 9’8”  
TRAILER  
Wood Floor  
Sides Detach To Be Used  
As Ramps  
Extra Set of Rims



**\$800<sup>00</sup>** Cash Only (As Is)  
Great for hauling firewood, riding mower, or other small equipment  
**(270) 635-2041**  
Sebree, KY

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
UNION CIRCUIT COURT  
CASE NO. 25-CI-00013

TAX BRAKE KY, LLC  
vs.  
STEPHEN SCOTT HANCOCK; CITY OF MORGANFIELD, KY;  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF UNION

PLAINTIFF  
DEFENDANTS

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Union Circuit Court on the 22nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025, I will on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026**, at the hour of **10:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as may be possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Union County, Kentucky, to-wit:

**Property Address: 7 Congress Drive, Morganfield, Union County, KY 42437**  
**PVA No. / Map No.: M3-26-04**

*The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.*

Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

GIVEN under my hand this the 6th day of January, 2026.

Stephen M. Arnett, Master Commissioner  
1/28c

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
UNION CIRCUIT COURT  
CASE NO. 24-CI-00261

MID SOUTH CAPITAL PARTNERS, LP  
vs.  
BONNIE SUE STRAKER A/K/A BONNIE SUE WADDELL;  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF UNION;  
MIDLAND FUNDING, LLC: MTAG AS CUSTODIAN FOR  
MGD-KY, LLC: CITY OF MORGANFIELD, KENTUCKY;  
UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF BONNIE SUE STRAKER  
A/K/A; BONNIE SUE WADDELL; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS  
OF 35 SENATE AVENUE

PLAINTIFF

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered by the Union Circuit Court on the 8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025, I will on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026**, at the hour of **10:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as may be possible at the Courthouse door in the City of Morganfield, Union County, Kentucky, proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the following described real property located in Union County, Kentucky, to-wit:

**Property Address: 35 Senate Avenue, Morganfield, Union County, KY 42437**  
**PVA No. / Map No.: M3-29-07**

*The current year's property taxes will be paid by the purchaser of the property.*

Purchaser may pay cash or said property will be sold upon payment of 10% deposit, with the balance upon credit of 30 days, the purchaser shall execute a good and sufficient bond with approved surety thereon for the purchase price, the bond to bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date thereof, until paid, and to have the force and effect of a judgment, but a lien shall be retained on said property to further secure the payment of the purchase price. At his option, the purchaser may pay cash or pay the bond with accrued interest at any time before its maturity. Said sale to be made free and clear of any and all liens, claims, rights, title, and interest of any and all parties to this action. The purchaser will be prepared to promptly comply with these terms or the said property will immediately be offered again for sale.

GIVEN under my hand this the 6th day of January, 2026.

Stephen M. Arnett, Master Commissioner  
1/28c