

"We are now approaching lunar sunrise, and for all the people back on Earth, the crew of Apollo 8 has a message that we would like to send to you."

For many, the highlight of Apollo 8 was the television broadcast during Lunar Orbit 9. It was Christmas 1968, and the crew read from the Book of Genesis:

"In the beginning, God made the heavens and the Earth ... and it was good."

Yes, it was a message for "all of you on the *good* Earth".

But 1968 had *not* been a good year. Much of it was an *awful* year. So, how did this very good world, which God had made, turn into the world of violence and hatred and tragedy that characterised 1968?

The answer is found in the big picture of the Bible. Here we see why Christmas is always such good news:

The Bible explains that God did indeed make everything good –

including the first humans – but, in a disastrous decision, they rejected his good rule.

Their rebellion, and the actions of all of us ever since, have spoiled relationships at every turn. We're alienated from the loving God who made us.

The rest of the Bible unfolds God's extraordinary rescue plan. He rescues everyone who turns back to him, from death and judgment.

The message of Christmas is the answer to the tragedies of 1968. It is still the answer fifty years on.

At Christmas, we remember that God himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, came among us as one of us. He came to give his life on the cross, to defeat death and then rise again.

He invites everyone to find eternal life in him.

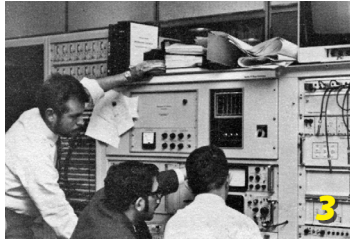
To read about this marvellous message, and to hear some **newly-digitised** (and wonderfully clear) **audio from Apollo 8 recorded at Honeysuckle Creek**, please see – www.mackellars.net/2018

May Christmas 2018 be a truly joyous one for you.

Christmas Greetings



For all the people back on Earth



1. Apollo 8 departs, 21 December 1968.
2. Honeysuckle's Dutchy Holland, Ron Hicks and Clive Cross give a GO for TLI.
3. At Madrid, Dave Pollard, Dan Hock and Ted Altman man the TV Scan Converter.
4. Honeysuckle's Tom Reid and Ken Lee.
5. At Goldstone, a TV monitor, telemetry tape and Christmas card under the tree.
6. The triumphant Apollo 8 crew on the Yorktown after their fiery return.

Front of card:

Top – Bill Anders' famous photo of Earthrise on Lunar Orbit 4;

Bottom – Hamish Lindsay took this photo at Honeysuckle Creek, around 9:00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time, Christmas Eve 1968 – as Honeysuckle and its Wing, HSK-X at Tidbinbilla, tracked Apollo 8 on its first Lunar Orbit.

Photo credits at www.mackellars.net/2018

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." - Luke 2:10.

