

Scene One: The Census Takers

Scripture: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

(Una & Octavius appear at the side or the back of the Sanctuary)

Una: Well, Octavius, what a big night this is for you! Your first night of being a census taker! An official counter of people! Congratulations! You worked hard...you trained hard...you passed all your counting classes – even “Fingers Versus Abacus 101”!

Octavius: *(beaming)* Oh, it was nothing! Zero! Nada! Zilch! I am ready to count!!!

Una: Well, here is your ID card. You are official!

Octavius: Wow, thanks! *(practising)* Hello.... I am Octavius – Official Census Taker Number... *(checks)* 701! *(in a deeper voice)* Octavius – Census Taker for the Emperor...Number 701. *(in a Bond-like voice)* Census taker. Octavius Census Taker. Number double-oh-seven. One.

Una: *(laughs)* Octavius....let’s get to work. *(moves into the audience/ congregation and approaches a person)* Good Evening. Have you been counted yet? Name? Place of Birth? *(records answers)* Check! You are Number 24,782.

Octavius: *(jumping in and approaching people too)* Have you yet been counted? Are you together? You, you and you? Name? Place or places of Birth? Check! You are Numbers 24,783, -84 and -85.

Octavius and Una have fun and “work the crowd” for as much time as seems appropriate. The following anthem is sung, either by the two, by a group of (quickly assembled) singers or all of them together with Octavius and Una front and centre:



Anthem: Children Go Where I Send Thee

All singers, including Una and Octavius, clear the front after the song

Scene 2: Mary and Joseph... and a Baby

Scripture: Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea (*Joo-DAY-ah*), to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he came from the family of King David. He went to be registered with Mary, who he was engaged to and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time

Children Go Where I Send Thee

a call & response song

with actions

Traditional
arr. & adapted by Linnea Good

1 C G C

Child - ren go where I send thee!

5

How shall you send us? I'm gon - na send thee



8 Verse 1: go to bar 12 Verses 2-9: Sing back through*

F C F

one by one, two by two, Two for Mary and Jo - seph.
 three by three, Three for the 3 great Wise men.
 four by four, Four for the 4 that stood at the door.
 five by five, Five for the 5 that stay'd a - live!
 six by six, Six for the 6 that nev - er got fixed.
 seven by seven Seven for the 7 that went to heaven.
 eight by eight, Eight for the 8 that stood at the gate.
 nine by nine, Nine for the 9 that dress'd so fine.

12 C F Last time to Coda C F

One for the lit - tle ti - ny ba - by that's born, born

Last time to Coda

* For example, after singing "4 by 4" at bar 9 and bars 10-11, repeat 10-11 with "Three for...", then "Two for..."