

SonBurst News

A CONSERVATIVE VOICE INFORMING, EDUCATING, AND EDIFYING THE READER

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"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

Understanding and Restoring True Conservatism

Ken Connor, Center for a Just Society



The election is over, and Barack Obama is the new President of the United States of America. In this Democrat sweep, conservative Republicans get the blame. The fact of the matter is that President Bush and the Republicans who dominated Congress during most of his administration governed as anything but conservatives. Except during election season, it was difficult to find any trace of conservative principles among incumbents within the Republican Party. During their tenure, Republican governance was characterized by out-of-control spending, record-setting earmarks, affirmative action programs for corporate wrongdoers, corrupt relations with special interests, and sexual scandal. While they often described themselves as "conservatives," their walk was very different from their talk.

During the period of Republican hegemony, no real ground was gained on reforming entitlements, no major effort was made to curb abortion (or even abortion funding), and the national debt as a percentage of gross domestic product rose to a 50-year high!

Few Republicans in leadership in government during the past decade have been authentic conservatives. At best, they have been counterfeit conservatives, which no doubt accounts for why Republicans lost so many seats in 2006 and why they almost lost more seats and the Presidency in November.

In the aftermath of the election, the Republican Party undoubtedly has the time to engage in serious introspection. Hopefully, its leaders will come to understand that conservatism is not just a "label" or even a "movement." It is a way of life.

Principles of True Conservatism

Because of the divergence between the words and deeds of those who have called themselves conservatives, there is a lack of clarity of what it really means to be a "conservative." Conservatives understand that every person is a part of a family and a community; they understand that each generation is just one link in the long chain of human history; and they understand that each person and each generation has duties to those who went before, those who are living today, and those who will come after us. A sense of duty and history governs the lives and thoughts of conservatives.



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No Freedom for Millions

Basic Human Rights Don't Exist In Many Countries Worldwide

And every Sunday, as well as during the week, Americans are free to worship. No barred doors. No secret police. No censoring of the message by the government. The freedom to worship is one of our nation's most cherished values.

Of course, we need to be on constant guard to preserve these precious freedoms.

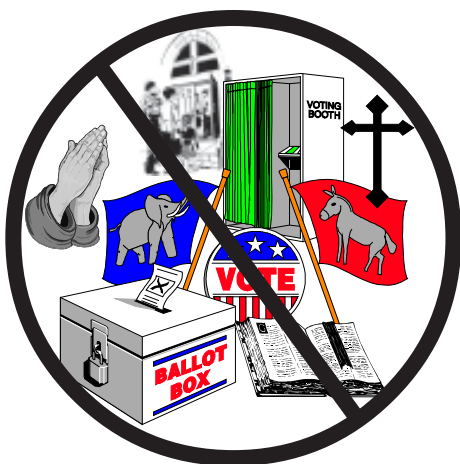
But in many countries around the world people don't have basic human rights - including religious freedom and the right to vote. Christians and other minorities - especially in Islamic and communist countries - are forced to worship underground. Reading a Bible could bring imprisonment. According to a Freedom House report, 43 countries or 36 percent

of the world population were judged "not free" and 60 countries or 18 percent of the global population "partly free" in 2007. Those totals cover over 100 countries and 54 percent of the worldwide population.

Here are a few examples of countries where there are few human rights:

* North Korea - People are forced to worship Kim Jong Il as a "god." Up to 700,000 North Koreans are suffering in prison camps, many for simply practicing their faith underground. There is no right to vote. North Korea has been ranked the No. 1 persecutor of Christians for six years in a row, according to Open Doors' World Watch List.

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Christian Newswire- American citizens are able to exercise one of their many freedoms by going to the polls to vote for their favorite political candidate. U.S. elections provide for an orderly and peaceful transition of governmental leaders.

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SonBurst News

Persecution Intensifies After Olympics

Christian Newswire/ -- Since the end of the Olympic Games, ChinaAid has received reports of intensified religious persecution from across China. In Beijing, Pastor "Bike" Zhang Mingxuan and his family members have been evicted from their home, beaten and arrested. In Heilongjiang province, one city called Yichun recently banned all of the house churches. In Yunnan province, some house church members were attacked right after the Olympics. In Shandong province, Pastor Zhang Zhongxin was sentenced to two years of re-education through labor, and after the Olympics his appeal was denied. Pastor Zhang's lawyer, Li Fangping, was refused permission to meet with him because authorities claim Pastor Zhang could endanger state security.

In another shocking new discovery, ChinaAid learned 29 house church leaders have been serving time in labor camp and prisons in Henan province since July 9, 2007. They are accused of being "evil cult" members. Among the 29 house church leaders, 21 are being held in No. 3 Prison of Henan province. One leader was released in September 2008. The other seven house church members belong to a house church group in Lingbao city that is part of the "Born Again Movement". They were sentenced by the court as "evil cult" members on July 9, 2007. One leader was sentenced to seven years imprisonment, which is the harshest sentence against a house church leader in recent years besides Pastor Zhang Rongliang who was sentenced to seven and a half years in 2004 for allegedly "attempting to illegally cross the border and forgery of an official document".

Christian Responsibilities Transcend Politics

Assemblies of God General Superintendent George O. Wood has recorded a video message to encourage and challenge the Fellowship and remind the church body of its responsibilities. "Our responsibilities as Christians transcend politics," Wood says, "and we must be who we are, regardless of who won."

During this time of national change, Wood calls on believers to pray for a great spiritual awakening across the country. "I want to call you to refocus on the health of the church, that the real answers to eter-

nal issues lie not in the government, but in a revitalized body of believers that transforms neighborhoods, communities, through our witness in word and deed," he says.

In the video, Wood shares five principles the apostles taught the early church in regards to its relationship with the government of its day. He emphasizes that these principles are just as relevant today and apply in every nation.

To view Wood's video in its entirety, see <http://www.ag.org>. An audio version and transcript of the message are also available.

No Freedom for Millions

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* Saudi Arabia - The country is considered an ally of the U.S. due to its support of the war on terrorism. However, there is absolutely no religious freedom. A person charged with apostasy - changing one's faith from Islam - could face death.

* Iran - Islam is the official religion in Iran and all laws and regulations must be consistent with the official interpretation of Shariah (strict Islamic law). Since hard-line conservative Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became president in 2005, persecution has increased for Christians and others. Iran is on the verge of passing a bill that would make apostasy a capital crime.

"As citizens in the U.S. go to the polls to vote and to our places of worship with no harassment or restrictions, we thank our Lord for those freedoms which we enjoy," says Open Doors USA President/CEO Carl Moeller. "But millions of people worldwide don't have any basic rights. As one North Korean said last December, 'we can only celebrate Christmas in our hearts.' We need to advocate, encourage and pray for the millions who suffer for their faith."

The Open Doors USA Website is www.OpenDoorsUSA.org. Open Doors supports and strengthens believers in the world's most difficult areas through Bible and Christian literature distribution, leadership training and assistance, community development, prayer and presence ministry and advocacy.

Dobson, Land Pledge Fight on Social Issues

While several Christian leaders have congratulated Obama on a historic victory, they have no intentions of relenting on social issues, according to the Christian Post. "I'm not grieving over Barack Obama's victory, but over the loss of things that I've fought for, for 35 years," said Focus on the Family's Dr. James Dobson, noting Obama's stance on abortion and gay marriage.

According to RNS, Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission said, "Where we agree, such as standing against genocide in Darfur and protecting basic human rights around the world, we're going to support him," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of Obama. "On issues on which we disagree, we'll do our best to persuade him."

RNS also quoted Richard Cizik of the National Association of Evangelicals, who voiced hope in uniting over shared concerns. Nonetheless, "pro-life Catholics and pro-life evangelicals aren't going anywhere," he said.

Pope to Muslims: Religious Persecution Unacceptable

Pope Benedict XVI minced no words in a summit with Catholic and Muslim leaders, the Christian Post reports, as the head of the Catholic Church proclaimed the right to freedom of religion. "The discrimination and violence which even today religious people experience throughout the world and the often violent persecutions to which they are subject, represent unacceptable and unjustifiable acts, all the more grave and deplorable when they are carried out in the name of God" the pontiff said, according to BBC. The pope had apologized earlier in the three-day meeting for remarks he made in a 2006 speech that called Islam a religion of violence and oppression. The official theme of the historic meeting between Catholics and Muslims was "Love of God, Love of Neighbor."

China: Pastor Released after International Outcry

Pastor "Bike" Zhang Mingxuan, his wife and his wife's sister were declared "free" by government officials on October 27, 2008 at 1 p.m. in Nanyang, Henan province as a direct result of international outcry on their behalf.

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Giving in Today's Economic Climate How to Raise Generous Children in Economic Times Like These

Dr. Steve McSwain

Christian Newswire/ We are in an economic crisis. So, what will we learn? If I were to ask you to identify the most important thing you would hope your child would learn from this and carry into adulthood, what would it be?

For me, I want my child to learn that happiness and security has little to do with career choice, how much money she might make and salt away, or even what she might accomplish. Instead, it has everything to do with knowing for herself what her purpose is on earth. Knowing why she's here will enable her to survive anything--an economic meltdown, notwithstanding.

So, what is life's purpose? The greatest spiritual teacher once said, "He who would save his life will lose it, but he who gives his life away, will find it." Strange words, are they not? How so? They fly in the face of what our culture says will bring you permanent happiness and security. Most mistakenly think happiness is found in the amount of money they earn, how much they manage to save for retirement, and the titles and recognition they receive throughout life.

This mistaken notion has been around a long time. But, it's faulty thinking like much of the faulty thinking that surrounds the principal cause behind the present economic crisis on Wall Street--a crisis which has dominated the news and generated much anxiety on Main Street. It's not just corporate big shots, however, who are to blame for the failure in our financial markets. But, there are many ordinary folks who are to blame, too. The majority of people in our culture have, in the words of Will Rogers, "borrowed money they don't have, to buy things they don't need, to keep up with people they don't even like."

And, why? It's nothing more than the mistaken notion that we are what we own, we are what we accomplish, and our security is in how much we've saved for the future. It's all a myth.

I want my child to grow up knowing real security, real joy. To know that whatever she accomplishes or earns will not make her happy or secure--not for long, anyway. Her happiness and security will be experienced only as she gives her life to a grander purpose--a purpose that goes beyond making money, living in a big house, or succumbing to the illusion of thinking she's saved enough to make herself financially secure. All of these are illusions of happiness and security. Real joy and security is found, "not in getting," as Og Mandino reminded us, "but only in giving."

In the end, what matters is her happiness and security. If she earns a lot of money, so be it. If she makes a name for herself, well, that's fine, too. But, since real joy is in giving, the popularity or fame earned will just provide a larger and more influential stage upon to demonstrate her grander purpose for life and living-- the sharing of herself and her wealth with the world.

If she saves enough to fill the vaults of Fort Knox, then she'll have a lot to give away through a charitable foundation as she lives out her final years fulfilling the real purpose of her life--giving. This she will do as a mature adult, instead of what most wealthy people do-- leave their wealth to an unappreciative family who end up squabbling over it in probate courts.

But then, if the economy were to unexpectedly collapse and she lose it all...well, she'll just live out her days like the vast majority of the rest of us--retired and broke. But, I suspect she'll be broke like everyone else, but happy nonetheless. Why? Because, just like the proverbial widow whom Jesus introduced to the world long ago, even in her poverty, she, too, will be giving her last two pennies to someone in greater need. Why? Well, it has something to do with this grander purpose of life. It's that which gives life meaning, joy, and a real sense of security.

Isn't this the sort of thing you would want your child to grow up knowing? Here's how I would suggest you get started: First, live this purpose yourself. Most of what children know they've "caught" through observation. As a parent, when you give yourself away and generously share your resources with others, you are modeling an understanding of real happiness that your child will quickly learn. Be generous, but especially in tough economic times, and you'll more likely raise a generous child who doesn't look for fulfillment in titles or things, but in the sharing her life and resources with others.

Second, don't fret over the money markets, especially in front of the kids. Even if you and I were to lose everything--which isn't likely--is it not true, we still have our lives? Our families? Each other? The church? Stay focused on your grander purpose for living and stop the incessant worrying. Didn't the spiritual teacher say, "Seek first the Kingdom--(that world within where God is, and peace, joy and real security)--and the rest will be provided?"

Dr. Steve McSwain, author, fundraising executive, inspirational speaker, and philanthropist. He is the founder of the Foundation for Excellence in Giving, Inc. www.stevemcswain.com.

Dr. Alveda King - The Economy is Temporary, Life is Eternal

Christian Newswire/ Dr. Alveda King, Pastoral Associate of Priests for Life and niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that people cannot lose sight of moral priorities in the face of economic stress.

"No doubt, these are troubled times," said Dr. King, "but it's in troubled times that we especially need to remember what's important. What the current economic meltdown should teach us is that our hope is not in the things of this earth, but in God."

"If financial pressures cause us to stop loving our neighbors, to think only of ourselves, we have lost much more than money," added Dr. King. "If we stop giving to charity, cease donating our time to help others, or, in the extreme, abort a baby for financial reasons, we literally sacrifice the eternal for the temporary."

"Ultimately, what bring us the greatest rewards or the worst scars are the choices we make that have spiritual consequences," said Dr. King. "In the end, we don't look back at our lives and think of refinanced mortgages or stock trades, but of those we loved. Let us trust God and love Him by loving others in good times and bad. As my uncle, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, 'The time is always right to do what is right.'"

"To everyone who said, 'I am pro-life, but I will vote for a pro-abortion candidate this time,' I say now is the time to prove your commitment to the unborn," said Dr. King. "March for truth and justice. Flood the White House and Congress with messages that you do not agree with the slaughter of innocent children. Stand up for 'the least of these.'" "Preachers, preach life;" added Dr. King, "warriors, pray for life; soldiers, fight for life. The pro-life battle begins anew. We march on!"

Priests for Life is the nation's largest Catholic pro-life organization dedicated to ending abortion and euthanasia. For more information, visit www.priestsforlife.org.



America Headed Toward a Depression?

According to *ChristiaNet.com* Poll Christians Think So

Christian Newswire/ ChristiaNet.com, the world's largest Christian portal with twelve million monthly page loads, recently asked, "Is America headed toward a depression?" Bill Cooper, president of ChristiaNet said, "A majority of Christians polled expressed a belief that America was indeed headed toward a depression."

Roughly 1,200 Christians responded to the survey, with 60% stating that America was headed toward a depression. The struggles of ordinary consumers were evident in many responses. "The general population has trouble paying for food, clothing, gas for their car, etc. Those on a fixed income are hurting even more," explained one responder. Frustrations over recent attempts by government leaders to craft a solution were also expressed. "This country is in awful debt and now we, the taxpayers, have to bail out Wall Street! It will take many, many years for this country to pay all of this money back." Many Christians attributed the current situation to greed and a departure from Godly principles. One poller felt that the problem was rooted in "the greediness of most Americans today...*But if this country would get back to being a Christian nation and humble themselves and pray and*

seek the Lord's face, then God said He would heal our land."

Twenty-six percent of Christians who responded said that they were not sure if America was headed toward a depression. Many of these people felt that America's future hinged on the upcoming election. "If Americans vote Obama in as president, they will sure be headed toward depression." Still other Christians expressed a hope that the prayers of believers could turn the situation around. "I believe if Christians pray the Lord will take control of the situation."

Fourteen percent of Christians surveyed said that they did not believe that America was headed toward a depression. Faith and hope seemed to be recurring themes for these responders. "God is in charge of all," stated one responder. "Governments or leaders on this earth are not. America has been blessed because we were known as a Christian country. God will bring us back to that." Another Christian expressed their faith very succinctly, "We trust in our Lord, and He knows what we all need! "

To help educate Christians, ChristiaNet has just released a free Financial Quiz. Using the latest interactive technology, one can test their Biblical knowledge on issues facing the Christian community.

Faith & Values

'Tis The Season

by Aaron Griffith



Angel Tree at Christmas

Delivering gifts of love and a message of hope to children of prisoners

Angel Tree Christmas gives churches an opportunity to share Christ's love by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. Participating in Angel Tree is a powerful way for your church community to lovingly answer the biblical call to minister to the least of these. Many churches make an annual commitment to this highly rewarding program, and recognize it as a way to care for some of the most overlooked members of our culture.

Angel Tree Christmas works by connecting parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts. In most cases, local church volunteers purchase and deliver gifts and the gospel to children in the name of their prisoner-parent.

There is excitement and enthusiasm as families of prisoners are reached. There is so much joy that comes with sharing Christ's love with kids who have a mom or dad in prison.

For more information visit www.angeltree.org

As we celebrate this Christmas season by spending time with loved ones, feasting with family, and lavishing gifts upon our most cherished, let us not forget those among us that suffer during this time of year alone or in poverty, for it is Jesus that lavishes His Love upon us in a gift of salvation that no amount of American prosperity can afford. It is a gift that has cost Him everything and one that is for everyone, especially the very least of us. During this season, let's accept the cost of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, following his example by being carriers of light, and bearers of burdens to a suffering of this dark place. If Christ is in you, then you carry within, the very presence of God and the light of hope for the world. Let us not hide that light, closed up within our warm and loving homes, reserving it only for ourselves to enjoy. Rather, let's honor Him, whom for our sake humbled himself through suffering and rejections unto death, by revealing His light through our lives. Let us take His light into the streets of our communities, into our work places, into our churches. Let us walk with His light into the stores where we shop, into the soup kitchens to feed the desperate, into the shelters to bring rest to the weary, into the hospitals and nursing homes to bring hope to the hopeless.

Rather than spending our money on temporary treasures to show our love to our families, let us, as families, spend ourselves in service to show God's love to those suffering in this hope starved world. To the family who we know who suffers through poverty, let us pour out a blessing of financial relief upon them, and more so, let us honor our King by doing so anonymously. To the elderly widow a few houses down, may we go to her offering love through our companionship and assistance. To the weary and poor who suffer through many harsh re-

alities of homelessness, may we seek to serve them however they need. To the family on the block that is of another race, let us reach out to them and open our homes in fellowship and acceptance. To the battered woman and child spending Christmas hidden away in the shelter, let us embrace them with the arms of Christ. For the many men and women who spend Christmas alone in our nursing homes, may we honor them with our company and love. Let us take notice, this season, of the Cross and our rejected and suffering deliverer thereon. Then take inventory of our lives and ask, "How am I using the gifts God has blessed me with?" Am I using them to bring glory to myself through collecting the latest toys and gadgets and status symbols as trophies to show the world my wealth? Or, am I using the wealth that God has blessed me with, to bring Him Glory by blessing the suffering least of society in His name?

I want to suggest a rather revolutionary idea. This year, as an individual, a family, or a group of friends, in Christ, decide to be an instrument of blessing in the life of someone. Put aside your own desires, your own wishes, your own wants, and chose instead to bear the burden of another in Jesus' Name. In prayer, decide who and how, and then give your best. Give it for the glory of Christ, whether it is time, fellowship, money, gifts, service, or simply forgiveness and reconciliation, give your best. Christmas is not about receiving what you want, it is about sacrifice for the needs of another, that is why Christ came, and that is what we are called to as His followers.

Since 2003, Aaron Griffith has been a follower of Jesus Christ. He and his wife Rian have two beautiful girls & together they lead Isaiah 58:10 ministries sharing the transforming grace of Jesus by serving the needy in their community. Aaron also serves as a worship leader & Men's Ministry leader.

True Conservatism

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Conservatism must first begin at home.



Ken Connor

Life

Conservatives understand that the right to life is the foundation of all other rights. They believe that unless government first protects the right to life, all other rights become meaningless. Rights are reserved for the living.

Conservatives also believe that one's rights come from the Creator, not from the government. They believe that Government's role is to protect the rights that God has endowed to humankind. They do not believe that human rights or human dignity depend on one's age, size, or location (inside or outside the womb or even in a petri dish). Consequently, conservatives support policies that protect the lives of all innocent human beings from conception to natural death.

Family

A recovery of conservatism begins with a recovery of the family. Families are the cornerstone of a healthy society. Families are the units that raise our children, transmit our values, and prepare children for life in society as responsible adults. In addition to providing protection, provision, and guidance, families provide an environment in which children learn how to order their lives as they live in community with others.

Conservatives believe that both mothers and fathers have unique and invaluable roles to play in the development of healthy children. Feminine and masculine role models are important for girls and boys alike. However, divorce, promiscuity, and co-habitation have devastated America's families. Conservatives, therefore, advocate policies that strengthen and undergird the family, knowing that such policies strengthen and undergird society.

Work, Savings, Investment, Thrift

Conservatives understand the value of work. Work is the means by which families sustain themselves economically. Since families (unlike government) are not able to print money, they understand the work-wealth connec-

tion. Conservatives deem the willingness to work hard to support oneself and one's family a virtue. They eschew policies that diminish incentives to work or encourage a lack of self sufficiency. Conservatives also understand the importance of living within one's means.

Markets

Conservatives believe that markets should be free from excessive government regulation and that free market forces, not government intervention, should determine winners and losers in the market place. Competition is typically the best and most efficient way to determine which goods and services the consuming public wants. Government control of the means of production of consumer goods and government dictation of consumer preferences should be discouraged.

Recognizing, that accountability and responsibility run hand in hand, businesses and the marketplace should be subject to reasonable regulations designed to secure honesty, transparency, and accountability. Individuals or enterprises, who deem themselves aggrieved by others, should have access to the courts so that disputes may be resolved by a jury of their peers.

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7 Essentials for an Effective Sunday School Teaching Ministry

By Paula Marolewski

Education

Conservatives understand that getting a good job and working hard is an important part of life, but they believe that the purpose of education is much greater than just career-preparation. They agree with Russell Kirk that the true purpose of education should be the "cultivation of a person's own intellect and imagination, for the person's own sake.... True education is meant to develop the individual human being...." Conservatives believe that through education children should gain a better understanding of themselves and the world. Consequently, conservatives believe that the education of one's children is first and foremost a parental responsibility.

To the extent that government assumes a role in the educational arena, conservatives believe that schools should not promote values that are inimical to those of parents. Since education is important to the development of our children, conservatives also believe that educational standards should be designed to encourage excellence and discourage mediocrity in the class room.

Religious Faith

Our culture is increasingly ambivalent about religion. We have come to believe that religion is a private matter that should only be discussed in the confines of home, if at all. This is in sharp contrast to the traditional conservative understanding of religion's role in culture.

Conservatives believe that the marketplace of ideas should be open to a free and vigorous exchange of religious thought. People should have the freedom to advocate the propriety of their own religious views and to challenge the views of others. Nevertheless, because one's beliefs are ultimately a matter of personal conscience, conservatives believe that neither government nor anyone else should have the power to impose particular religious views on others. People should be free to believe (or disbelieve) in accordance with the dictates of their own conscience.

The Earth

Perhaps the most conspicuous failing of "modern conservatives" is the abandonment of care for the environment. No one should care more for our world than conservatives. The conservative respect for past and future generations demands that we exercise proper stewardship over the earth, cultivating it and preserving it for our children.

Community

Conservatives believe in the importance of local communities. While liberals look to government to provide for the needs of the community, conservatives believe in the potential of individual neighbors to work together to build strong communities. Placing this responsibility on the shoulders of the government weakens the community and reduces the human potential for hospitality, love, and sacrificial service one to another.

Conclusion

A return to conservatism will not succeed on a national level if it does not first begin at home. True conservatism is not rooted in the government or political activism. The root of conservatism lies in the second greatest commandment: "...Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matt. 22:39 NIV) and in the Golden Rule, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31 NIV)

Ken Connor is an attorney and Chairman of the Center for a Just Society. For more information, visit <http://centerforajustsociety.org>



All too often, planning for Christian Education involves desperately flipping through the church directory and asking, "Who might be willing to take a class?" Is it any wonder, then, that classes fall flat, attendance is poor, and results are non-existent? Instead, we need to approach Christian Education with foresight and strategy, being certain to include these seven essentials:

1. Develop a balance of classes. The teaching body should be organized so as to teach a balance of classes at all times, and over the course of time, that complement and build on each other. For instance, balancing a doctrine-focused class with a practice-focused class, balancing topical studies with biblical book studies, balancing lecture-style with discussion-style classes, balancing basic studies with in-depth studies.

2. Mentor new teachers. New teachers should be intentionally and carefully mentored in their spiritual gift. All spiritual gifts require growth, education, and coaching — teaching is no exception. Mentoring should take place with an experienced teacher, in a safe environment, within a purposefully established relationship that allows for constructive critique and optimum growth.

3. Perform regular evaluations. It is imperative that each teacher evaluate him or herself on a regular basis with regard to personal holiness and effective ministry. Additionally, however, it is necessary that the teaching body as a whole evaluate itself with regard to their combined ministry to the church body, and whether or not as a whole they are upholding their calling and achieving their goals.

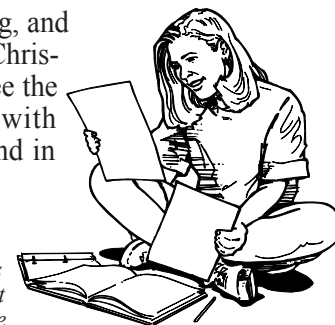
4. Choose topics with care. Subject matter should be chosen very carefully, taking three main points into consideration: first, what is a teacher's area of expertise and passion; second, what are the expressed needs and desires of the church body; and third, what is the Spirit's leading.

5. Provide diversity and opportunity. Encourage rotation among the teaching body so as to give all teachers opportunities to teach, and opportunities to rest. Such rotation also prevents "cliques" or "followings" from developing within the church body, and exposes the church to a variety of teaching styles, perspectives, insights, and subject matter.

6. Encourage discipleship. While not everyone feels comfortable or called to teach in front of people, we are all called to discipleship. Training should take place in this area, but in essence it is simple: encourage people to find someone they can learn from and someone they can help, and walk in those relationships. We all need to be learning from others, and passing on that which we learn. Such relationships will help make Christian Education a way of life for the church.

7. Be accountable. There should be clear leadership and accountability in the church among the teaching body. Such leadership will help balance classes, organize a teaching schedule, and oversee the corporate goals of the church.

With proper care, planning, and preparation in the area of Christian Education, we will see the Word of God go forth with power in our churches, and in each person's life!



About the Author:

Paula J. Marolewski provides challenging and interactive adult Bible studies for individuals, Bible studies, small groups, and adult Sunday School classes at Sink Your Roots. Studies include such topics as Debunking the Myths about Knowing God's Will. The above article is an excerpt from *Called to Teach*.

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:32 KJV



w w w . s o n b u r s t n e w s . i n f o

The Celebration of Faith

RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS AND THEIR MEANING

NOVEMBER 2008

- 1 **All Saints' Day - Christian:** A day for honoring saints, known and unknown. A Holy Day of Obligation in the Roman Catholic Church where saints have special formal status. In general, saints are persons with reputation for unusual lives of holiness and devotion to God.
- 2 **All Souls' Day - Christian:** A day of prayers of intercession for the dead. Prayers of the faithful are seen as helping to cleanse the souls for the vision of God in heaven.
- 15 **Nativity Fast begins - Orthodox Christian**
- 23 **Christ the King - Christian:** A celebration of the preeminence of Jesus over all earthly authorities.
- 27 **Thanksgiving - Interfaith USA**
- 30 **First Sunday of Advent - Christian:** A time of preparation for observing the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent begins on the Sunday nearest November 30 and is the beginning of the Christian worship year. Advent is observed with the lighting of advent candles, display of wreaths, and special ceremonies. Advent also anticipates the coming again to earth of Jesus Christ. The season continues through December 24.
St. Andrew's Day - Christian: An observance of the coming of Christianity to the area now know as Scotland. The martyrdom of St Andrew is remembered as the season of Advent is about to begin.



DECEMBER 2008

- 8 **Immaculate Conception - Catholic Christian**
- 12 **Feast day - Our Lady of Guadalupe - Catholic Christian:** Honoring of a legendary appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 c.e.
Advent Fast begins - Orthodox Christian
- 16-25 **Posedas Novidenas - Christian**
- 21 **Yule - Christian**
- 24 **Christmas Eve - Christian:** A celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. It is observed with worship, candle lighting, manger scenes and festive meals.
- 25 **Christmas - Christian:** A celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts, and family parties.
Feast of the Nativity - Orthodox Christian
- 28 **Holy Innocents - Christian**
Feast of the Holy Family - Catholic Christian
- 31 **Watch Night - Christian**



<http://spiritrestoration.org>



Christmas Reminders

May Christmas

gifts remind you of God's greatest gift, His only begotten Son.

candles remind you of Him who is the "Light of the world."

trees remind you of another tree upon which He died for you.

cheer remind you of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."

bells remind you of the glorious proclamation of His birth.

carols remind you of the song the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest."

season remind you in every way of Jesus Christ your King.



angelfood

MINISTRIES



Fund Raiser

Help raise money to feed people in need!

Prizes include: SS jewelry, watches, handmade blankets, towels, restaurant gift certificates, etc. *Winner's will be selected in December 2008, before Christmas. You do not have to order food boxes or be present to participate.*

Please send entry form with \$1.00 donation per entry to:

**Angel Food Ministries
Phil & Vicki Johnson**

P.O. Box 667, Hampton, GA 30228

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Do not mail cash. All donations are tax deductible and go toward feeding people in need. Call 770-227-5776 for more information.



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Michael Landry, Conductor

~ Christmas Concerts ~

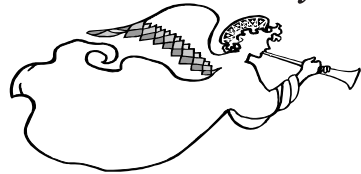
December 6: 6:00 p.m. at Peachtree City Hall - Tree Lighting

December 14: 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
Worship Center/Gymnasium
700 Ardenlee Parkway • Peachtree City

December 20: 2-3:00 p.m. at the Newnan Festival of Lights
Courthouse Square in Newnan

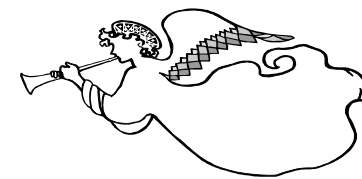
Visit www.peachwind.org for Rehearsal Schedule & Upcoming Concerts

"A Food Ministry With



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MINISTRIES



NOVEMBER 2008 MENUS

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Balanced nutrition and variety with enough food to feed a family of four for a week.

- 1.5 lb. New York Strip Steak (4 x 6 oz.)
- 3 lb. IQF Split Chicken Breast
- 2 lb. Baby Back Pork Ribs
- 2 lb. Chicken Chunks
- 28 oz. Jumbo Charbroiled Beef Patties with Gravy
- 1 lb. Smoked Sausage
- 1 lb. Ground Turkey
- 1 lb. Green Beans
- 1 lb. Diced Sweet Potatoes
- 10 oz. Peanut Butter
- 15 oz. Cranberry Sauce
- 7 oz. Beef-Flavored Rice & Vermicelli
- 20 oz. Shoestring Fries
- 32 oz. 2% Reduced Fat Shelf-Stable Milk
- 6 oz. Pancake Mix
- One Dozen Eggs
- One Dessert Item

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Our special holiday box contains everything you need for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Order one for your family and one for a family in need this holiday season. Feeds average Family including 2 adults and 2 children.

- 7lb. (avg.) Perdue Roasting Hen
- 2 lb. Heat and Serve Mashed Potatoes
- 2 lb. Heat and Serve Corn
- 2 lb. Heat and Serve Green Beans
- 17 oz. Cornbread Stuffing
- 4.5 oz. Brown Gravy Mix
- 15 oz. Cranberry Sauce
- 8 Dinner Rolls
- One Dessert Item

\$30.00

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For Seniors or People on the Go!

Ten perfectly seasoned, nutritionally balanced, fully cooked meals—just heat and serve. Each meal has been developed with the dietary needs of senior citizens in mind, and contains 3 oz. of protein, a starch & two vegetables or fruit.

Sweet 'n Sour Chicken: Slow-Cooked Chicken Chunks served in a Sweet 'n Sour Sauce over Steamed Rice. Steamed Broccoli with Mushroom Pieces accompanied by Wax Beans.

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce: Served with a Rich Traditional Italian Meat Sauce, Seasoned Italian Green Beans, Diced Pears and an Oatmeal Cookie.

Chili Con Carne: with Ground Beef served with Elbow Macaroni, Carrot Coins and Beets with Onions.

Chicken with Creole Sauce: Tender Chicken Pieces served with Classic Creole Sauce, accompanied by Mashed Potatoes, Peas with Mushrooms and Pineapple Chunks.

Ground Beef Teriyaki Stir Fry: Seasoned Ground Beef with a Teriyaki-Flavored Sauce served over Penne Noodles, accompanied by Lemon Pepper Green Beans, and a Sugar Cookie.

Chicken Ala King: Luscious Chicken in traditional Ala King-Style Sauce, served over Rice, with Seasoned Green Beans and Sliced Beets.

Beef Cabbage Casserole: Seasoned Ground Beef interlaced with delicious Cabbage Leaves, served with Creamed Potatoes and Green Peas with Carrots.

Chicken Rice Pilaf: Tender White Chicken served over perfect White Rice Pilaf, accompanied by Broccoli Cuts with Diced Red Peppers and a Chocolate Chip Cookie.

Turkey Tetrizzini: Diced Turkey in a luscious Cream Sauce with Mushroom Pieces served over Spaghetti, accompanied by Seasoned Green Beans with Onions and Italian Seasoned Diced Tomatoes.

Chicken Stew: Slow-Cooked White Chicken with Diced Potatoes and Diced Tomatoes lightly seasoned and folded into a Chicken-Flavored Broth. Stew is served over lightly seasoned Rice with a side dish of Sliced Celery and Carrot Coins, a Southern Biscuit and Apple Sauce for dessert.

*** One or More Specials Available Only with the Purchase of a Regular Box Above ***

- NOVEMBER SPECIAL #1 \$21.00**
- 7 lb. Grill Box
 - 2 lb. Choice Cut Beef Roast
 - 2 lb. St. Louis Style Pork Ribs
 - 2 lb. Hamburger Beef Steaks (4 x 8 oz.)
 - 1 lb. Mild Italian Sausage with Mozzarella Cheese

- NOVEMBER SPECIAL #2 \$21.00**
- 4.5 lb. Meat Combo
 - 1.5 lb. Bone-In Ribeye Steaks (2 x 12 oz.)
 - 1.5 lb. Kansas City Strip Steaks (2 x 12 oz.)
 - 1.5 lb. Boneless Center-Cut Pork Chops (4 x 6 oz.)

- NOVEMBER SPECIAL #3 \$18.00**
- 4.5 lb. Flavored Boneless/Skinless Chicken Breasts
 - 1.5 lb. Rotisserie Flavor (4 x 6 oz.)
 - 1.5 lb. Lemon-Fajita Flavor (4 x 6 oz.)
 - 1.5 lb. Sun-Dried Tomato Flavor (4 x 6 oz.)

- NOVEMBER SPECIAL #4 \$21.00**
- Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box
 - 3 lb. North Carolina New Crop Red Rome Apples
 - 3 lb. Washington State New Crop Granny Smith Apples
 - 4 lb. New Crop Florida Navel Orange
 - 1 stalk California Celery (in sleeve)
 - 4 lb. Premium Idaho Baking Potatoes
 - 3 lb. New Crop North Carolina Sweet Potatoes
 - 2 each Ruby Red Florida Grapefruit
 - 1 lb. Premium California Carrots (cello wrapped)
 - 2 lb. Large-Medium Yellow Onions



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**** Call for December Menu ****

****Ask how you can receive a FREE box of food.****



Six Man Foods for Manly Health

Heart disease is the main killer of men over 35, and cancer is number two and surging upwards. Some say one of the prime forces behind these killers is Man Food, which is usually defined as variations of steak and potatoes with gravy, charcoal-grilled Polish sausage, and other renditions of cancer-inducing heart attack on a plate. But did you know there are six Man Foods that are actually good for men, foods that help them shine in the board room and the bedroom, and on the ball field?

Here are the six foods that can help men stay muscular, stay vigorous, and stave off prostate cancer:

1) **Oysters.** Men have valued oysters as an aphrodisiac for thousands of years, and there is some basis for this belief. Eating a few oysters everyday provides an abundant supply of the antioxidant mineral zinc, which is used by the body in numerous processes, from cell repair to DNA synthesis. Oysters are nature's single best source of zinc, providing almost 100 mg per gram. Research shows that zinc improves the function of the male reproductive system and may protect against prostate cancer.

2) **Bananas.** Bananas are nature's sports snack for men, being handily provided with their own easily peelable, biodegradable wrapper. Some might look at the phallus-shaped banana and think in terms of the ancient medical Doctrine of the Signatures, which held that the key to the usage of plants was indicated by the plant's form and shape. Whether true or not, active men benefit from bananas because they are in fact chock-full of potassium, a mineral that plays an essential role



in cardiac, skeletal, and muscular health. It is key to regulating heartbeat and blood pressure. Throw a banana in your gym bag—just one replaces the potassium lost during an hour of hard exercise.

3) **Sardines.** Tiny sardines are big in healthful omega-3 fatty acids, and a tin of them every couple of days meets the American Heart Association recommendation that everyone eat fish twice a week. Omega-3 fatty acids protect the heart by lowering triglyceride [blood fat] levels and reducing aches and pains.

4) **Brazil Nuts.** It takes a real man with tools to crack open these babies, but the effort is worth it. They are loaded with selenium and magnesium, which are heavy-duty antioxidants that protect prostate health and help prevent cancer and heart disease. Selenium also helps keep the ageing process at bay, stimulates the immune system, and helps lower "bad" cholesterol. Two nuts a day should keep selenium levels high.



5) **Whole grains.** White bread is for sissies—eat flavorful whole grain bread that is rich in fiber. Several commercial breads provide as much six grams of fiber in two slices, which is a good start toward the 30 grams a day recommended for men by the Harvard School of Health. Other good sources of whole grains are brown rice, rolled oats, and numerous whole-grain breakfast cereals. The fiber and bran in whole grains help lower cholesterol, move waste through the digestive system, and make it more difficult for the body to convert starches to glucose.

6) **Berries.** Berries of all kinds—the darker and more colorful the better—contain a health-protecting flavonoid called anthocyanin, which may help slow down ageing and keep the brain from declining.



While enjoying these Man Foods, take a daily multivitamin designed for men, and eat an overall balanced diet that includes proper vegetables.

Plastics Chemical Linked to Disease in Adults

Bisphenol A or BPA, a chemical found in plastics, has been linked to some of the most deadly and rapidly increasing medical conditions in American adults.

A research team from the University of Iowa, the Peninsula Medical School, the University of Exeter, and the University of Plymouth found evidence that links BPA to heart disease and diabetes in adults. BPA, which is used in polycarbonate plastic products such as refillable water bottles, some plastic eating utensils, compact disks and many other everyday products, is one of the world's most widely-used chemicals.

Earlier studies in mice and rats shown that exposure to BPA could lead to diabetes, liver damage, obesity, and insulin resistance. Earlier this year, experts raised the concern that BPA could leach into plastic baby bottles and cause developmental and reproduction problems.

The current research, which examined a representative group of 1455 adults between the ages of 18 and 74, found that the 25 percent with the highest concentration of BPA in their urine were more than twice as likely to have heart disease and diabetes as the 25 percent with the lowest BPA levels.

"Our study has revealed, for the first time, an association between raised BPA loads and two common diseases in adults," said Professor David Melzer, professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Peninsula Medical School who lead the team. At the moment, we can't be absolutely sure that BPA is the direct cause of the extra cases of heart disease and diabetes. If it is, some cases of these serious conditions could be prevented by reducing BPA exposure."

Avoiding the Four Deadliest Cancers

About 1.3 million Americans are diagnosed with cancer each year and about 500,000 die from the disease. Some cancers claim more victims than others, and there are things you can do to avoid becoming a victim. Here are the four deadliest cancers and how you can avoid them:

• **Lung.** Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in America and will claim more than 157,000 victims this year. More than 80 percent of lung cancers are linked to smoking. Even if you don't smoke, but live or work with smokers, your risk rises due to second-hand smoke. Don't smoke and encourage smokers in your life to quit.

• **Colon.** Colon cancer will kill about 57,000 Americans this year, but it is a highly curable cancer if caught early. Follow your doctor's advice for screening. Since high-fat diets and sedentary lifestyles double the risk of colon cancer, switch to a diet rich in whole grains and fresh fruits and vegetables and add exercise to your daily routine.



* **Breast.** Although 40,000 women will die from breast cancer this year, 85 percent of patients are alive five years after

diagnosis. The five-year survival rate rises to 95 percent if the cancer is localized, so early detection is essential.

• **Prostate.** Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men over the age of 70 and will kill 29,000 Americans this year. Although scientists aren't sure just exactly what triggers prostate cancer, many believe it's linked to a high fat diet heavy in red meat.

To avoid all cancers:

- Exercise
- Watch your weight
- Don't smoke
- Eat a low-fat, high fiber diet rich in fruits and vegetables
- Get regular screenings for prostate, breast and colon cancer
- Consider genetic testing if certain cancers run in your family
- Limit/avoid alcohol consumption



Even the deadliest cancers can be conquered if they are caught early enough. If you have a family history of cancer, screening and early detection can make the difference between life and death. Avoiding known lifestyle risk factors for cancer such as smoking will help you avoid the "Big C."

Newsmax Health

Learning the Reasons Many People Smoke

by Bard Joe

Trying to quit smoking is not easy, learning the exact reason why you actually smoke is often critical to the success of the project. If you discover the exact reason why you are smoking it can make it so much easier to actually determine how to find the success that you need, in order to quit for good. Simply trying to quit for reasons that do not pertain to your situation will leave you upset and frustrated. You are likely to feel as if you are nothing more than a failure, and your overall situation is not likely to be impressive at all. However, if you take the time to discover why you specifically smoke, you will be surprised at just how much easier it is to stop.

Many people smoke for a wide range of reasons. They can range from something as innocent as smoking when you are depressed, stressed or when you just want a quick pick me up. The idea that smoking a cigarette will make your projects go away is an innocent idea, but in reality, it is completely incorrect. Typically, what is actually beneficial is the fact that you are able to take a few brief moments out of your life to see exactly what is going on. One such example is those who work at a stressful job, looking for-

ward to your next cigarette break is often going hand in hand with trying to break away from the stress for a few brief moments. Learning how to cut down the stress at work can be very helpful to cutting down the number of cigarettes you need as well.

Other reasons that many people smoke is due to being under the impression that they will not be able to smoke. If you are going somewhere and you think you will not be able to smoke, the urge to smoke may be much stronger. This often has nothing to do with actually needing or even wanting to smoke. It is nothing more than a mental game that we play with ourselves.

Many smokers find that they are only interested in smoking if they are bored. Having nothing to do leads to idle hands, which can easily create problems. Learning how to keep yourself busy is not easy, but trying to avoid boredom can often go a very long way in the battle to stop smoking. Taking the time to create a schedule for yourself that you can keep, without leaving too much down time is important. If you pack your schedule with too much, you will create stress, which could cause you to smoke even more, if you have too

much free time you could become bored which can also lead to smoking more. A properly balanced schedule will ensure that you are productive without stressing.

A final consideration that you need to take into account is getting plenty of sleep. Many people smoke because they need a pick me up in the middle of the day. As lives are increasingly busy, it is quite easy to forget how important sleep really is. This can create a huge need to do something, almost anything to actually stay awake. Avoid smoking and ensure that you are getting the rest you really need. This simple step alone can help you to cut your smoking by as much as half if you are dedicated to getting the sleep that your body really needs to survive.

Find out more at <http://easy2quitsmoking.com>



Recovery from Smoking

- Within 20 minutes of stopping smoking your blood pressure, pulse rate and body temperature return to normal.

Within 8 hours the carbon monoxide level in your blood returns to normal and your smokers breath begins to disappear.

- Within 3 days your chance of having a heart attack decreases and your nerve endings begin to redevelop. Your ability to smell and taste improves dramatically. Breathing also becomes easier.

- Within 2 months your circulation improves. Lungs become cleaner which reduces chance of infection. Your smokers cough improves and fatigue is reduced giving you more energy.

- After one year your chances of having a heart attack is reduced by half. The chances of getting cancer is also reduced.

- After 10 years your risk of having a heart attack or stroke is the same as someone who has never smoked.

- Quitting smoking stops your cash from lining the government and tobacco companies pockets - whilst they knowingly let you die from terminal illness!



"You are the salt of the earth;
but if the salt loses its flavor,
how shall it be seasoned?
It is then good for nothing
but to be thrown out
and trampled underfoot by men."

(Matthew 5:13 NKJ)

O Come Let Us Adore Him

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.""

Luke 2:10-13

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At Least 32 Babies Were Saved

Students' Efforts During the Pro-life Day of Silent Solidarity

Christian Newswire/ -- Stand True, Christ-Centered Pro-life, wrapped up their Pro-life Day of Silent Solidarity on Tuesday, Oct. 21. Since then, Stand True has been contacted by students about 32 babies who have been saved. Student around the country are telling us about girls who changed their minds and chose life after reading literature or talking to pro-life students yesterday.

"I spent most of last night choking back the tears as I started to hear back from students," said Bryan Kemper, President of Stand True Ministries. "The stories kept coming in about girls deciding to keep their babies and hearts being changed."

Students from over 4,700 campuses in 25 countries took part in this life changing event. This is the fifth year of the Pro-life Day of Silent Solidarity and it keeps growing every year as more and more students are willing to give up their voice for those who will never have one.

Here are just a few of the comments we have received this year:

"I attend a Baptist college so I knew I wouldn't get much of a chance to spread the word so after my last class I went down to the mall and was there for about 20 minutes before a group of teenage girls walked up to me and asked what I was doing. I handed them a paper and one started to cry. I took off the tape and asked what was wrong. I found out that 2 of those girls had just set up an appointment

for an abortion. We sat and talked for almost an hour; it was clear that God was at work. Not only did these girls cancel the appointment but I had the privilege to lead them to the Lord."

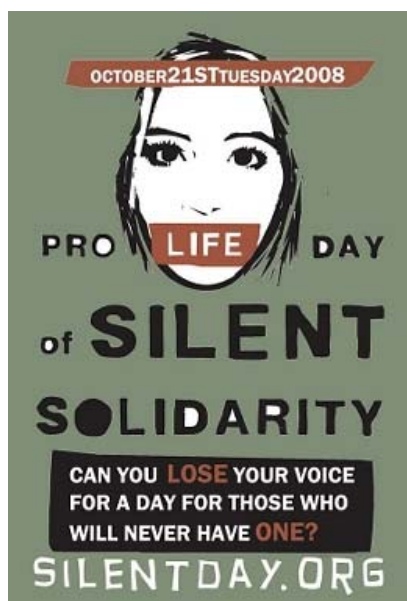
"I was surprised as to how much I prayed; I have never prayed that much in school, ever. There were originally five people doing it this morning and by the end of the day it doubled. I was super happy. You never know how many people are affected by the things you do."

"There was another woman considering abortion, so again I broke my silence and had a 15 minute tear-session/convo with her and she too opted for adoption! I'm so far beyond ecstatic and I am yet again radically affected by this!"

"I am honored and humbled to be part of this event," said Kemper. "I pray my own children will have the courage and conviction to match the kids who participated in the Pro-life Day of Silent Solidarity."

Stand True and Students for Life of America are committed to continue to provide students with tools like the PLDSS, to help them be a voice for their generation. We know that the youth are not the leaders of the future; they the leaders of today.

Legal help for students involved is available from the Alliance Defense Fund (www.telladf.org or 1-800-TELL-ADF)



Ace Hardware Selects Macon Teen Challenge For Makeover

What began as a simple e-mail entry into an online contest of fered by Ace Hardware, resulted in a surprise recently that Dawn Trivolis, wife of Macon (Georgia) Teen Challenge Director Chris Trivolis, won't soon forget.

According to Dawn, Ace was advertising a special "facelift" contest in August of this year, aimed at organizations that help their communities. "In 100 words or less, we had to tell why our building deserved a facelift," she recalls. "But after we submitted it, we forgot about it."

Until, that is, Ace contacted Macon Teen Challenge with the news that they were one of 25 semifinalists. "Then they contacted us again and said they were coming out to take some photos of the center and get some more information," Dawn says. "But instead, they showed up with the media, balloons, corporate executives and Ace spokesperson Lou Manfredini to present us with one of those huge cardboard checks for \$10,000."

And where was Chris for all the excitement? He was at the Teen Challenge national office in Springfield, Missouri (as they thought the Ace team was only coming out to take some pictures of the building). "I had to call him and tell him," Dawn says, clearly disappointed Chris missed the surprise.

Although Teen Challenge has only been in Macon for five years and can house up to 22 students, the building they're currently in is an old Salvation Army building - around a half-century old. "We have lots of areas we could renovate," Dawn says, laughing.

What did the center actually win? According to the rules of the contest, once Teen Challenge selects the portion of the center to receive a facelift, Ace will purchase all the materials for it (up to \$10,000) and then, sometime early next year, a team of Ace employees and volunteers will come out and do the renovations for free.

Coincidentally, Teen Challenge is quite comfortable with renovations - as the organization has been "renovating" lives for more than 50 years. During the tour of



Chris & Dawn Trivolis

the facilities by the Ace representatives, Dawn says that some of the students shared their testimonies concerning the changes that have occurred in their lives since coming to Teen Challenge.

"You could tell, the ministry we do here and the testimonies of the students really touched their hearts," Dawn says. "They [Ace representatives] even started talking about 'what else' they could possibly do to renovate the center - I'm believing that even more good will come of all this."

Dawn admits that there are times in ministry when people can get frustrated and even wonder if all the work they do is worth it. "But when something like this happens," Dawn says, "it really makes me think of the scripture that our labor in the Lord is not in vain. God sees everything we do - even if it's just writing a small paragraph and putting it out in faith."

Macon Teen Challenge has a 22-bed capacity, but is continually growing. In a city with so much potential for good and bad, Chris and Dawn are excited to see what God will do in the near future. Macon Teen Challenge provides help to many individuals struggling with addiction and is also involved in several community programs. Chris and Dawn both know that there is nothing impossible with God and what He does for one person, He can do for another. (AG)

For more information on the Macon Teen Challenge Center, see <http://www.teenchallenge.cc/MaconMens>. To learn more about Teen Challenge USA, see <http://teenchallengeusa.com>.

--Dan Van Veen

Faith, Family and Freedom



It's what makes America Great!

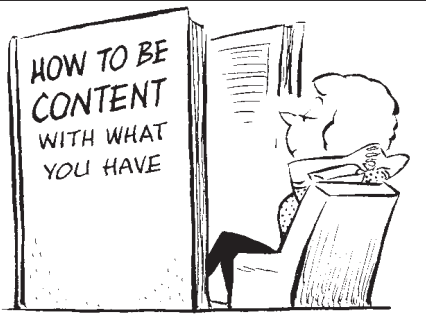
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Chick-fil-A Founder Receives Philanthropy Award



The Asset of Gratitude

People reckon up their goods—so much in bonds, so much in stocks, so much in notes, so much in personal property, so much in real estate. In taking account of our possessions, do we ever take into consideration the asset of a thankful heart? Probably not. And yet there is no greater wealth in itself, and no greater producing agent of wealth than the faculty of gratitude.

Contentment is a personal feast. The richest man in the world can use no more than enough for his wants. If you have the same, you are as rich as he is.

The Philanthropy Roundtable honored S. Truett Cathy on November 7 as the 2008 recipient of the William E. Simon Prize for Philanthropic Leadership.

The prize honors living philanthropists who have shown exemplary leadership through their charitable giving, highlights the power of philanthropy to achieve positive change, and seeks to inspire others to support charities that achieve genuine results. The winner receives a \$250,000 award, payable to the charity of his or her choice. S. Truett Cathy is founder and chief executive officer of Chick-fil-A, Inc.

A man from humble beginnings, Cathy founded and grew Chick-fil-A from a single mall location in 1967 to a nationwide chain of over 1,400 restaurants. The company's vision statement is "to glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us and to have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A." In line with this principle, all Chick-fil-A restaurants are closed on Sundays.

In 1984 Cathy established the WinShape Foundation, named for its mission to shape winners. Through the WinShape Foundation, Cathy focuses his



philanthropic giving in his foster care program, wilderness programs and camps, marriage enrichment programs, and an extensive scholarship program for students of Berry College in Georgia. Nonetheless, as one nominator stated, "Truett's most prized contribution has been giving of himself to generations of young people with his personal time, energy, and passion."

Truett Cathy and his wife, Jeannette, first opened their home to foster children over 30 years ago and have since taken in nearly 200 foster children through WinShape Homes, a long-term foster care program that includes 14 foster homes

throughout Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee. One former WinShape foster child fondly writes, "Mr. Cathy made a special trip to camp to meet me and to tell me how happy he was that I had chosen to live in one of his homes. He introduced himself as 'Grandpa,' and I thought it was great to finally have a Grandpa in my life."

Cathy's fondness for young people and his personal involvement in their lives has affected Chick-fil-A's business practice. Viewing Chick-fil-A's employment of teenagers as an opportunity to mentor thousands of young people, Mr. Cathy strives to create a corporate atmosphere that fosters character development mentoring. Viewing Chick-fil-A's employment of teenagers as an opportunity to mentor thousands of young people, Mr. Cathy strives to create a corporate atmosphere that fosters character development mentoring.

Through his Leadership Scholarship program for Chick-fil-A restaurant employees, Cathy has awarded more than \$23 million in \$1,000 scholarships in the past 35 years. Likewise, the WinShape Foundation has awarded nearly 820 students of Berry College with scholarships of up to \$32,000.

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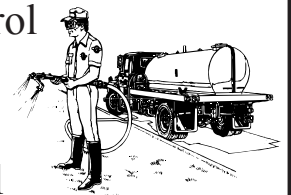
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BILLY GRAHAM TURNS 90 AS NATION TRANSITIONS TO NEW LEADERSHIP

Evangelist Reflects on Past Year, Prays for New President

Christian Newswire- Evangelist Billy Graham celebrated his 90th birthday recently, Nov. 7, with family and personal staff at a private barbeque near his mountain home outside Asheville, N.C., attended by all five of his children, most of his 19 grandchildren and many of his great grandchildren. Pictured are four generations of William F. Graham, including the evangelist and, left to right, his son, Franklin; grandson, "Will"; and great-grandson, "Quinn."

For the past month, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), the worldwide ministry Billy Graham started in 1950, has been encouraging individuals around the world to bless and encourage the evangelist by sending a birthday greeting or a story of how his ministry impacted their life. Tens of thousands of these messages have been pouring in, and are being collected together to share with him as part of the birthday celebration.

"I never expected to live this long, and it is hard to believe I have reached the age of 90," Mr. Graham said. "Every day is a gift from God, no matter how old we are. I have discovered that just because we grow weaker physically as we age, it doesn't mean that we must grow weaker spiritually. In fact, we ought to be growing stronger spiritually, because our eyes ought to be on eternity and Heaven – on the things that really matter."

Mr. Graham hopes to finish a new book based on his personal experience with growing older and how to be prepared emotionally and spiritually for what he says can be the most fulfilling years of life. Despite the death last year of Ruth, his marriage and ministry partner of more than 63 years, Mr. Graham is buoyed by his family and the hope of the Gospel message he has faithfully preached for more than six decades. "I look forward even more to the time when I will be

reunited with my wife in heaven, and neither of us will ever experience again the physical aches and pains brought about by age and illness."

Mr. Graham added. Mr. Graham stays informed about the ongoing ministry of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) under the leadership of his son, Franklin. This past year, he has participated in ministry board meetings and other activities as his health has allowed. He enjoys hearing the reports from around the world of the meetings led by Franklin – including a Festival he held in Taipei, Taiwan last weekend – his grandson Will, and other associate evangelists. He also follows closely the work of the ministry's Rapid Response Team in times of crisis, such as the hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region earlier this year. "I am proud of Franklin's leadership of the BGEA, and the way it is showing the love of Christ to a hurting world and using new technology to share the Gospel message," Mr. Graham said.

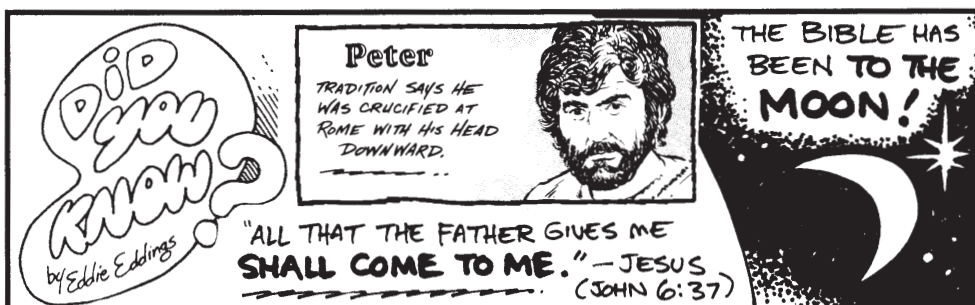
Mr. Graham paid close attention to the political cycle and the race for the White House, in light of a difficult economy and the ongoing war on terror. "President Elect Barack Obama faces many challenges, and I urge everyone to join me in pledging our support and prayers as he begins the difficult task ahead."



A Thanksgiving Prayer

We thank thee, God, for blessings—
The big ones and the small—
Thy tender love and mercy
That guards and keeps us all.
The fresh awakening of joy
That comes with morning light,
Sunlit hours to fill the day
And restful sleep at night.
The hope, the beauty, and the love
That brighten each day's living—
We praise thee, and our hearts are filled
With joy, and with thanksgiving.
The pride that's found in work well done,
The love of those who care,
The peace of mind, the sweet content
That comes with quiet prayer.

—Author unknown



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The Merry Heart

Church mice
A Christian comic by Karl Zorowski



MOST PEOPLE WILL TELL YOU CHURCH IS A FUNNY THING!

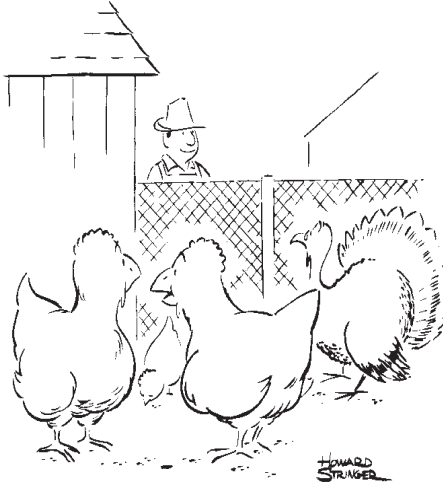
Church mice
Copyright 2007 Karl A. Zorowski

THERE'S ONE THING I HATE ABOUT THIS TIME OF YEAR...
WHAT'S TO HATE ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

SHOPPING! I DROVE AROUND THE MALL FOR OVER AN HOUR AND NEVER DID FIND A PLACE TO PARK!
DID IT MAKE YOU THINK ABOUT HOW POOR MARY AND JOSEPH FOUND NO ROOM AT THE INN?

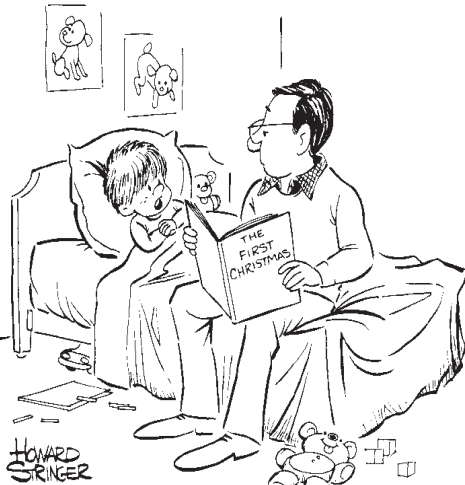
I'D RATHER NOT TELL YOU WHAT IT DID MAKE ME THINK ABOUT...
REMEMBER, JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

<http://www.zorowski.com/churchmice>
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ONE THING I'M THANKFUL FOR ON THANKSGIVING—
I'M NOT A TURKEY.

HOWARD SPRINGER

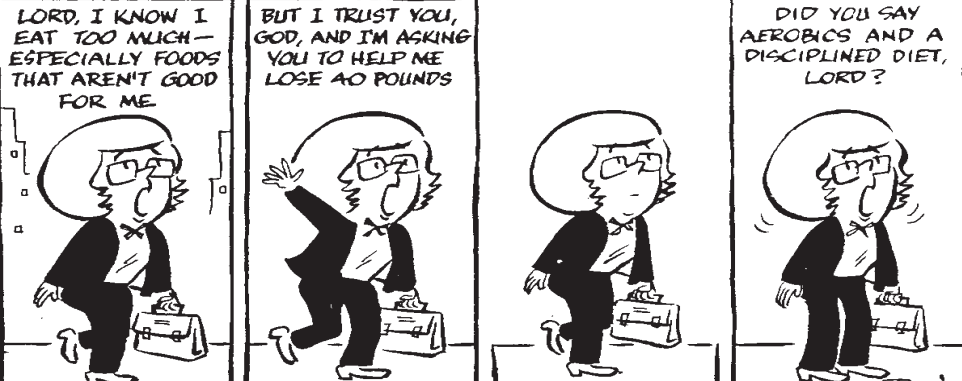


WHY WERE THE SHEPHERDS OUT WASHING THEIR SOCKS BY NIGHT?

HOWARD SPRINGER


LORD, I KNOW I EAT TOO MUCH— ESPECIALLY FOODS THAT AREN'T GOOD FOR ME.
BUT I TRUST YOU, GOD, AND I'M ASKING YOU TO HELP ME LOSE 40 POUNDS

DID YOU SAY AEROBICS AND A DISCIPLINED DIET, LORD?




LORD, HELP ME TO CULTIVATE UNDERSTANDING, COMPASSION AND KINDNESS.
HELP ME NOT TO BE CRITICAL AND BLAME MY PROBLEMS ON OTHERS

OH— AND DO THE SAME FOR MY HUSBAND, LORD, WHO NEEDS HELP MORE THAN I DO



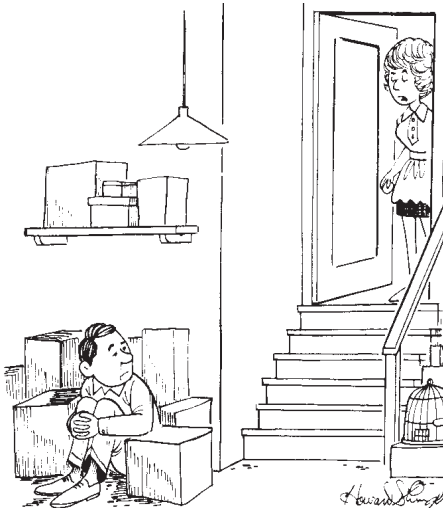
WE HAVE JUST SO MANY HOURS IN THE DAY TO DO WHAT WE MUST DO.
THANK YOU, LORD, THAT LONG AGO YOU HELPED ME SORT THE GOOD FROM THE BAD

BUT I STILL NEED YOUR HELP, LORD
SHOW ME HOW TO SORT THE BEST FROM THE GOOD




Things to do
③ ④
⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧
⑨ ⑩ ⑪ ⑫
⑬ ⑭ ⑮ ⑯
⑰ ⑱ ⑲ ⑳
㉑ ㉒ ㉓ ㉔ ㉕

“A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance...”
Proverbs 15:13 KJV



YOU CAN COME UP NOW. THE GROUP VISITING FROM THE CHURCH HAS GONE.

HOWARD SPRINGER



MY MOM SAYS THERE'S NO WAY I CAN HAVE A DIRT BIKE. SO, I GUESS YOU BETTER MAKE IT A PONY INSTEAD.

HOWARD SPRINGER

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Imagine It!

Garolyn Bown, Owner: All I Can Imagine

Making Family Memories During the Holiday Seasons

If you do not want the only memories your family has of the holiday seasons as ones of rushing around, frenzied shopping trips and short tempers plan ahead to have some fun time just doing simple things.

Including your children in the planning of your Thanksgiving and Christmas activities and arranging to involve them in your decorating and baking may help create memories you will all cherish for years to come.

Because food preparation is an important part of the holidays have your children help select recipes and have them help make the shopping lists. When you go grocery shopping have your children be in charge of selecting the items on "their" shopping list. It can be even more fun if the recipe is one that is specifically for kids; one that they can make all by themselves.

Here is a simple recipe that doubles as a craft and decoration for your table:

Apple Turkey

Insert toothpicks into the bottom of a red apple to form legs. Insert another toothpick on the top of the apple (to one side), and push on a large marshmallow. On 4 more toothpicks, push colored gumdrops. Push these into the back of the apple for feathers. Add raisins and red gumdrop sliver to complete face. I use the heavy duty colored toothpicks to prevent breaking, or not spotting when eating. You now have a Thanksgiving turkey that doubles as centerpiece and a snack!

I like this next idea for a quick lunch or snack and the kids can make it by themselves while you are doing something else.

Turkey Toast

Use a large turkey shaped cookie cutter to cut out shape from wheat bread. Spread the whole shape with peanut butter, Use a raisin for an eye, a slice of a red gummy worm for the wattle, and fruit loops for the tail feathers. Tastes good, and kids love it! (warning, many children are allergic to peanut butter...check with parents first)

When you are through in the kitchen and the kids need some quiet craft time turn on your computer and go to <http://coloringbookfun.com/> and let your kids select some coloring pages to print. While they are coloring their selected pictures you can spend time with them discussing the subject they chose or you could get some letters written or make a few phone calls or pull out a favorite book and just relax.

When it is time to plan your Thanksgiving decorations include your children. Find craft ideas on the Internet that can be used on your table or around the house and have your children help decorate. One such idea could be a "Native American Boy Paper Craft". Find directions and the template at <http://www.dltk-holidays.com/thanksgiving/mboynative.htm>.



When it comes time to think of what Christmas gifts you want to give and the budget is tight I always like to make home made items. I like to begin right after Thanksgiving and begin baking cookies, fudge and date nut breads. I pull out the tins I bought on sale at the end of last Christmas or buy new ones at a dollar store and begin packing them with a variety of cookies, candies and fudge. Your kids can help you shop for the items and make these great tasting cookies.

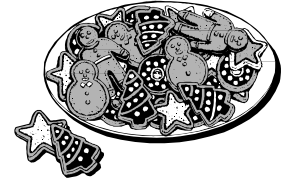
Finding recipes geared for kids is another good idea and cookie recipes for Snickerdoodles and Super Easy Sugar Cookies can be found on the internet at: <http://www.easy-kids-recipes.com/cookie-recipes.html>. After you have made a variety of goodies have your kids help pack up tins, boxes, and bags to give to teachers, Sunday School teachers, a neighbor or best friend. Maybe you could arrange to take several to a nursing home and pass out some Christmas cheer to those who may not have family in the area.

Including a Christmas tract or a coloring page your child has colored can make a nice surprise for a senior citizen in your neighborhood.

I hope these simple ideas can help make your holidays fun for both your kids and yourself and maybe start a tradition that your children will pass on the next generation.

SnickerDoodles

1 cup shortening
1-1/2 cups sugar
2 eggs
2-3/4 cups sifted flour
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon sugar
2 teaspoons cinnamon



Preheat oven to 400F degrees (180C degrees). In a mixing bowl, mix together shortening, sugar, and eggs thoroughly. In a separate bowl mix together flour, cream of tartar, baking soda, and salt. Stir into shortening mixture. Shape dough into 1" balls. Roll in mixture of 2 tablespoons sugar and cinnamon. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet and bake 8-10 minutes.

This recipe was submitted by C. Clark, age 12

Garolyn Bowen owns All I Can Imagine (a certified Family Friendly Website) that sells new eco friendly children's learning and fun toys. Website has parent and teacher resources, activities, and animal facts that coordinate with the animal puzzles. Visit www.blocksand3dpuzzles.com

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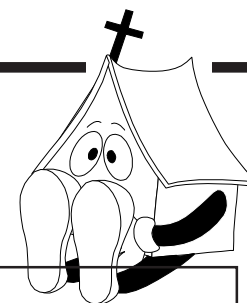
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The Candy Cane Story



A candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would remind people of the true meaning of Christmas, so he made the candy cane to incorporate several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and the firmness of the promises of God.

The candymaker then shaped his cane into the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to the earth as Savior. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down to to reclaim the fallen lambs who, like sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

The Child Jesus Word Search

ANGEL
BABY
BETHLEHEM
CARPENTER
FRANKINCENSE
GABRIEL
GOLD
JOSEPH
MARRIED
MARY
MEN
MYRRH
NAZARETH
SHEPHERDS
STABLE
TEMPLE
WISE
WORSHIP

F	S	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	R	C
G	R	F	J	J	H	Y	J	T	M	D	A
H	S	A	N	O	B	R	E	Q	E	T	R
J	T	L	N	A	S	M	R	I	N	B	P
Y	A	E	B	K	P	E	R	Y	E	I	E
R	B	I	R	L	I	R	P	T	M	Z	N
A	L	R	E	A	A	N	H	H	M	Y	T
M	E	B	J	M	Z	L	C	W	I	S	E
Q	O	A	B	M	E	A	G	E	G	Y	R
K	A	G	F	H	P	C	N	O	N	E	G
J	L	L	E	G	N	A	R	J	L	S	I
V	W	M	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	D	E

Luke 1:30-33

Fill in the blanks using the New King James Version of the Bible.

Then the _____ said to her, "Do not be _____, Mary, for you have found _____ with God. And _____, you will _____ in your womb and bring forth a _____, and shall call His name _____. And He will _____ over the _____ of Jacob forever, and of His _____ there will be no _____." He will be great, and will be called the Son of the _____; and the Lord God will give Him the _____ of His father _____.

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Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-3

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Devotional

Becoming the Salt of the Earth

by Yvette Nietzen

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."
(Matthew 5:13 NKJ)



Often times when I make breakfast, I add a pinch of salt and pepper to the eggs, scramble them then cook. On occasion I will add ham, other times onions and tomatoes, my husbands favorite.

As I served breakfast the other morning, my husband went for the salt and I told him that I had already added it. This made me think of the verse above. Sometimes us Christians, full of zeal for the Lord, may add too much salt to a conversation, especially when it comes to those that do not know the Lord. In our love for the lost, we fail to measure our words and begin pouring out too much salt. We then loose the flavor of our conversation.

Have you ever had eggs where too much salt was added? We can't eat it, and we end up throwing it out.

We need to measure the amount of salt we add. Our conversations could be counsel, prayer, or an every day topic. I am sure we have at one time had those people overloading us with their own topic, and we end up leaving not remembering what they spoke about.

When we speak to others, it should be with faith hope and love, flavored so that they will want more from us.

If we add just the right amount of "salt" to our conversation, this will leave the person asking for more.

*Yvette Nietzen is an ordained minister and currently lives in Costa Rica.
View her blog at: www.yvettenietzen.com
Article Source: <http://www.faithwriters.com>-CHRISTIAN WRITERS*



Resolutions for the New Year

A little less impatience with those we deem too slow;
A little less arrogance because of all we know;
A little more humility, seeing our worth is slight . . .
We are such trivial candles compared to stars at night!
A little more forgiving and swifter to be kind;
A little more desirous the word of praise to find,
The word of praise to utter and make a heart rejoice;
A little bit more careful to speak with gentle voice.
A little more true eagerness to understand each other;
A little more high courage to help a ship-wrecked brother;
A little more real striving for each task that must be done;
These be our resolutions . . . and God help everyone!
—Author unknown



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*The heavens
declare
the glory of God;
the skies proclaim
the work of
his hands.*

Psaln 19:1 KJV

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"And may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ." II Thessalonians 3:5

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