

Home Gardens Church of Christ

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12-15-2024

THE WEEK
BEFORE
CHRISTMAS
AND ALL THROUGH
THE HOUSE

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: Rejoice!





Carols Sing-Along

White Christmas

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
 Just like the ones I used to know
 Where the treetops glisten
 And children listen
 To hear sleigh bells in the snow
 I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
 With every Christmas card I write
 May your days be merry and bright
 And may all your Christmases be white

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Oh, little town of Bethlehem
 How still we see thee lie
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by
 Yet in the dark streets shineth
 The everlasting light
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight

I'll Be Home for Christmas

I'll be home for Christmas
 You can plan on me
 Please have snow and mistletoe
 And presents on the tree
 Christmas Eve'll find me
 Where the love light gleams
 I'll be home for Christmas
 If only in my dreams

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
 All is calm and all is bright
 Round yon virgin Mother and Child
 Holy infant so tender and mild
 Sleep in heavenly peace
 Sleep in heavenly peace

The worst part about parallel parking is the witnesses.

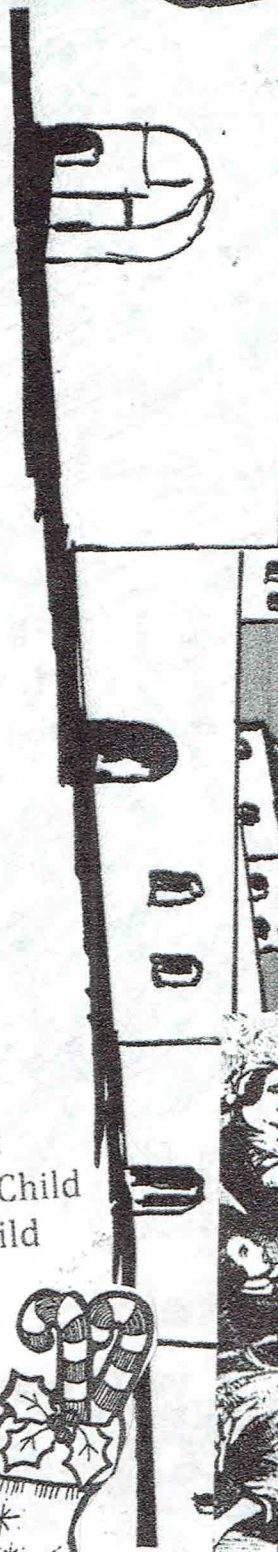
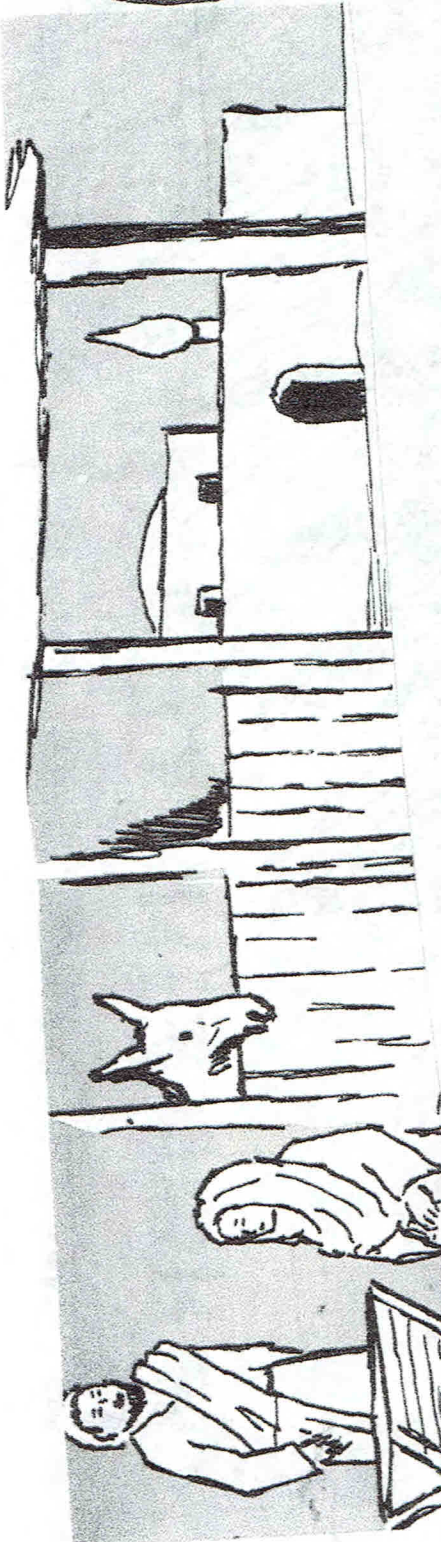
ALYPIUS - Ancient Dwarf of Alexandria
 17 INCHES TALL
 WAS IMPRISONED IN A PARROT'S CAGE -
 BY JAMBALICUS

Juan Nepesin escaped ashore of 3,000,000 I

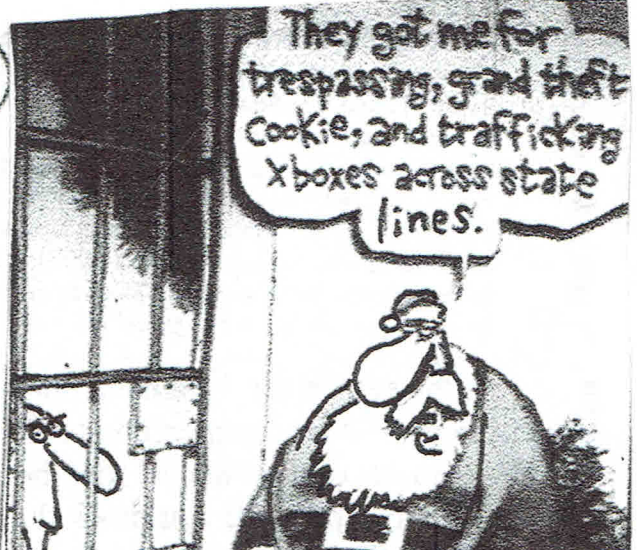
In 1520 landed in Mexico the capture of Cortes and his enemies and captured and killed an army. Among them Santo Domingo destined to me

of all time. He had a fatal disease in the Indian nation with a passing. Cortes in all wars of the total of the Cabin E

When 'merry' was used and 'agreeable', as a carol 'God rest' meaning of mirth though it is simil



Being stationed overseas during the holidays can be depressing. When I was in Okinawa, Japan, one Marine was determined to brighten our spirits by creating a real Marine's Christmas tree. It was a single leafless branch stuck into a tree stand. A red ribbon was tied to a limb, and hanging from that was a brass rifle round. A sign on the tree read: "A Cartridge in a Bare Tree."



CAN ONE BE SAVED BY "FAITH" BEFORE THE "NEW BIRTH?"

No one in the Christian Age has ever been saved by faith alone. No one has ever been saved the moment he/she believes. "...As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). Those who "receive" (believe in) the Lord have the power, the privilege, to obey Him and become sons of God.

The "new birth" is essential to salvation. It is a cleansing process wherein sins are forgiven. Therefore, forgiveness of sins and the new birth are synonymous actions. One does not and can not take place without the other. How can one be forgiven of sins unless he has been born again? It's impossible.

Jesus said **except** a man be "born again" he cannot see nor enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:3,5). Jesus tells Nicodemus the new birth involves two elements: water and the Spirit. There is no new birth without both water and the Spirit. Those who received Jesus were baptized *in water* for the remission of sins (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; John 4:1). This was the command given in Acts 2:38 for those desiring salvation — water baptism for the remission of sins! Jesus made "water" an essential element of the new birth.

The new birth is a going down into water and a coming up out of water (Acts 8:36-39). It is a burial or planting in water and a rising up from water (Romans 6:4-5). This is a likeness of the Lord's death, burial and resurrection. One dies to the old world of sin. The dead (to sin) person is buried and raised from this watery grave a new creature IN Christ (II Cor. 5:17; Col. 2:12) and lives a "newness of life" (Romans 6:4). The "old man of sin" is destroyed (forgiven) in the process (Romans 6:6). It is the exact moment sins are washed away (Acts 22:16) by the blood of Jesus (Revelation 1:5). "**Being THEN made free from sin**" (Romans 6:18).

There's no water in faith, repentance or confession. But there is water in baptism. It is the new birth (Romans 6:3; Gal. 3:21). Baptism saves (I Peter 3:21).

The world doesn't teach what Jesus told Nicodemus. Have you been taught it? Have you been born again? Obey the Truth and the Truth will make you free (John 8:32).

wailing child through the supermarket, a young father repeats softly, "Don't get excited, Josh ... Don't scream, Josh ... Keep calm, Josh."
A fellow shopper, impressed by the father's calm demeanor, says, "You should be commended for trying to soothe your son." The father replies, "I'm Josh."



...a cabin boy of Panfilo Narvaez' Fleet, the coast of Mexico, and caused the death is by infecting them with smallpox. Spanish conquistador Panfilo Narvaez, with a detachment of 900 men, intent upon great Hernan Cortez, who conquered Mexico-California. Cortez advanced to meet his ed them in battle. Narvaez himself was herents were incorporated in the victorious newcomers was a young cabin boy from ose name was Juan Nepomucen. He was tory as the most prodigious Typhoid Mary sick with smallpox and carried this dread- country. As a result more than three mil- id of smallpox. Entire tribes were exter- single member escaping, to tell of their ns are odious, but it is a singular fact, that ted States has fought since the Revolution, sualties is only 1/3 of the deaths caused by 1520.

used in English it simply meant 'pleasing' phrase Merrie England or the Christmas merry, gentlemen'. The more riotous ity it carries now is a later development, a old Dutch word for 'mirth', merchte.

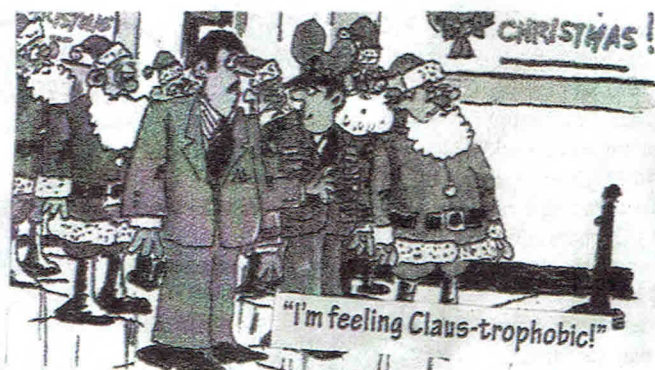
An apple a day keeps the doctor away. An onion a day keeps everyone away.

substitute Santa at a department store."
"What's your job title?"
"Subordinate Claus."

AN UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICER said to an applicant, "I see you've found temporary work."
"That's right," the applicant beamed. "I'm a

First Explorer Reaches South Pole

In a race against British rival Robert Falcon Scott, Norwegian Roald Amundsen became the first explorer to reach the South Pole. Both men set off near the edge of Antarctica in October, with Amundsen winning the race and returning to base camp by late January. Scott's expedition arrived in mid-January due to misfortunes such as motor sleds breaking down forcing explorers to travel on foot.



'Tis the season for the atheist/humanist crowd to make fools of themselves. As millions of Americans celebrate Christmas, the American Humanist Association is in the midst of their annual membership drive punctuated by smart-aleck billboards and city bus placards that mock the existence of moral authority and belittle faith in Christ. Three years ago, their motto was "Why believe in a god? Just be good for goodness' sake!" Then they became more direct: "No god? No problem!" But this year, as they feebly attempt to detract from the celebration of Christ's incarnation once again, perhaps it is a fruitful exercise for our civilization to consider their overtures and weigh the merit of their message. The mantra "No god? No problem!" has but one minor flaw — the entire record of human history. It is no coincidence that as German atheist philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche boasted, "God is dead ... we have killed him ... must we not ourselves become gods" (which, by the way, is the entire basis of humanism dating back to the Garden of Eden), he simultaneously predicted that the twentieth century would be the most murderous in human history. Moreover, the phrase "be good for goodness' sake" is meaningless unless we can define what "goodness" is. For the believer, that is a relatively easy question to answer. Goodness is measured by the extent to which man's behavior conforms to the character and the will of his Creator. That is why the Christian believes the Bible is an irreplaceable component of human existence — its revelation serves to guide us towards that divine will. The Roman philosopher Seneca the Younger wrote, "We drown even children who at birth are weakly and abnormal, stressing that "it is not anger but reason" that provides justification for such an act. This horrific practice is the result of reason built upon a godless foundation. In contrast, American civilization bears the fruits of reason based on a Christian ethic that teaches submission and obedience to a transcendent Moral Authority. That fact alone should cause the atheist to pause as he jeeringly taunts believers with signs proclaiming, "Merry X-mas." Creating a Christ-less holiday season may seem like a worthy cause until you realize where it leads. Civilizations torn free from the moorings of Moral Authority are not the kind anyone — even a fervent atheist — would want to live in.



AN INSURANCE AGENT writing a policy for a cowboy asked if he had ever had any accidents.
"No," the cowboy said, "but a bronco kicked in a couple of my ribs last year, and a few years ago a

rattlesnake bit me."
"Well, wouldn't you call those accidents?"
"No, they did it on purpose."

I ASKED MY SHRINK to show me one positive result from all my visits. He showed me his new Porsche.