



# CAC's Bulletin for Sunday, December 5, 2010

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## Last Sunday AM

Elder Lorren Godwin retold the story of the prodigal son from the younger son's perspective, the father's perspective, and the older brother's perspective. The younger son left, taking his share of the inheritance with him. He wasted it in living an extravagant and sinful lifestyle. When he finally came to his senses, he was eating the food that was thrown away and destined for pigs. The father, after the younger son left, watched every day for him to return. When he finally did, the father did not care that he was dirty or that he was broke. He had his son home. He ran to meet him, and He fell on his neck and kissed him. He gave him clothes, cleaned him up, got him new shoes, and replaced the family ring that was lost when he was away. The father called for a grand celebration, yet the older brother chose not to take any part in it. He did not want any part of the joyous time that his family was having. He was jealous because they failed to recognize him and had never thrown him a party. The problem with the older brother was his failure to forgive his sibling. Even though the father forgave him for wasting all his inheritance, the older son refused to. We must not allow ourselves to be so judgmental when people who have left the church return. We should accept them with love and the forgiveness of Jesus. When they return, many times they are broken, hurt and in need of love and healing. As the body of Christ, the church should not allow ourselves to reject them, no matter their condition.

## Sunday PM

Pastor Joseph preached "The Branch and the Stone" using Zechariah 3:1-9 and Matthew 2:23. The Old Testament prophets foretold the Messiah's arrival, and some even indicated that He would be from Nazareth. Where did they say this? Every time they called Him "the Branch" as seen in various places in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah (see text) and more. In Hebrew the word for Branch is "Nitzer", which is the root from which the city name Nazareth comes. The Branch is unique. He comes from King David, yet He is the source from which King David came. How can one person be both the root (source) and offspring (descendent) of David? Because He is both God and man! There is no one like Jesus! The Messiah's death paved the way for the New Covenant, in which the Lord does not just send His word as an external force, but rather writes His laws in our hearts, by the power of His indwelling Spirit. The Messiah is "the stone that was set at nought" by men, yet He was made "the chief cornerstone" (see Acts 4). Jesus said of the stone (i.e. of Himself): "whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder" (see Matthew 21:44 and Luke 20:18).

## Wednesday

Pastor Joseph preached a message entitled "Drama Queen" using Zechariah 3:1, Hebrews 1:1-5, 10, and Proverbs 26:4-5 for texts. It is simply a given that people will do us wrong. This will even happen in the church. Whenever people do us wrong, if we retaliate, then we are lowering ourselves to their level and becoming like them. Our carnal flesh will come up with lots of clever sayings to justify that behavior. When we want to justify retaliation, we use phrases such as "You must fight fire with fire" and "I didn't start the fight, but I sure will finish it." Whenever someone attacks

us in a way that is somewhat public (such as gossiping to several people or posting against us on Facebook) even then we are commanded to go to them *privately*. That may not seem fair to us, but it is the right thing to do. God is not fair, but He is just. There is no such thing as a life without drama. Every church will have drama. The Lord can even use drama to prove who is His and who is just faking their religion. Master drama and you become its boss—the only kind of drama queen (king) to be.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Submit yours to us today!

| Natural Birthdays  | Spiritual Birthdays                 | Anniversaries         |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bro. James Bargo (12/6)<br>Sis. Betty Murphy (12/7)<br>Elder John Sandy (12/9)<br>Sis. Tammy Channel (12/11) | Elder David Harris Jr. (11/29/1981) | None to be announced. |

## Fun!

## Kiddie Corner

## Birth of Christ

**DOWN**

- Who were tending their flocks by night
- Who announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds
- The wise men bowed down to Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ him
- Jesus was born in this town
- "The \_\_\_\_\_ of peace" - one of the titles of Jesus
- mother of Jesus
- Jesus was born in a \_\_\_\_\_
- The shepherds were in the \_\_\_\_\_ when they saw an angel

**ACROSS**

- The wise men followed a \_\_\_\_\_ that led them to Jesus
- human father of Jesus
- There was no \_\_\_\_\_ at the inn for Jesus
- one of the gifts of the three wise men
- Jesus could not stay at the \_\_\_\_\_ because it was full
- and on earth \_\_\_\_\_, goodwill toward men (Luke 2:14)

Fill in with the following words:

- manger
- peace
- angel
- Bethlehem
- Joseph
- prince
- field
- room
- myrrh
- star
- shepherds
- Mary
- Inn
- worship

## Announcements / Events / Ministry Opportunities


- CAC's radio broadcast, **Voice of Truth, on WAJR 103.3 FM**, can be heard twice on Sundays, at 11:30am, and again at 11pm. **Today: "Importunity!"**
- Fri., Dec. 10, 6pm – **CAC Christmas Dinner**, Lost Creek Community Building
- Sat., Dec. 18, 7-8pm – **CAC Prayer Meeting**
- Sun., Dec. 21, 10am – **CAC Christmas Program**

|   |                     |                                       |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Fun!</b>   | <b>Bible Trivia</b> | ⊙⊙⊙⊙⊙○○○○○ <b>Moderate Difficulty</b> |
| <b>Why didn't Mary stay home and have the baby, Jesus, in Nazareth?</b>                   |                     |                                       |
| <b>What did Mary wrap Jesus in when He was born?</b>                                      |                     |                                       |
| Submit your answer to Sis Rhonda at: <a href="mailto:news@cac.us.com">news@cac.us.com</a> |                     |                                       |
| Last week's answer: Elijah (found in Luke 1:17).  |                     |                                       |
| Answer to easier question: Because he doubted the angel's words (Luke 1:20).              |                     |                                       |

|  |              |  |
|--|--------------|--|
| <b>Fun!</b>  | <b>HUMOR</b> | Send in your funny stories to <a href="mailto:news@cac.us.com">news@cac.us.com</a> |
| <b>The Funny Side of Parenting</b>   |              |  |
| A first grade teacher collected old, well-known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb, and had them come up with the rest. Here are some interesting results:   |              |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's always darkest before... daylight savings time.</li> <li>• Don't bite the hand that... looks dirty.</li> <li>• You can't teach an old dog new... math.</li> <li>• Happy is the bride who... gets all the presents!</li> <li>• A penny saved is... not much.</li> <li>• Children should be seen and not... spanked or grounded.</li> <li>• If at first you don't succeed... get new batteries.</li> </ul> |              |  |
| <b>Bible Study</b>   |              |  |
| Richard, my friend's little grandson, came home from Sunday School, and I asked him what they had studied.   |              |  |
| His reply was, "Nothing."  |              |  |
| So I asked him, "Didn't you study Jesus?"  |              |  |
| Richard's reply was, "No, he wasn't even there."   |              |  |

| <b>Special Prayer Requests</b>   |  | <b>Featured Verse</b>   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sis. Jeannie Walls</li> <li>• Bro. Jim Starkey</li> <li>• Sis. Mary Barberio</li> <li>• Sis. Renee Bargo</li> <li>• Sis. Charlotte Evans</li> <li>• Bro. David Moore</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sis. Helen Sandy</li> <li>• Sis. Shirley Cole</li> <li>• Sis. Mary Snelson</li> <li>• Sis. Mary Harris</li> <li>• Sis. Betty Murphy</li> <li>• Pastor Fred Parkins</li> </ul> | <p>"O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; fear before him, all the earth"<br/>(Psalm 96:9).</p> |

Did we miss something? Please let Sis. Rhonda Moore know: [news@cac.us.com](mailto:news@cac.us.com)

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# Christian Apostolic Church

## Community of the Redeemed

### How to Respond to "Happy Holidays?"

By Pastor Doug Joseph

How should church members respond to people in public who refuse to say Merry Christmas (even employees in businesses that we visit or with which we conduct business)? How should church members respond to businesses that try to censor their employees from saying Merry Christmas? These are indeed different scenarios, and perhaps we should respond to each one differently. Consider the following:

Put yourself in the shoes of a non-Christian who does not desire to give honor to a Christian holiday. If they encounter Christians that treat them rudely over this matter, does our behavior represent Christianity in a way that brings glory to God? While I have not personally been rude to someone about this particular matter, at other times I have allowed my carnal nature get the better of me. I have sometimes treated people in a way that did not represent Jesus very well. I had to repent and determine to do better. We would do well to remember to be soulwinners at Christmas time.

Also put yourself in the shoes of a Christian who would like to say Merry Christmas, yet they are fearful because their boss or their company has told them not to. In such a case, they are not the cause of the problem; they are the victim.

When dealing with either type of person, rather than speak forcefully to them, let's consider ways to show them the love of Jesus. We can kindly say, "Perhaps you've been told to not say Merry Christmas, or perhaps you are not a Christian. In either case please allow me to wish *you* a Merry Christmas. If you've been told to not wish me a Merry Christmas, consider passing word to your employer that, as Christians, we would view that as an unjust censorship. Such a policy would discourage us from doing ongoing business. Thank you, and please have a Merry Christmas."

Whenever an employee wishes us Happy Holidays, we can genuinely appreciate it and then kindly add something such as: "Thank you. There are several religions that celebrate Holy Days at this time of year. Ours is Christianity. Our Holy Day at this time of year is Christmas. Please allow me to wish you a Merry Christmas."

Whether they choose not to say it, or have been told not to, we are still free to say so, *and it ought to be said in love*. This does not mean that we ought not write or call to express firm opinions to businesses when they are guilty of censorship.

Employees do not lose their religious rights or freedom of speech simply by being "on the clock." A business may indeed have some basis to tell its employees what not to say while they're on the clock (only if certain speech by their employees would officially represent the company). However, what about times when all employees are permitted (even while on the clock) to talk about personal matters or to speak in ways that do not officially represent the company? In such cases, a company would be violating its employees' right to free speech if it censored its employees from saying Merry Christmas or from speaking about God or religion. Normal speech that is not officially representing a company should not have religious content censored.