

Christian Barrel Racer's Newsletter

"Racin' To Eternity"

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Letter from Jesus...?

Email buddies...sooo good!

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of you're predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival. Although, I do appreciate being remembered anytime.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth just, GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER. Now, having said that let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can & may remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching explaining who I am in relation to you & what each of our tasks were. If you have forgot that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it.

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.

2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.

3. Instead of writing George complaining

about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.

4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.

6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile it could make the difference. Also, you might consider supporting the local Hot-Line: they talk with people like that every day.

7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.

8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary, especially one who takes My love & Good News to those who have never heard My name. You may already know someone like that.

9. Here's a good one. There are individuals & whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them (and I suspect you don't) buy some food & a few gifts & give them to the Marines, the Salvation Army or some other charity that believes in Me & they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence.

Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

P.S. Don't forget; I am GOD and can take care of Myself. Just love Me & do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above & get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember, I LOVE YOU.

WHO STARTED CHRISTMAS ANYWAY?

Compliments of an email friend

This morning I heard a story on the radio of a woman who was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable, and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids. She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year. Overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way in and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry we already crucified him."

For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be.

Kicks & Giggles

What is "butt dust?"

The Sermon I think this Mom will never forget....

This particular Sunday sermon... "Dear Lord," the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. "Without you, we are but dust." He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter (who was listening!) leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little girl voice, "Mom, what is butt dust?"

The Twelve Days of Christmas defined...

The Twelve Days of Christmas is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas? Today I found out.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church.

Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality that the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol...

Bibles vs Cell Phones

This one REALLY made me think. CC

*What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

*What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

*What if we flipped through it several times a day?

*What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

*What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

*What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

*What if we used it as we traveled?

*What if we used it in case of an emergency?

What if we upgraded it to get the latest version?

This is something to make you go...hmmm...where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't ever have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill!

Prayer Requests

This newsletter is becoming a great way to get the word out to our horse-show family when someone is in need of prayer. If everyone would just take a few minutes when you receive your letter and pray over it and the names on this list...we may see miracles happen.

I have included an email I received from **Kathy Harrold, Joe's mom**. I was going to paraphrase, but couldn't find the words, so I asked her if I could just print the whole message. I know they need our prayers. God is no respecter of persons...and He is listening.

Here is the message I received on the 16th of Nov. and below it a portion of one I received on Nov. 28:

Hi Christa, no we are now home. Joe was flown by air ambulance this past Monday the 13th and we all arrived the same day. After 3 days of radiation and chemo in NY,

Joe had a very bad seizure on the 2nd of Nov then he coded. Once they revived him he was on life support for 2 days. They transported him to Cornell University/Presbyterian Hospital which had a huge PICU unit and kept him there while they weaned him off the life support since he was breathing on his own then. The doctors explained to us at that time that if they do another round of radiation and chemo at this point, he would end up on life support for the duration of his life. They talked to Joey and he decided he was tired of fighting this and wanted to go home. We are home now and working with a hospice agency to make him as comfortable as possible during these last weeks of his life. He is currently in the hospital in Elwood and hopefully will be able to go home tomorrow. Thanks for asking and please keep him in your thoughts. Kathy

.....To update, Joe is home and we have had a house full of people all weekend and he loved every minute of it. Very fun. He is doing great and counts are holding. Thanks again. Kathy Harrold

Desirie Ingalls' grandmother had her second open heart surgery in six years on Monday October 30th. Her surgery went well. Quadriple bi-pass. She just got out of the hospital last Friday. I am sure she will do better being at home. Desirie wanted me to ask everyone to keep her grandparents and family in your prayers and for her grandma to have a speedy recovery.

Please, keep me and Vic and our family in your prayers. Vic's job is a little shaky right now and we aren't sure where God wants us to be...we may relocate if need be, but we want it to be God's will...not our desire to move to a warmer climate (heehee!) Thanks, everyone! Christa

AJ Coffee is in Iraq now and I know he and his family appreciate your prayers for him and other soldiers safety and strength. His email address is aj_coffee123@hotmail.com and I am sure that he would love to hear from his barrel racing buddies.

Keep ***all military and their families*** in your prayers. They make big sacrifices to secure our freedoms.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS POEM

Compliments of email buddy

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim
light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the
sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas
Eve.
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was
deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would
sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would
seem, So I slumbered, perhaps I started to
dream.
The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too
near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my
ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in
the snow.
My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
And I crept to the door just to see who was
near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the
night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and
tight.
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and
my child.
"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out
here!
Put down your pack, brush the snow from
your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas
Eve!"
For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold and the snow blown in
drifts.
To the window that danced with a warm
fire's light
Then he sighed and he said "Its really all
right,
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every
night."
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the
line,
That separates you from the darkest of
times.
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers
before me.
My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in
December,"

Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram
always remembers." My dad stood his
watch in the jungles of 'Nam',
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.
I've not seen my own son in more than a
while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure
got her smile.
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from
his bag,
The red, white, and blue .. an American
flag.
"I can live through the cold and the being
alone,
Away from my family, my house and my
home.
I can stand at my post through the rain and
the sleet,
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another,
Or lay down my life with my sister and
brother..
Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not
fall."
"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no
fright,
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."
"But isn't there something I can do, at the
least,
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you
a feast?
It seems all too little for all that you've
done,
For being away from your wife and your
son."
Then his eye welled a tear that held no
regret,
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
To fight for our rights back at home while
we're gone,
To stand your own watch, no matter how
long.
For when we come home, either standing
or dead,
To know you remember we fought and we
bled.
Is payment enough, and with that we will
trust,
That we mattered to you as you mattered
to us."

News From/About Friends

Hi Christa, Thanks so much for sending the
newsletter out each month! I'm sure you
are as busy as the rest of us mothers and
barrel racers; I don't know how you find
time to do it! I truly enjoy reading it each
month, so please keep my email address on
your mailing list!
Thanks again!
Jeanna Tucker

Hi Christa, I sure do want to continue
receiving your newsletter. May God
continue to give you the guidance to write
this each month. I look forward to
receiving it and it usually comes at a time
that I really need it. Thank you so much
for taking the time to do this.
Beth Coffee

Hi everyone!
I thought this information is worth passing
on to anyone in the horse business. I don't
know how many times I have gotten calls
from people asking if I know anyone who
could do something about a neglected
horse. I read this in the paper one day
about "Indiana Horse Rescue" a division of
"Animal Protection Control".
You can visit their web site at
www.indianahorserescue.com
Nikki

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Ladybug Meyers "Lucy" She
has done very little the past 2 years. She is
15, sound & can still get the job done. You
can run her in any bit, tie down or no tie
down, she is pretty automatic. She is not a
very big mare-14.3/15 hands but has a lot
of grit. I think high school rodeo is right up
her alley. She does run really nice poles
also. If you have any questions please feel
free to give me a call at 937-464-9781.
Cooper & A.J. Flinn
acflinn2713@earthlink.net

For Sale 2006 C&C 5 Horse
Gooseneck with 15' Bunkhouse LQ.**

We have decided to sell our trailer....those
of you that have seen it can testify...it is
really nice and has barely been used. It is
loaded with everything...couch and dinette,
sleeps six...extremely nice Living
Quarters...we just need to downsize a bit.
Call us for details and/or pictures.
(765)748-6806 There are pictures on our
web site.

Merry Christmas!!

Thank God I am in a country where I can
say that if I want to...and I will! I want to
wish each of you a Merry Christmas. Please
remember why we celebrate. Take note of
the advice in the "Letter from God." It
kind of made me think...that's why I chose
to include it instead of my own ramblings
this month. I hope you all get to share the
Christmas story with a child...that is
something they all need to know...and make
the connection with Easter.

Be safe and God Bless!
Christa

Prayer for Unsaved

Many of us have family members and/or friends that are not sure where they will spend eternity. We may feel unsure about approaching them, but we can approach Our Heavenly Father on their behalf.

Here is a passage from the bible to pray as intercession for them. Just say the person's name when you see a blank.

I have not stopped giving thanks for _____, remembering _____ in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give _____ the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that _____ may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of _____'s heart may be enlightened in order that _____ may know the hope to which he has called _____, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.
Ephesians 1:16-23



Last & most important thought...

Jesus died on the cross as the final sacrifice. When He was resurrected on the 3rd day, he defeated Satan for us. All we have to do is believe that He beat death and acknowledge it with our words. **If we believe that and accept Him as our personal savior...we are promised eternal life with Him in Heaven.**

You can't earn your way into Heaven; you have to believe your way there. So many people think they "aren't good enough" to get to Heaven... But... **Salvation is a GIFT from God** and you don't earn a gift. Gifts are something someone gives to you and for the gift to be yours, you have to accept it.

All we have to do is accept that wonderful gift. I know I have...won't you?

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. Romans 5:15

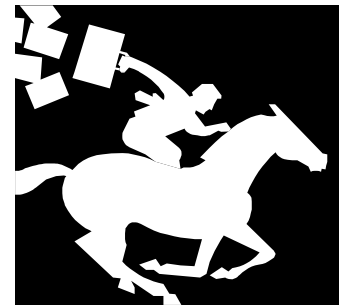
For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10: 9-10

Email/Mailing List

If you want to be added to the mailing list, just send me your address and I'll be glad to get a newsletter to you. I send out hundreds via email and still many through regular post. So, whether you are on the web or not...I can get one to you if you want. All you have to do is ask. And remember, they are FREE!

If you have a prayer request, a story to share, something to sell or the one's I like the most... a praise, I would be glad to include them in next month's newsletter. Just send them to me mail or email or call me with your request and I'll write them up for you. I can include your name if you like or I can make sure to leave it out if you request.



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