

# REMINDER



## *What About Santa Claus?*

Every year, sincere Christians ask their pastors,

*“What’s wrong with telling your kids that Santa Claus is real?”*

Once I was asked this question by a member of a church I pastored at the time. After a lengthy discussion, I didn’t get very far. It seems that I could not get across to this person that it is not acceptable to lie to our children for any reason. Nor could I make clear the plain truth that, later in life, Satan could easily deceive a child by using the fact that his parents lied to him about Santa Claus to make him doubt whether or not they lied to him about Jesus Christ.

Though well meaning, I am certain that our sweet member left feeling that I was some sort of an extremist nut. I left that conversation feeling as though I had failed to communicate effectively the need to keep the real reason we celebrate Christmas - to commemorate Christ’s birth - in the forefront of the holiday season.

A few days later, I came across this little article by the late Dr. Bill Rice. It is reprinted here by permission for your edification. Perhaps Dr. Bill will do a better job of presenting these truths than did I.

### *Should Children Be Taught About Santa Claus, Easter Bunnies and Good Fairies?*

**Q:** *I have a problem that in recent days has caused me to question my stand.*

*I was raised in a Christian home and have been saved for several years. My husband is an unsaved church member and doesn’t take a stand for or against anything.*

*I have never taught our children to believe Santa Claus brings Christmas presents or that good fairies leave money for teeth. To me, Christmas is the start of a home in Heaven. I could not believe Christ died if I did not believe He was born. I have received lots of laughs and criticism for this belief. I never paid it any thought until our music director, a student of a great Bible college, laughed and told me how silly I was not to tell my children about Santa Claus, etc.*

*How do you feel? How did you teach your family when they were growing up? Can I teach my children to love and serve God if I also teach them things that I must tell lots of lies about?*

**A:** My good friend, you are another who is going to cause me a lot of trouble! When I answer this, I’m going to get letters from irate preachers, angry parents, and outraged businessmen. If ever in my life I have wished I were a man of tact, I wish it now. But I do not know any honest way to answer your letter that will also sound kind and make everyone love me.

So - you ask a plain question, and you deserve a plain answer, and here it is -

Any Christian who teaches little children the fable that there is a Santa Claus is, at best, incredibly thoughtless and shallow.

*(continued inside)*

How blind one must be not to realize that the Christian who tells children about Santa Claus is bypassing the Gospel of Christ that brings salvation just as much as a modernist (liberal) who teaches that the Bible story is not true.

Surely nothing could please Satan more than for Christians to talk about Santa Claus, Easter bunnies, and good fairies rather than about Jesus Christ.

## ***The Devil Wanted A Detour***

Satan tried to keep Jesus from going to the cross in the first place. On the Mount of Temptation, Satan offered Christ the kingdoms of the world without a crucifixion. In the Garden of Gethsemene, I believe Satan tried to kill Jesus and thus prevent His going to the cross. When Simon Peter insisted that Jesus should not die, the Saviour significantly said, ***“Get thee behind me, Satan.”***

The idea that Jesus should not die on the cross for sinners was clearly of the Devil.



## ***Substituting Something Good for the Gospel***

Today, Satan wants to substitute something else for the Gospel of Christ.

Perhaps the most beautiful story ever told is the true story of how Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary in the little town of Bethlehem. Angels sang to the shepherds to announce the Saviour's birth. Surely there is no more beautiful story in all the world than this. Christmas is the day set aside by Christians to commemorate this great event.

But, little by little, the fictitious story of Santa Claus has become a tradition. In many places it has been substituted for the true story of the birth of Christ. In almost all places, it is at least on an equal with the story of Jesus. One may walk down the streets of a great city at Christmastime and hear "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" sung in the same collection with "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Many Christian parents tell their children the Santa Claus fable because it is a cute story and an entertaining one. Many do not dream that they are actually aiding the Devil by substituting a lie for the truth. Parents tell the Santa Claus fable lightheartedly while telling themselves that Junior will soon realize that it is not

a true story, and when he is older he will understand that the Santa Claus fable was just a beautifully-told tale and not the truth.

So, what harm is done? A great deal. ***Every time the Santa Claus story is told - the true story of Jesus is NOT told!*** And the emphasis is on Santa Claus rather than on Christ.

After all, how many times have you ever heard someone ask a little child, "What will you be given for Christmas in Jesus' name?" Actually, I doubt if I have ever heard that question in all my life! But I have heard, "What is Santa Claus going to bring you for Christmas?"

There certainly no honor to Jesus Christ in that!

I certainly do not object to the giving of gifts to loved ones at Christmastime. I love Christmas and think it is fitting and right for us to give gifts to our loved ones in the spirit of Christ who gave Himself for us; but I am dead set against telling little children that gifts come from Santa Claus when the Bible says, ***“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights . . .”*** (James 1:17).

## ***What About Easter?***

Easter is a day on which Christians commemorate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The importance of His resurrection is absolutely impossible to overestimate or over-realize. Paul wrote in *I Cor inthians 15:16-19*:

***“For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”***

How foolish, then, for any Christian to add silly stories of the Easter Bunny laying eggs right along with the true and vitally important story of Jesus being raised from the dead! Easter ought not to be a time when the primary thoughts of any Christian have to do with Easter eggs, colored chicks, baby ducks, little rabbits or new clothes. Even though the stories may be cute and the clothes attractive, we are shallow to allow ourselves to be duped by Satan to share the Gospel story with these things.

## ***Any Substitute Suits Satan***

Just about anything that is used as a substitute for the Gospel is satisfactory to Satan.

It must be a matter of great satisfaction to Satan that many orthodox churches have become so engrossed with satined-glass windows, a beautiful "sanctuary" and a stiff, formal service that soul winning is no longer on the agenda.

Not only should a Christian be careful always to tell the truth - and stories about Santa Claus, Easter rabbits, and good fairies are definitely not truthful - but he ought to be careful never to let anything detract from the story of Christ. □

## NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

by Evangelist David W. Cloud

❑ **THE CLIMATE CHANGE MAFIA EXPOSED** - The following is excerpted from *“Climate Change: The Worst Scientific Scandal of Our Generation,”* by Christopher Booker, The Telegraph, Nov. 28, 2009:

“A week after my colleague James Delingpole, on his Telegraph blog, coined the term ‘Climategate’ to describe the scandal revealed by the leaked emails from the University of East Anglia’s Climatic Research Unit, Google was showing that the word now appears across the internet more than nine million times. ... The reason why even the Guardian’s George Monbiot has expressed total shock and dismay at the picture revealed by the documents is that their authors are not just any old bunch of academics. What we are looking at here is the small group of scientists who have for years been more influential in driving the worldwide alarm over global warming than any others, not least through the role they play at the heart of the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Professor Philip Jones, the CRU’s director, is in charge of the two key sets of data used by the IPCC to draw up its reports. ... his global temperature record is the most important of the four sets of temperature data on which the IPCC and governments rely--not least for their predictions that the world will warm to catastrophic levels unless trillions of dollars are spent to avert it.

Dr Jones is also a key part of the closely knit group of American and British scientists responsible for promoting that picture of world temperatures conveyed by Michael Mann’s ‘hockey stick’ graph which 10 years ago turned climate history on its head by showing that, after 1,000 years of decline, global temperatures have recently shot up to their highest level in recorded history. ... The senders and recipients of the leaked CRU emails constitute a cast list of the IPCC’s scientific elite ... There are three threads in particular in the leaked documents which have sent a shock wave through informed observers across the world. Perhaps the most obvious ... is the highly disturbing series of emails which show how Dr Jones and his colleagues have for years been discussing the devious tactics whereby they could avoid releasing their data to outsiders under freedom of information laws. ...

The second and most shocking revelation of the leaked documents is how they show the scientists trying to manipulate data through their tortuous computer programmes, always to point in only the one desired direction--to lower past temperatures and to ‘adjust’ recent temperatures upwards, in order to convey the impression of an accelerated warming. ... The third shocking revelation of these documents is the ruthless way in which these academics have been determined to silence any expert questioning of the findings they have arrived at by such dubious methods--not just by refusing to disclose their basic data but by discrediting and freezing out any scientific journal which dares to publish their critics’ work.”

❑ **MUSLIMS CONTINUE ON THE WARPATH AGAINST CHRISTIANS** - The following reports are excerpted from recent editions of **Worthy News**:

In Somalia, Pastor Ali Hussein Weheliye was shot to death by Islamic militants on October 10 (“Islamic Militants Kill Somali Church Leader,” Nov. 16, 2009). Weheliye converted to Christ in 1999. His wife and daughter are in hiding in fear for their lives. The attack came after the al-Qaida-linked group al-Shabab declared Somalia “an Islamic state” and vowed to eradicate Christians and impose Sharia law. In Egypt, a large mob of angry Muslims burned shops owned by Coptic Christians (“Egypt Muslims Burn Christian Shops,” Nov. 21, 2009). Leaflets entitled “These Have to Die” have urged Muslims to “burn, vandalize and clean the country of these evil immoral infidels.” In Pakistan, a shop was bombed for selling video CDs of the Jesus film (“Pakistan Militants Bomb CD Shop,” Nov. 23, 2009). The shop owner was critically wounded. A letter delivered to the shopkeeper by a child said, “Allah is the greatest” and “Death to the U.S., Christians and all the Jews in the world.”

❑ **THE DESIGNER LUST CHURCH** - The following is an excerpt from an article by Pastor Terry Coomer, of **For the Love of the Family Ministries** in Elwood, Indiana:

“One of the great enemies of the Christian family today is the **‘Designer Lust Church.’** It is a by-product of this apostate hour in which we live. *Galatians 5:16* says, *‘This I say then, Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the LUSTS of the flesh.’* We now have people desiring to find out what people want in a church and that is what they give them. Why? So they can do exactly the opposite of what the Scripture tells us and they can have ‘The Designer Lust Church.’

They will design the music, the activities, and the church service to appeal to the *flesh* rather than teaching and instructing what the Bible commands. It is a lot easier to entertain people and make them feel good than to teach them the truth. ‘The Designer Lust Church’ will let you hear what you want to hear and how you want to hear it. It is the mark of an apostate age that is destroying our families, lives, churches, and homes. It has taken the country by storm.

This ‘Designer Lust Church’ will culminate in the one-world apostate church. What we see now is the forerunner of this church. I need to be in a church that truly desires to help me build the intimate, personal, passionate relationship with the Savior that enables me to have real spiritual power in my life. That is the power that will really affect my wife and my children for Christ.”



*Cradle Roll*

**OUR VERY NEWEST -**

**Jude Leroy Crawford**

*Born to Brian and Charity Crawford*

December 1, 2009

6 pounds, 4 ounces

**NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK**

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly  
 Cradle Roll 2: Derek Quinnelly

6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Piper Martin  
 Cradle Roll 2: Ryan Quinnelly

Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White  
 Cradle Roll 2: Merri Geroux

**AND THE PEOPLE CAME...**

*Week of November 29, 2009*

Sunday School ----- 19  
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 37  
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 34  
 Wed. Eve., 12/02/09 Service ----- 20

**AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...**

*Week of November 29, 2009*

*Undesignated* Tithes & Offerings -----  \$ 1,005.00  
 New Hymnals Fund ----- \$ 10.00  
**Total Received for Week of 11/29/09: \$ 1,015.00**

**Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed  
 to operate the church  
 EACH WEEK,  
 as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00 **

**FUND DRIVE REPORTS**

**We Are Suspending Our Specific Fund  
 Drives Until Our Regular Weekly  
 Offerings Come Back Up To Where They  
 Need To Be. Please Give As Much As You  
 Can To Help Us Catch Up After The  
 Extremely Low Giving We Experienced  
 This Summer And Fall.**

Visit Us Online At - [www.southheightsbaptist.com](http://www.southheightsbaptist.com)

**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED**

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**



**Please Remember To  
 Be Faithful to Give!**

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today** - OK? Thank you.

**Church Directory**

Todd W. White ----- Pastor  
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist  
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian  
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers  
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,  
 Dwayne English, Geroux family ----- Outreach  
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White