

# THE LIBERTY LIGHT

Christmas Edition



Volume 8, Issue 7

December 2005

## CHRISTMAS IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

BY: PASTOR MIKE GRIFFIN

### Church Activities:

Church Phone: 376-0154

#### Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:45 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

Awana Clubs 6:20 PM

Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM

### Upcoming Opportunities

- **Church Christmas Fellowship**  
December 18 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Journey 24/7 Trip**  
December 19  
Stone Mountain
- **Lord's Supper Service**  
December 21 - 7:00 PM
- **Christmas Day Service**  
9:30 AM Worship
- **Quartet Concert**  
Wed., Dec. 28 - 7:00 PM

*"Piercing the darkness with the truth of God's Word"*



"Wannabe constitutional lawyers in local government offices all over the country are declaring unconstitutional normal and traditional Christmas representations such as Christmas trees, Santa Claus, treetop stars, wreaths, the singing of and listening to Christmas carols or Christmas instrumental music, attending a performance of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, the publication of the word "Christmas" itself, and even the colors red and green!" (John Gibson, Fox News channel anchor and author of *The War on Christmas*)

Who would have thought that we would see the day when even the mere mention of the phrase "Merry Christmas" could create such a commotion as it does now? Not in my wildest dreams!

I have already seen it in Hartwell. Last year, while I was standing in a checkout line, an employee came up to me and said, "Happy Holiday!" I responded to him by asking, "What holiday is it?" His response was, "Well ...it's Christmas." I said, "Then, why don't you just say Merry Christmas?" With an embarrassed look he just smiled and said, "Well..."

I suspect he had been told not to say "Merry Christmas".

So much fear and trepidation exists about lawsuits and offending people that a simple "Merry Christmas" is not allowable anymore. In fact, in Illinois the state government employees were forbidden from saying the words "Merry Christmas"! Many major retail stores have followed suit. Target not only bans the term "Merry Christmas" but no longer allows Salvation Army kettles in front of

**"The problem is that there exists a rising anti-Christian bias in our country."**

their stores.

It is even being reported that Lowe's Home Improvement store is now selling "Holiday Trees" rather than "Christmas Trees". If they are holiday trees, then why don't they sell them on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July? I'll tell you why. Because they are Christmas trees!

Why do our schools take a winter break when they do? I'll tell you why, because it's Christmas! Schools and businesses know why people give gifts during this "winter break" – it's Christmas!

While I may observe Christmas for one reason and someone else may for another reason, it

does not change why we have the holiday and why we buy presents. Historically, Christmas has always been about the birth of Christ.

It's amazing that even the Congress and the Supreme Court have acknowledged the legitimacy of our government celebrating a national holiday called "Christmas". And yet we still find government offices afraid to simply acknowledge the historical truth that this day represents the birth of Jesus Christ.

Can you see what is happening before our very eyes? Our government, our schools and now our businesses have become tainted with an anti-Christian bias. In Eugene, Oregon, when a city manager was asked why he banned Christmas trees in their buildings he said, "Well, because they're Christian."

John Gibson, in a recent interview, noted that he thinks Christians are being singled out and unfairly treated today. Gibson, who makes no serious claim to Christianity, but through the year has attended church with Christians of different denominations, said "I have been with people when they were having their religious services. There was nothing

*continued inside on p.2*



We send birthday blessings to the following members who have birthdays in December.

### December

4 Mark Dotson  
9 Burleigh Pierce  
10 Tammy Ferguson,  
Drew Banister  
14 Brandon Johnson  
16 Linsey Massey  
17 Randy Banister  
24 Lyndsay Latimer  
27 Noel Strickland  
29 Hannah Ballew  
30 Joan Johnson



# WELCOME

### December New Members:

**Gene & Sue  
Cleveland**  
265 Arthur Street  
Hartwell, GA 30643  
(706) 376-4672



## CHRISTMAS IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR (CONT.)

threatening about it. I had never been dragged off to a church in handcuffs by people... And what struck me as odd was all this demonizing of people I knew did not deserve to be demonized."

Gibson goes on to say, "Look the religious tradition in this country is, mainly, tolerance. And what Christians are asking today, which seems to me to be entirely reasonable, is that the

same sense of tolerance that is extended to the religions that make up only 7 percent – that is, Islam, Wiccanism, Kwanzaa, Hinduism, Judaism – be extended to them, the people of the majority religion. What's the problem with that?"

The problem is that there exists a rising anti-Christian bias in our country. A bias that represents a minority of people in this

country seeking to suppress what the majority of this country is in support of. Recent polls indicate that 96% of Americans celebrate Christmas as such. How can 4% suppress what 96% love to celebrate as an American tradition?

I believe Christmas is worth fighting for.

...Merry Christmas!

## POLLS & FACTS (ALLIANCE DEFENSE FUND NEWS RELEASE)

### RECENT POLLS

"An overwhelming majority of Americans of all faiths agree that we should celebrate Christmas," said ADF President Alan Sears. "This is a time for goodness, giving, and hope-not a time for fear, intimidation, and the disinformation of agenda-driven, anti-Christmas legal entities."

- 96 percent of Americans celebrate Christmas (Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, 2003).
- 90 percent of Americans recognize Christmas (Gallup, 2000).
- 88 percent of Americans say it's okay for people to wish others "Merry Christmas" and the majority of Americans are more likely to wish someone they just met "Merry Christmas" rather than "Happy Holidays" (CNN/USA today/Gallup, 2004).
- 87 percent of Americans believe nativity scenes should be allowed on public property (Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, 2003).

### LEGAL FACTS

- The U.S. Supreme Court has never ruled that public schools must ban the singing of religious Christmas carols or prohibit the distribution of candy canes or Christmas cards.
- School officials may refer to a school break in December as "Christmas Vacation" or as a holiday without offending the Constitution.
- School officials do not violate the Constitution by closing on religious holidays such as Christmas and Good Friday.
- No court has ever held that celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas as religious holidays requires recognition of all other religious holidays.
- The "Three Reindeer Rule" used by courts requires a municipality to place a sufficient number of secular objects in close enough proximity to the Christmas item (such as crèche) to render the overall display sufficiently secular... Simply put, the courts ask, "Is the municipality celebrating the holiday or promoting religion?"

## LOWE'S RE-RENAMES CHRISTMAS TREES

After receiving a flood of complaints about storefront signs advertising "Holiday Trees" for sale, Lowe's has gone back to referring to them as "Christmas Trees."

Tim Wildmon, president of The American Family Association (AFA), said people are tired of all the political correctness surrounding Christmas.

"Companies who choose to abandon the national observance of Christmas are finding that Americans are not afraid to speak out with their pocketbooks," he said. "It's good to know Lowe's is a company that listens to their customers."

A statement from Lowe's read: "To ensure consistency of our message and to avoid confusion among our customers, we are now referring to the trees only as 'Christmas Trees.' We have also removed a banner that read, 'Holiday Trees' from the front of our stores." Please thank Lowe's for listening and putting "Christmas" back where it belongs.

Taken from Citizen Link, November 29, 2005.  
[www.citizenlink@FAMILY.ORG](mailto:www.citizenlink@FAMILY.ORG)

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE FUTURE

by **Stuart Shepard**, Managing Editor of *Family News & Focus*

*An e-mail from 2025 reveals the end game of holiday renaming.*

Just for fun, I set the date on my computer forward 20 years to see what was in my e-mail inbox. There's one note in particular I thought you'd find interesting:

From: info@crackpots.org

Date: Dec. 5, 2025

Re: Happy Holidays

The Committee to Rename Anything Christian, Knowing it's Potentially Offensive or Threatening to Someone (C.R.A.C.K.P.O.T.S.) has completed its mandate.

As you know, we had humble beginnings back in 2005, when we successfully removed the highly offensive and threatening word "Christmas" from TV ads, catalogs, public schools and government property. Thank the non-specific deity that we now have had two decades worth of Winter Holidays that offend no one.

We thought this would be a good time to review the other totally non-offensive holidays we have managed to place on the calendar. You'll see that we've expanded our efforts over the years to cover all sorts of unpleasantness.

- **January** — Celebrate the First Day of Whatever Calendar Your Personal Tradition May Choose Day
- **February** — Significant Other Person or Object Day
- **March** — Wear Green But Don't Mention a Specific Nationality Day
- **May** — Don't Look Back on the Past Day
- **July** — Independence, Dependence or Codependence Day
- **September** — People Who Like to Work or Just Hang Out Day
- **October** — Celebrate With a Knowing Smile All the Europeans Who Claim to Have Discovered an Already Occupied Continent Day
- **November** — Turkey Day — but we're discussing whether to rename it Turkey or Soy Protein Meat Substitute Day
- And of course, **December** — Winter Holiday Day

We think you'll agree, now that all the pesky deity-specific and politically incorrect holidays have been properly renamed, everyone is getting along like never before.

What's ahead? Well, our next project is to get churches to stop displaying those offensive religious symbols on their steeples where everyone can see.

Thanks for supporting our efforts,  
Your friends at C.R.A.C.K.P.O.T.S.

While the removal of the word "Christmas" from catalogs, TV ads, in-store displays, public schools, offices and personal greetings may not be the most pressing issue facing us today, it appears to have reached critical mass and is certainly worthy of our attention.

Beneath the attempts to scour society of any mention of the holiday that falls on Dec. 25 is a mindset that is deeply troubling.

It is this: Secularism is a safe harbor that is never offensive. Christianity is so offensive it has no place in the public square.

When my 8-month-old son gets just a little older, it appears he will be living in a country where Christmas is mentioned in our home and in our church, but will be non-existent in the popular media, at his school, in the mall, in the catalogs that come in the mail or by the government.

Such an extreme imbalance will teach him at the most basic level that Christianity is something embarrassing, offensive and threatening to "other people" — so much so that it must be kept private, hidden and never be talked about.

And such a culture will teach him that godless secularism is to be preferred over Christianity. May it never be so.

What could be more inclusive and non-offensive than a store clerk, who happens to be Jewish, wishing a customer "Happy Hanukkah," and the shopper, who happens to be Christian, responding with a cheery "Merry Christmas" — or, if an agnostic, just a simple, "Thank you."

What could be more inclusive and non-offensive than publicly and civilly acknowledging our religious beliefs and differences, rather than pretending we are a monolithic, secular, non-religious nation of the easily offended?

What could be more inclusive and non-offensive than publicly and civilly acknowledging that our nation was founded largely by Christian people, that our founding documents have been monumentally successful because they heavily borrowed from and incorporated Christian ideals and that, to this day, most people in our country describe themselves as Christian?

Here's the crux of the matter: I am confident the retailers who are filling my mailbox with inane "holiday catalogs" urging me to buy "holiday gifts" during their "holiday sale" employ a great many Christians.

They have been deceived into believing that such an insipid euphemism will somehow keep them from offending someone — which means they

### LIBERTY LIGHT BROADCAST

7:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday Mornings  
WKLY AM 980

Continue to pray for and support Liberty's radio program. If you are interested in sponsoring one week or several weeks let Bro. Mike know or sign up at the Liberty table. The cost for each program is \$29.00. The program may be sponsored by a business or in memory of a loved one.

### BASKETBALL BEGINS



Basketball will begin the 2nd week of December. The coaches have the schedules and each team member will receive a copy. Watch the bulletin for weekly games and for any changes in the schedule.



# Awana News

There will be no Awana on these dates:

**December 21**  
**December 28**

All classes will resume on January 4, 2006.



## Pastoral Staff

**Senior Pastor**  
Mike Griffin  
376-8118

**Assistant Pastors**  
Andy Buchanan  
376-0124

Forrest Ferguson  
245-9553

**Church Office**  
376-0154

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS... (CONT.)



have bought into the lie that secularism is non-offensive and Christianity is offensive.

We have a message for our brothers and sisters who are writing the ads, creating the displays and printing the catalogs:

You are offending us.

We are pleading with you to stop.

Merry Christmas.

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## JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

**Jesus is the reason for the season!**

Luke 2:10-11:

*"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*

Jesus came to earth to tell us...

**#1. ...That all people are sinners and they need to turn from their sin and seek God's forgiveness!**

Mark 1:15:

*"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."*

Jesus came to earth to tell us ...

**#2. ...That God loves sinners and He gave His Son Jesus to die on the cross and be raised from the dead so that they might be forgiven.**

John 3:16:

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

Jesus came to earth to tell us ...

**#3. ...That all must accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior to be forgiven of their sins.**

John 1:12:

*"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."*

Jesus came to earth to tell us ...

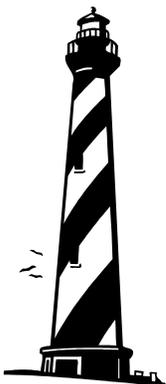
**#4. ...That if we choose any other way to get to heaven than through Jesus, we will not find it!**

John 14:6:

*"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

Matthew 7:13-14:

*"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."*



**Liberty Baptist Church**  
PO Box 811  
Hartwell, GA 30643

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