

In the Loop

A Charlie Brown Xmas

by [Alan Allegra](#)
12/27/2007 / Holidays

Yes, I purposely misspelled Christmas. I did that for two reasons: 1) to keep the copyright lawyers away, and 2) to make a point about the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is probably the most widely celebrated holiday there is. It is inescapable, and celebrants are found in almost every part of the world, and even

outer space. Ironically, this holiday commemorates the birthday of the most widely ignored person on earth and in heaven, who is also inescapable. One of the most popular, enduring, and best-loved Christmas specials is A Charlie Brown Christmas. It has been shown every year for over 40 years, and we never get tired of watching it. For being a TV show that almost never was, it has proven its value over the years and generations.

Network executives were hesitant about airing the special. Was it because it was a cartoon? Was it because of its low budget, amateur quality? Maybe the absence of a laugh track made it unattractive.

Truth is, it was the inclusion of the biblical narrative of Christ's birth that almost sank Charles Schulz's masterpiece. But Schulz was adamant: "If we don't tell the true meaning of Christmas, who will?" Seems he was right.

Just like the church bells, sleigh bells, jingle bells, and almost-banned Salvation Army bells, the above story has a familiar ring to it. There is a war on Christmas these days, with politically correct zealots trying to change Christmas celebrations to winter or holiday or some other generic revelries. Anyone who refuses to celebrate Christmas or display a dozen inflatable Santas or join in any reindeer games is labeled as a Scrooge or Grinch or liberal. *Cont on page 3*



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Speaker Notes

Our speaker today is our mentor mom, Ginny Ellington. Use this space to take notes from today's meeting.



Computerland

This Month's Recommended Websites

Here is nice website that has bible stories written in a fun way. It is something you would need to sit and read with your older preschooler or older one or allow your independent reader to peruse on his/her own. Check it out here: <http://www.essex1.com/people/paul/bible.html>. The author has quite a busy site, but there are lots of stories for the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Try to find the author's letter to his kids about Christmas. It's a great reminder for what the holiday is all about.

www.forsmallhands.com. This is a company based on Montessori principles. They have a lot of toys and books, but what I liked best are the child size kitchen stuff, cleaning things, tools, etc.



Have a website you would like to share with other moms? Please email celenakeeney@yahoo.com with the web address and brief description.

MOPportunities

If you have a home business you would like to list, please email me at celenakeeney@yahoo.com.



Embroidery

Shannon Dunn 312-5988, sdunn14@hotmail.com

MaryKay

Theresa Stanley 227-7115, theresastanley@marykay.com

Southern Living at Home

Kristin Dyson 523-3820, queenof1010@yahoo.com

Tastefully Simple

Daelena Potter 254-7858, dpotter@insightbb.com

Arbonne Skin Care

Robin Baskette 278-8150, rbaskt@yahoo.com and Carla Washnock 231-0325, cwashnock@windstream.net

Hair bows

Teresa Geyling 225-0986, t_geyling@yahoo.com and Megan Hayden 254-3357, megan.hayden@qx.net

Silpada Jewelry

Norma States 859-879-8181, nsstates@windstream.net

Uppercase Living

Teresa Geyling 225-0986, t_geyling@yahoo.com

Discovery Toys

Ann Combs 271-8197, macombs2@hotmail.com

Custom Hat Racks

Cheri Eastwood 543-2210, cherjess@insightbb.com

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Yet, if a Christian tries to center on Christ, he or she is called a fanatic or Fundamentalist, party pooper or plaintiff. Go figure.

Please don't get the wrong idea. I do not countenance forcing my beliefs on anyone. That is not the Christian way. I will live them and explain them as best I can, but it's up to each individual to accept or reject Christ. Also, keep in mind that Jesus never told us to celebrate any special day. How we keep holidays is to be in line with our consciences, guided by Scripture (Romans 14:5). I'm not concerned about whether schools or municipalities display Christmas decorations or not, as long as everyone is treated fairly. I'm not insulted when an unbeliever, or someone who doesn't know me, doesn't wish me a Merry Christmas. I appreciate the thought, but I don't want to offend anyone's conscience. "Happy Holidays" is fine with me. I just object to keeping the trappings of Christmas while ignoring or rejecting the One Whose birthday it commemorates.



Charles Schulz's and, by proxy, Charlie Brown's and Linus's efforts to emphasize the true meaning of Christmas are perfect examples of how Christians should approach this holiday. As Romans 14:5, 6 state: "One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord." If we celebrate or not, as long as we honor the Lord, it's acceptable.

I have to confess, I occasionally use "Xmas" for "Christmas" in limited ways. "X" is the first letter in the Greek translation for "Christ." The early churches used it, but it's become a way to keep from acknowledging Christ. Many will say, "Well, I celebrate the spirit of the season." However, as the ubiquitous lapel pins say: "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." There is no Christmas season without Christ. Could you imagine your family and friends celebrating your birthday without inviting you? Or, even worse, celebrating in ways that offend you, and maybe even paying tribute to your arch rival? How must Jesus feel when Christmas is turned into foolish and drunken revelry? As far as Santa goes, remember what God said: "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols" (Isaiah 42:8). Santa Claus and the manger cannot coexist.



Yes, I am very serious about Christmas. I enjoy the lights and shopping and festivities and warm fuzzies and frosty tootsies, but I long to make Jesus Christ the center of the celebration. It's time we dig under the piles of newspaper inserts, catalogs, and credit card bills, and find the true meaning: the "unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15). "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Jesus Christ was born so that we can be born again (John 3:3).

As Christians, we need to stand on stage like Linus, alone if necessary, and proclaim Messiah's birth. Not only that but, as Scrooge of old promised, we must keep Christmas in our hearts, even every day.

"God bless us, every one!"

Alan Allegra, Executive Administrative Assistant of Faith Church in Allentown, Pa. More devotionals at <http://www.faithefc.com/includes/Alan-Devotionals.htm>. More articles at Lifestyles Over 50: <http://www.lifestylesover50.com/> and the Morning Call: www.mcall.com. Available for writing. Article Source: <http://www.faithwriters.com-CHRISTIAN WRITERS>

NOTE: I found the above article on a webpage called faithwriters.com. They have lots of good articles. However, I don't want to offend anyone by the Santa Claus comment. I have a plastic one for my front porch, and I view Santa Claus like a pony or a clown at your child's birthday party: just one more way to liven the celebration!

In case you are interested,

ABC just announced that it will air the Peanuts special "A Charlie Brown Christmas" twice this holiday season. The show will run at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, and 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16.

Merry Christmas!! – Celena Keeney

MOPPET'S Reading Corner

Oh, my! If only I had the time and space to go on and on about the Christmas and winter books that I like! Remember to check out the Christmas and other titles at Christian Children's Book Review (<http://ccbreview.blogspot.com/>). I found several there that I would like to get. They've got some really nice ones to help explain the reason for the season reviewed. Also, browse the shelves at the library and do a search there. You can even spend an hour at B& N or Joseph Beth having your own Christmas story time with all the nice books they display for the season. If you have a few titles your child(ren) really enjoys, please share them with us on our yahoo group!

Thanks to
Cheri
Eastwood for
her great book
reviews!

Here are a few of my favorite books:

The Story of Christmas by Patricia A. Pingry and Illustrated by Lorraine Wells is a board book that simply tells the story of the first Christmas and why we give gifts at Christmas.

The Animals' Christmas Eve by Gale Wiersum and illustrated by Alex Steele Morgan is a Little Golden Book title that includes counting and rhyme as the barn animals each tell a little part of the Christmas story each Christmas Eve.

I really like the **Little Drummer Boy** by Ezra Jack Keats. It illustrates the message of the song so well and is fun for your little one to make the pa-rum-pum-pum-pum sound.

There are many nicely illustrated versions of "T'was the Night Before Christmas" poem by Clement C. Moore.

Bear Stays up for Christmas by Karma Wilson and illustrated by Jane Chapman is a story of Bear and his friends who promise to help him stay awake to see Christmas. They find and decorate a tree, make special treats and eventually, it's the friends who fall asleep and Bear stays up to make special gifts for each one. On Christmas morning they enjoy their treats and gifts as well as the ones Santa left. The illustrations are expressive and charming.

Whatever you read, you are doing the best for your child when you do! So read each and every day at least three books! Merry Christmas!



KiddieLand

This month our little Moppets are learning about Jesus as a baby and his birth at the first Christmas based on the story in Luke 2. They will be trying to make connections with what they already know about babies to the baby that Jesus once was. They are learning the sign for baby in which you rock your arms back and forth as if holding a little baby. A fun song they are singing today goes to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie" and has motions.

When Jesus was a baby (pretend to rock a baby)

a baby, a baby (pretend to rock a baby)

When Jesus was a baby (pretend to rock a baby)

He laughed and he cried. (smile and then wipe eyes)

He laughed and he cried. (smile and then wipe eyes)

He laughed and he cried. (smile and then wipe eyes)

When Jesus was a baby (pretend to rock a baby)

He laughed and he cried. (smile and then wipe eyes)

The 3's, 4's, and 5's are viewing a computer animated DVD called **The Very First Noel** from Exclaim Entertainment and narrated by Andy Griffith. It tells the first Christmas story as the three wise men journey to find the newborn king. You can check out their website at www.veryfirstnoel.com to learn more about the story, download coloring pages, how to purchase, see a preview, and hear some of the great music.

Thank you to everyone who brought cookies today for our Moppet workers. They do such a nice job with our little ones, I'm sure they'll enjoy our yummy thanks.

Please check out our library cart (located in the hallway by the food). Feel free to borrow a book and return it next month. We have a selection of books for children, and mom too!



December 2008



- MOPS regular meetings are 9am-11:15am on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May.

MOPS Special Events will resume after the holidays.

Merry Christmas!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Explorium	5	6
7	8	9 MOPS meeting	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27
28	29	30				

Announcements:



Congratulations to Allyson Rogers on the birth of her baby daughter Dylan Reese on November 26. Dylan weighed 7lb, 11 oz and was 20 inches long.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Step-by-step dinner in November. The next dinner will be in the spring.

Thanks to everyone who donated shoeboxes and peanut butter at last months meeting!

Mops dues for next semester are \$25.00 this will cover our crafts, special events, etc for Jan-May. Please have this ready at the January meeting; see Elizabeth Skinner for scholarship information. (note- additional \$24 will be due if you were not a member last semester and have not already paid your International dues)



Better Moms Make A Better World