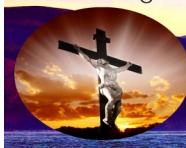
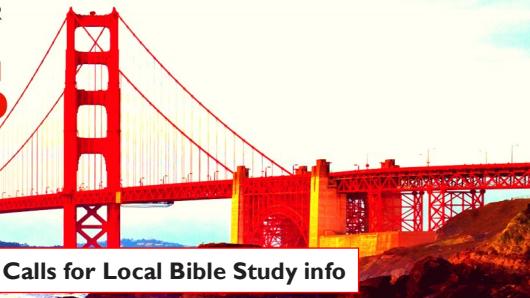


# Good News Press

Sharing the good news of God's Love through His Son to our local community and world!



SF Bay Area Christian Newspaper Since 2010

Support Our National Ads at [www.goodnewspress.us](http://www.goodnewspress.us) & click on National Ads; Click on Zoom Calls for Local Bible Study info

News, Articles , Business Directory, &amp; more

[www.goodnewspress.us](http://www.goodnewspress.us)

Winter 2021

Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!**Plan of Salvation:****John 3:16**

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

**Romans 10:9**

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

## Witnessing Begins with Prayer

By Rev. John B. Sorensen

Who would you like to see give their lives to Jesus this year? A family member? A friend? Or perhaps the people you work with or those who live in your community? Whoever they are, you can be a part of introducing them to Christ by committing to pray for them every day.

We often say, at EE, that witnessing without prayer is presumption. The truth is, we cannot effectively share Jesus with others unless we begin with prayer. Prayer invites the Holy Spirit to go with us and lead the conversation. He's the One who gives us the words to say. He's the One who speaks to and ultimately changes hearts. Without Him, we go alone.

There's no time better to begin praying for someone than today. You can even begin right now.

**Make a list.** Write down the names of people you would like to see give their hearts to Christ. Be specific. Don't just write "my family" or "my neighborhood." List them by name. If

you only know their first name, that's okay. Write that down. God knows who they are.

**Post it.** Put it somewhere visible where you will see it. You don't have to put it somewhere where your whole family will see it, but don't hide it in the back of your Bible either. Post it where you will see every single day as a reminder to pray.

**Make time to pray.** Set aside a specific period of time each day to pray for the people on your list. Pray for them by name. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and send believers to share the Gospel with them. Pray that God will use you! Ask Him to open doors for you to share your testimony and even introduce them to Jesus.

**Look for opportunities.** As you pray, look for doors that God may be opening. We often don't notice the opportunities that God is giving us to share our faith because we simply aren't paying attention.

**Continue to pray.** Prayer doesn't stop when a Gospel

conversation begins. Continue praying before, during, and after the conversation. People rarely come to faith in Jesus Christ in a single moment in time. It's a process. It takes time. Be patient and continue to meet with the people you share with, even after they make a commitment.

Prayer is critical in sharing our faith with others. Not only does prayer change the hearts of the people we know around us, it changes our hearts as well. It draws us closer to God. It helps us see the world through His eyes and heart. And, it increases our passion to reach the lost with the Good News. So, who will you start praying for today?

Rev. John B. Sorensen, D.D. is the President/CEO of Evangelism Explosion International, headquartered in Arden, N.C. EE has been a leader in equipping Christians to share their faith for nearly 60 years. For more free tips and resources, visit [evangelismexplosion.org](http://evangelismexplosion.org) or follow John on Twitter @JB\_Sorensen.

Join Us for Local Online Bible Study

Zoom Meeting ID# 823 1599 6834

Visit [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and join the meeting

*Online*  
**BIBLE STUDY**  
With Baron & Connie Woods  
LIFE TRANSFORMING BIBLE  
DISCUSSIONS  
**ZOOM**  
[HTTPS://WWW.ZOOM.US](https://www.zoom.us)  
Fri | 6:15 PM PST



"Mom, what kind of soup do we eat when we're sick?"



"You're in luck. It comes in Large, Extra Large and Bowl Full Of Jelly."

## What Does Christmas Mean to Christians?

Christmas is the most commercial season in our society, but for a significant percentage of the population it is also a holiday packed with meaning. For Christians who take their faith seriously, Christmas is the celebration of one of the most important events in history.



Christians consider Christmas to be the celebration of the day Jesus Christ was born as a baby. Known in theology as the "Incarnation," it signifies that God became human and entered into His own creation. According to the biblical nativity narratives, Jesus was born to a virgin named Mary in the town of Bethlehem in the Judean countryside.

Though most people identify Christmas with the date of December 25, Christianity does not actually claim that Jesus was born on December 25. In fact, Christmas has been celebrated on a variety of different dates throughout the history of the Christian Church. In fact, even today Christians in some parts of the world celebrate Christian on different dates. December 25 is simply an arbitrary date chosen to celebrate the birth because the exact date is unknown.

The date is non-consequential, anyway, since the true significance of Christmas for Christians is not found in the coming of Jesus. It is in why He came. The Bible explains (and Christians believe) that Jesus is (and was) divine, and that He came into the world for the primary purpose of

eventually giving up His life as an expression of His love and grace. Ultimately, it was part of a grand plan to offer forgiveness and life to all who would willingly choose to place their faith and hope in Him.

Did this Incarnation really take place? Or is Christmas a celebration of a birth that never took place? Christian apologists (defenders of the faith) argue in defense of the Biblical accounts. Anti-theists, those who do not take a literal view of the Bible, and members of other religions argue from the opposite position. Both sides resort to textual, historical, archaeological, and logical evidence to support their position. Ultimately, it is up to each person to examine the evidence and decide which is the most persuasive.

Either way, there is no denying the impact that this Christian holiday has had upon society and upon the faith community that celebrates it for reasons of faith. While many people complain about the holiday's modern emphasis on consumerism, Christians throughout the centuries have recognized that Christmas represents a turning point in history when the Savior entered the world.



## 10 ways to put safety at the top of your holiday list

If you consider winter heating, overloaded electrical circuits and flammable decorations, you'll understand why December is prime time for home fires. Here are some old and new suggestions for a safe holiday season.



1. Look for the fire-resistant label on artificial trees and decorations.
2. Buy a natural tree that is really fresh. It should be very green and have needles that are hard to pull off. A twig shouldn't break when it's bent.
3. For outside decorations, buy only those made specifically for outdoors. Use heavy-duty extension cords and plug them into circuits that have a ground-fault interrupter.
4. Get a remote control to easily turn off lights before you go to sleep or when it snows or rains.
5. Avoid cooking fires by staying in the kitchen when cooking on the stove top.
6. Put candles in heat resistant containers and place them where they can't burn something or get knocked down.
7. Before lighting a fireplace or wood stove, clear the area of tree boughs, paper and other combustibles. Never burn gift wrappings in a fireplace. They could cause a flash fire.
8. Protect small children by keeping decorations out of their reach. Inspect toys for small parts that could cause choking and keep scissors used for wrapping gifts away from children.
9. Be sure to lock doors and windows. Thieves think you have money and valuable gifts in your home. Put indoor and outdoor lights on a timer and leave a radio or television on when you leave the house.
10. If cold weather makes you want to use an indoor heater of any kind, be sure it is positioned well away from curtains, trees and decorations. Never stack things on top of space

**Good News Press** is a Christian outreach publication in the San Francisco Bay Area that informs and inspires believers, as well as plant seeds into the hearts of men and women that may not know Christ.

**Good News Press** covers world, national, and religious news and events, features inspiring Christian articles, and features an online business and ministry di-

rectory and more.

**Good News Press** is available, both digitally online and in full-color printed format.

Visit Good News Press at [www.goodnewspress.us](http://www.goodnewspress.us)

To contact Good News Press by email: [info@goodnewspress.us](mailto:info@goodnewspress.us) or 925-368-5052.

# Good News Press - 3

Support Good News Press by Supporting Our Ads

## Tax changes offer big benefits for families

Tax season is still some weeks away, but with a large number of changes coming into effect this year, it's smart to plan ahead. Various COVID-19 stimulus bills introduced a number of updates to different tax provisions, while higher-than-typical inflation has tweaked many thresholds. 2021 tax changes may affect individuals and organizations too.

The American Rescue Plan featured a large one-year expansion of the child tax credit, increasing the credit from \$2,000 to \$3,600 for children 5 years or younger, and to \$3,000 for other kids. However, the extra amount is reduced for single filers earning more than \$75,000 and joint filers earning more than \$150,000. The 2021 credit is fully refundable and there's no \$2,500 earned income requirement this year either.

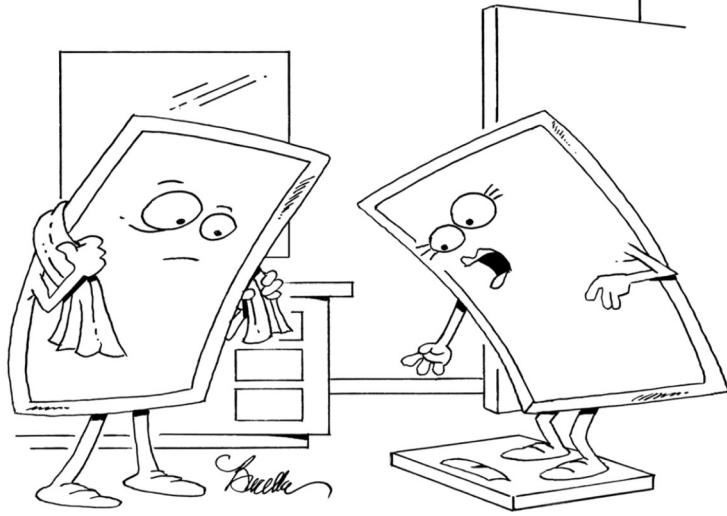
The American Rescue Plan also temporarily expanded the child and dependent care tax credit, with helps defray the costs of child care for children under 13 or dependent adults. Last year, families could claim \$3,000 in expenses and a



maximum of \$6,000 per year. For 2021, claimable expenses per dependent jump to \$8,000 with a maximum of \$16,000. Families can receive up to 50 percent of these expenses as a refundable credit. Credits phase out for individuals and families earning more than \$125,000.

Inflation substantially boosted the annual Social Security wage base. In 2020, Social Security taxes, including the employer's 6.2 percent contribution, had to be paid on all income below \$137,700. In 2021, this base jumps to \$142,800.

Keep in mind that companies that suspended collecting and paying Social Security payroll taxes in 2020 must now collect deferred taxes by the end of the year. As a result, some employees may see more money withheld from their checks to cover Social Security obligations.



"OK...starting tomorrow, I start photographing smaller portions of food."

## The Christmas Story

In December, we see stories about Christmas flowers, Christmas shopping, Santa and Christmas music, but St. Luke's Chapter 2 explains the reason for the season.



The Christmas story

*And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed, each in his own city.*

*And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child.*

*And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.*

*And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

*And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.*

*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, who is Christ the Lord.*

*And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, good will toward men.*

*They made haste and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.*



BATH FITTER®

**SAVE  
UP TO  
\$450\***  
on a complete Bath Fitter system

Take advantage of our

**SPECIAL OFFER**

**844-926-4093**

**FITS YOUR standards**

With quality you can trust and a lifetime guarantee, Bath Fitter doesn't just fit your bath, it fits your high standards. Why have over two million people brought Bath Fitter into their homes? *It Just Fits.*

### OUR BENEFITS



Easy to Clean,  
Virtually  
Maintenance Free



Seamless  
Wall



High-Gloss  
Acrylic Maintains  
Its Shine



LIFETIME  
BATH  
FITTER  
WARRANTY

**It Just Fits™**

\*Registered trademark of Bath Fitter Franchising Inc. \*Save 10% up to \$450. Special offer good on the purchase of a bathtub or shower, wall and faucet kit. One offer per customer. May not be combined with any other offer. Offer must be presented at the time of estimate. Discount applies to same day purchases only. Previous orders and estimates excluded. Offer valid only at the above location. \*Subject to certain limitations. Offer expires 2021-12-31.

# Good News Press - Back

Search Our Business Directory at [www.goodnewspress.us](http://www.goodnewspress.us)

**BACKED BY A  
YEAR-ROUND  
CLOG-FREE  
GUARANTEE**

**EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!**

**15% OFF** YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE\* & **10% OFF** SENIORS & MILITARY!  
+ **5% OFF** TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY!\*

**WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!**

ACCREDITED MEMBER LIFETIME WARRANTY MADE IN THE USA

**FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!**  
**Promo Code: 285**

\*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.

**CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE**

**1-877-326-1499**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*Offer valid at time of estimate only. 2The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMT Mercer Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. CSL# 1035795 DOPL# 10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 WA Ub# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 21062153A License# LEAFFNW82Z License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H1067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# R731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# FA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 2705169445 License# 262000022 License# 262000403 License# 0086990 Registration# H-1914

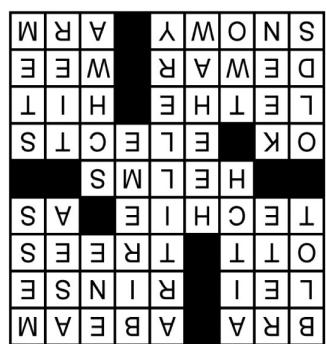
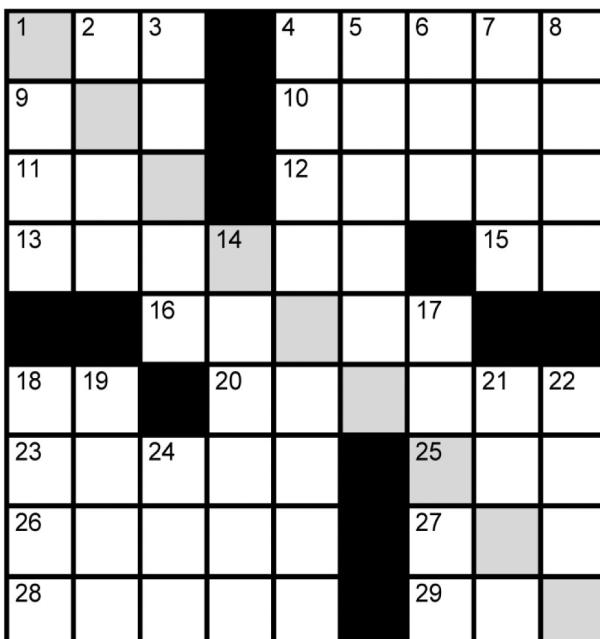
## December birthplace

### Across

1. Lingerie item
4. Crosswise, on deck
9. Necklace of plumeria
10. Washing machine cycle
11. Polo Grounds legend
12. Corners
13. Computer whiz
15. Word in a simile
16. Ship steerers
18. Alright
20. Votes in
23. River in Hades
25. Big success
26. Big name in Scotch
27. \_\_\_ bit
28. Wintery forecast, perhaps
29. Escort's offering

### Down

1. Soak up
2. Neural network
3. Goalpost-shaped letter
4. Big guns
5. Ancient galley
6. Chemical suffix
7. Floating, perhaps
8. Military meal
14. Donkey sound
17. Pronunciation symbol
18. Cutlass, e.g.
19. Hot to trot
21. Bleacher feature
22. Stern's opposite
24. Wee hour



*The headline is a clue to the answer in the diagonal.*

## Christmas banned by the no-fun people

It might come as a surprise, but today's secularists are very much in line with the religious Puritans of the 17th century on the subject of Christmas.

Both consider the holiday not Christian.

The Puritans considered it an example of the "trappings of popery," a sentiment that could draw an indulgent chuckle from secularists today.

The secularists today consider Christmas an act of government, not religion.

Neither the Puritans nor the secularists are wrong, but they aren't right either.

Pope Julius I did establish The Feast of the Nativity in 336 A.D., the popery the Puritans so hated. On the other hand, Christmas and every other major Christian holiday all had been established by the Roman popes by the end of the fourth century, even the ones celebrated (without fun) by Puritans.

The claim of the secularists that Christmas is governmental is because on June 26, 1870, the U.S. government did declare Christmas a federal holiday, meaning you won't get mail delivered.

But in the time between the Puritans and the secularists, govern-

ments were no friends of Christmas.

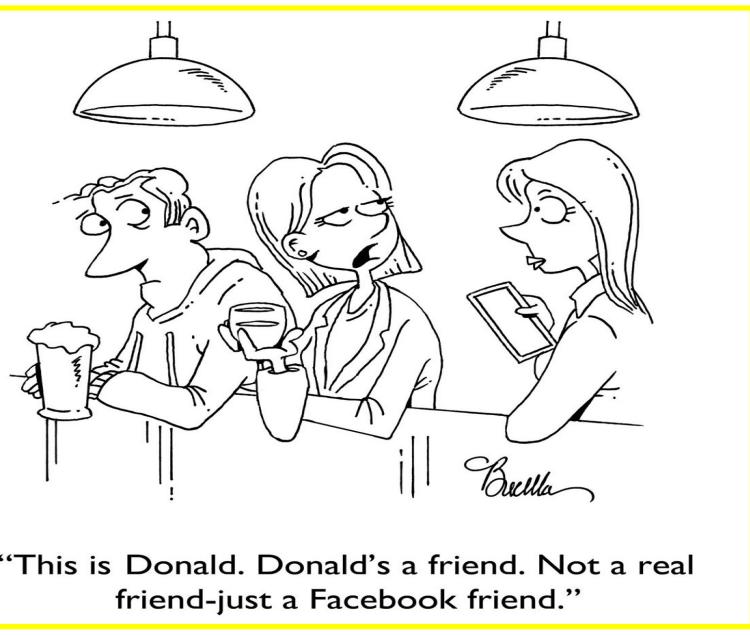
The English government in the 1600s didn't like Christmas one little bit. English Puritans, led by Oliver Cromwell, didn't like shiny things or fun, so they outlawed "carnal and sensual delights," which included Christmas. They would have agreed with today's secularists that Christmas wasn't religious. In fact, they banned Christmas worship.

In America, the English separatist Puritans who arrived in 1620 actually outlawed the holiday in Boston from 1659 to 1681. You could be fined five shillings for the horrific 'satanical practices' of exchanging gifts, greetings, dressing in fine clothing and feasting.

But still, Christmas was an idea that kept coming back.

In Louisiana, where fun and Christianity have long been at home, Christmas was officially established for the first time in the U.S. in 1830 -- by the state government.

Today, whether your Christmas is 1,685 years old and a day of faith and fun, or whether it is 151 years old and a day when mail doesn't get delivered, people still enjoy Christmas as the shini-



**"This is Donald. Donald's a friend. Not a real friend-just a Facebook friend."**