

December Edition: It's "Merry Christmas" --not "Happy Holidays"



Merry Christmas!

Christmas celebrates that Jesus Christ came to us! Think about that fact. As Billy Graham rightly said, "The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that He might offer up His life as a sacrifice of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas."

With that said, let's recognize Christ as we all say "Merry Christmas!" instead of the PC greeting of "Happy Holidays". After all, Christ's birth is what we are celebrating. Christmas should not be a time of political correctness. It is a time when we should be happy and free to share about our Lord Jesus Christ!

There will always be people who disagree, but we are not harming anyone when we say "Merry Christmas". And people don't harm us when mentioning holidays like Hanukkah.

With that said, we do have the right and the joy to celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord. Don't let the grinchers of this world spoil it! Amen? As President-elect Donald Trump has said, "We're going to start saying Merry Christmas again." It is refreshing that this year so many people are starting to say "Merry Christmas" again. We've been wished "Merry Christmas" more this year than ever. It's wonderful!

Please embrace the freedoms afforded to us in the United States. **Thanks to our veterans, we are free to say "Merry Christmas" and display a nativity for all to enjoy.**

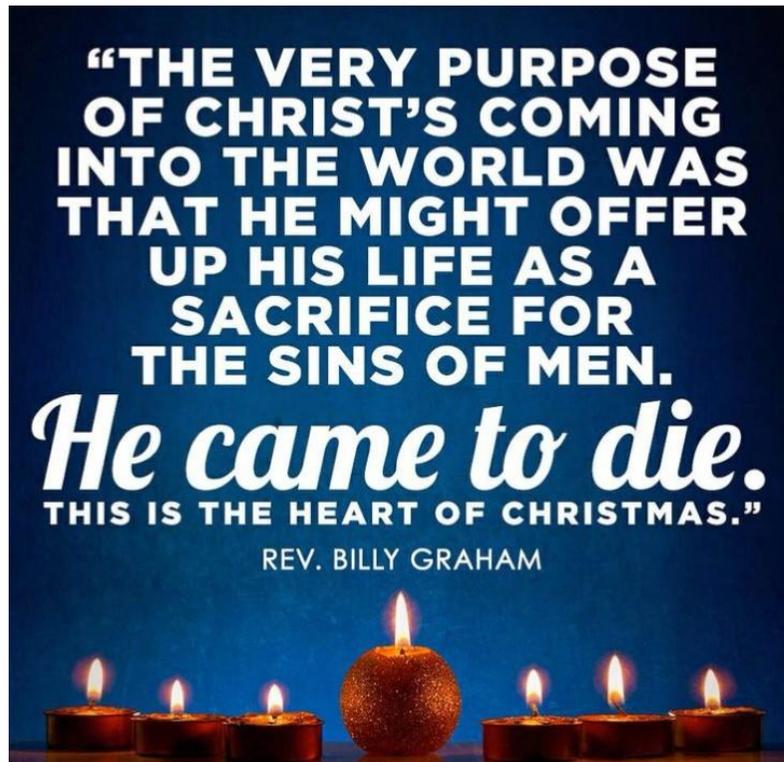
We hope you enjoy this month's feature article called "Away With the Manger?" by Dr. Jerry Newcombe. It has excellent points about keeping Christ at the forefront of Christmas.

So, yes, we wish you a Merry Christmas! May God bless you this Christmas, and in the New Year, too!

God bless you always,
Carrie Stoelting and Stacie Stoelting
Sisters and founders of Unite the USA



Featured Quote



This Month's Bible Verse

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 peace among those with whom he is pleased!" **Luke 2:11-14 ESV**

What does 4th of July and Christmas have in common?



So, what exactly do the 4th of July and Christmas have in common? David Barton of Wallbuilders answers this great question here!

Away With The Manger?

By Dr. Jerry Newcombe

Manger scenes were routinely shown in public places before the anti-Christian crusade that the Supreme Court unleashed, starting in the 1960s and 1970s, with its anti-God-in-public type of decisions.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court ruled in *Lynch v. Donnelly* (1984) in a case out of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, that if a manger scene was surrounded by enough reindeers and other secular symbols of the season, the government could allow it on public property. Many of these anti-God cases were initiated by the legal group, the American Civil Liberties Union, or ACLU.



Apparently, the ACLU's favorite Christmas carol is "Away with the Manger." But it's not alone. There's also the Freedom from Religion Foundation, or FFRF, which sues to keep crèche scenes from being placed in public venues, as it did recently in a small town in the motor state.

On Dec. 16, as Liberty Counsel reports, a nativity scene was restored to a park in Menominee, Michigan, because of its pro bono "defense to reinstate the City's long-standing Christmas tradition of displaying a Nativity scene in a city park."

It notes that the town took down the nativity because of FFRF complaints, but Liberty Counsel intervened, encouraging the town to "add secular items to the display." And so the town plans to reinstate the manger scene.

The question is: Are manger scenes in public places constitutional? I spoke recently on my radio show, "Vocal Point," with Thomas Brejcha, founder and director of the Christian legal group, the Thomas More Society.

Brejcha told me manger scenes in public are "absolutely constitutional if they're done the right way. The key is that these are privately funded and privately sponsored nativity scenes - that really amount to free speech on the part of private citizens in what we would call a 'traditional or designated public forum.'"

He added, "Our First Amendment is pretty clear about it. If you allow somebody to get up on their soapbox and proclaim their politics, well, you cannot discriminate against another citizen that gets up on his or her soapbox and preaches his or her religious faith. In both cases the content of the speech is free speech and as such is protected by our Constitution."

Thus, if political rallies or other examples of free speech are allowed in a public setting, including rotundas in state capitols, then religious speech can't be legally discriminated against in those settings. According to Brejcha: "It's the denial of free speech that is wrong and not that the folks who want to put up a nativity scene. [A nativity scene] is a kind of symbolic speech - very powerful speech - and it ought to be promoted."

What does the nativity scene communicate? That God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have ever lasting life.

The Thomas More Society is now working with a group that is also out of Chicago, the American Nativity Scene, or ANS. Brejcha told our listeners about the ANS: "They're blessed to have a benefactor who anonymously provides nativity sets to anyone who will agree to put them up and take care of them in any public space."

The provision of a professional looking, life-size manger scene is made free to those willing to commit to getting it up in a city square or even better yet, a place near or on the state capitol rotunda. ANS' website explains the logistics, including the need for a local carpenter to make the stable for the set and for its off-season storage.

The ANS website states that during the Christmas seasons of 2014 and 2015, it "shipped over 120 Nativity Scenes to 24 different states across this great country. ... Many of these Nativity Scenes were placed in public parks, libraries, farm roads and government buildings."

Tom Brejcha said they are focusing on getting as many manger scenes as possible at state capitol buildings in future Christmases. So far, through Christmas 2016, ANS has been able to get such nativity sets in 11 state capitols, with 39 to go. He also said that if anybody hits any legal snag from the atheist-type groups, the Thomas More Society will defend them for free.

Thankfully, other Christian legal groups, such as Liberty Counsel, also provide legal assistance on religious liberty matters.

ANS notes a recent poll by the Washington Times found 72 percent of Americans "agreed that religious scenes displayed on PUBLIC property by PRIVATE individuals should be allowed as our constitution allows" (emphasis theirs).

Thus, while the atheist activists and their sympathizers may try to sing "Away WITH the Manger," Lord-willing, in future years we may just see more privately sponsored manger scenes popping up in various cities and towns (including state capitols) to remind us of the true reason for the season.

About Jerry Newcombe



Jerry Newcombe, D.Min., is a TV producer and the co-host of "Kennedy Classics." He has also written or co-written 24 books, including "The Book That Made America" (on the Bible) and (with D. James Kennedy) "What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?" and (with Peter Lillback) "George Washington's Sacred Fire." Jerry hosts gracenetradio.com Thursdays at noon Eastern.

Featured Founding Father



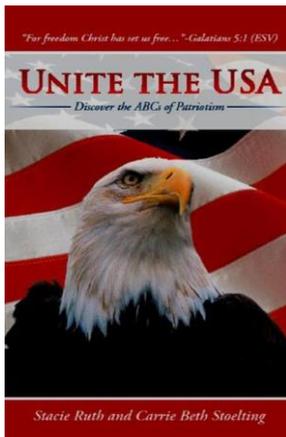
Arthur Middleton (June 26, 1742 - January 1, 1787), of Charleston, South Carolina, was a signer of the United States Declaration of Independence.

Middleton studied law at the Middle Temple and he traveled extensively in Europe.

In 1776, he was elected to the Continental Congress. Regardless of all of the time he spent in England, Middleton's attitude toward Loyalists was intense. In fact, during the War of Independence, Middleton served in the defense of Charleston. After the city's fall to the British in 1780, he was sent as a prisoner of war to St. Augustine, Florida. He was exchanged in July of 1781.

Middleton died on January 1, 1787 at the age of 44. He was described as a "tender husband and parent, humane master, steady unshaken patriot, the gentleman, and the scholar."

Order Now



Unite the USA: Discover the ABCs of Patriotism is a new book by **Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth Stoelting**. It's a book that empowers patriots to make a big difference in the land we love. With 100+ ways to make a positive difference in America, *Unite the USA* is a must-have tool for patriots. *Unite the USA* will inspire and educate Americans to defend faith and freedom. (Important Note: All proceeds go to fund the mission of UnitetheUSA.org.) [Order it here today!](#)

In God We Still Trust
A CD by Stacie and Carrie Stoelting



Per request from veterans who love patriotic and inspiring music sung by Stacie and Carrie, [In God We Still Trust](#) was recorded. From the National Anthem to "God Bless America" you will be inspired and uplifted about our God-given freedoms. All proceeds go to Unite the USA. Help promote faith and freedom in America. Your support is important and appreciated. [ShopBuy or download a copy today.](#) God bless you as you celebrate the red, white, and blue!

In God We Still Trust Video

Our country needs to turn to Jesus. Listen to "In God We Still Trust" for inspiration to keep "fighting the good fight". For hope and encouragement, listen to Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth sing "In God We Still Trust".



Share and Sign Up

Be sure to share this edition with your friends. Sign up for Unite the USA's free monthly e-mail [here!](#)

Booking Info



Celebrate the true spirit of America with Carrie Beth and Stacie Ruth. Book Stacie and Carrie for concert or conference! E-mail info@unitetheusa.org for more information.

Unite the USA, www.unitetheusa.org, Cherokee, IA 51012