

EDITORIAL



The story that never grows old

AND IT CAME TO PASS in those days, that there went out a decree from Casear Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria).

And all went to be taxed, every one into 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 first-born 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, which 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 peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Luke, Chapter 2

CHRISTMAS JOY TO ALL

Celebrate Christmas - of course!

To whom it may concern:

Last week someone anonymously slipped a pamphlet entitled "The Truth About Christmas" into my mail box. In this pamphlet the question is asked, "Should Christians Celebrate Christmas?" The author argued that Christians should not celebrate Christmas because Jesus Christ was not born on December 25; the roots of the Christmas celebration are found in Roman pagan worship; the early Church didn't celebrate Christ-

mas; and much of the world's celebration is materialistic and self centered.

It was an interesting read and I found myself agreeing with most of what the author said, except his conclusion.

Should Christians celebrate Christmas? Of course we should. Of all the people in the world we have most to be merry about. Of all the people in the world we have the greatest reason to give good cheer. We possess the greatest news the world has ever

heard; God came in the flesh to die for us so that we may have life, life to the full.

In Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol" Tiny Tim says, "God bless us, everyone." To which we Christians can reply "God HAS blessed us, everyone, in the person of Jesus Christ.

Let the churches ring out the news today, on Christmas day, and every day after, that the Saviour of the world has come.

Sincerely, Rev. Tom Cullen



Children alone in van

Dear Editor,

During this very busy and hectic holiday season we are constantly being cautioned to lock our car and put our valuables out of sight to protect them from whatever evil deed doer's might be passing by.

Friday I was shocked, amazed and frightened to see a van left running in the parking lot of our local I.G.A. at about 6 p.m. Who would temp fate this way, I wondered. Isn't it against the law to leave a vehicle running without someone inside it?

As I sat waiting for a friends to join me I suddenly realized that there was someone in the van. A young girl about 5 or 6 was jumping back and forth between the passenger and the driver's seats, plus a baby was asleep in a car seat in the back! Where were the parents? The little girl jumped and played in the driver's seat for awhile then she opened the van door and hopped out. The parking lot was very busy, it was dark out and it was half raining and snowing — the little girl hadn't a coat on. The van was still running, the baby was still asleep, between 10 - 15 minutes had passed by now.

I was really getting worried about the little girl, to the point that I got out to see where she had gone but couldn't see where she had gone. A short time later she came out of the I.G.A. by herself and returned to the van. She tried to get back in but the door seemed to have locked behind her when she had left. The van was still running. It was really getting quite cold out and she was still without a coat. I called to her and said that maybe she should go back into the store to wait for her parent but she said that her mom had told her to go and wait in the van and that was what she was trying to do.

Shortly after someone came out of the store and called her to come back inside and she did, the baby still slept in the van. By this point in time

my friend had arrived so I had to leave. I have thought about them many times this week, and I hope that everything turned out alright.

To the parents of these precious children, what could have been so important in the store that you would leave them unattended in a running vehicle? What would you have done if the little girl's bouncing in the driver's seat had caused the van to jump into reverse? Your van with your babies inside would have gone right into the large glass window in the store behind it, perhaps seriously hurting them and many people in the store too!

I am not writing this to belittle you, I just want to draw your attention to how serious this simple act could have been. I am also a parent and I know how tempting it is to just run in to grab a loaf of bread or a bag of milk - you will only be a minute you promise yourself, but before you know it 5 minutes have become 10, 15, or 20!

No amount of "I'm sorrys" can ever turn back the clock to give you back those lost minutes. Please just take a minute and think of the "what ifs" that could have happened, then hug and kiss your babies and promise NEVER to do that again!

A Concerned Parent.

Thanks to merchants for breakfast with Santa

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Acton Parent-Child Centre to thank the generous merchants who donated to our

recent "Breakfast with Santa."

Loblaws, A&P, Walmart, Acton IGA, Halton Flour Milling - Acton Maple Lodge Farms, were major donors and enabled us to provide breakfast, photos with Santa and have a very festive day. Special thank you to Acton Home Hardware for their beautiful Christmas tree.

Many individuals in the community contributed to the festivities John Hopkins, George Elliot provide music to dine by, Meghan Tyrrell fac painter extrordinaire, Mike our Sant photographer, and Stacey Barnes, co ordinator for the day.

We certainly can't forget all the wonderful helpers, their children and spouses who served, set-up, cleaned up and did hours of hard work. The success of the day is due to them.

We can't say thank you enough but we are sure that the smiling faces on the children attending was thank enough.

Staff of the Acton Parent-Child Resource Cent



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