



Ragan Ingram

Birth day 12/27/2020

Brooklyn Hensley

Birth day 12/28/2020

Nancy & Rodger Cobia

Anniversary 12/28/2020

Timothy Russom Jr.

Birth day 12/31/2020



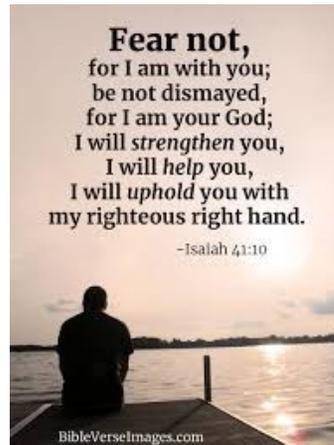
Contributions

For those able to attend worship services at the building please leave your contribution in the box at the rear of the auditorium.

For those who give by check and are meeting by Zoom, you can simply mail your check to Kerry Lashlee 9748 Bent Brook Dr Montgomery, AL 36117

Contribution last week

\$4,849



PERRY HILL ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST



Bulletin

News & Information for Members & Friends

WWW.PERRYHILLCHURCH.ORG

DECEMBER 20, 2020

Jesus: Myth or Master ?

On Tuesday a new billboard went up in NYC across from the M & M store in Times Square. It features two images and six words. The first is Santa Claus with the words “Keep the MERRY!” The second is an image of Jesus that reads, “Dump the MYTH!”

The group responsible for the billboard is the American Atheists. It’s a part of their annual winter campaign to insult Christians and demean Jesus.

The Atheist President, David Silverman, is quoted as saying, “We know that a large population of ‘Christians’ are actually atheists who feel trapped in their family’s religion. If you know god is a myth, you do not have to lie and call yourself ‘Christian’ in order to have a festive HOLIDAY season. You can be merry without the myth....”

On their website, Communications Director, Teresa MacBain, stated, “The true beauty of the season—family, friends, and love—have nothing to do with the gods of yesteryear. Indeed, the season is far more enjoyable without the religious baggage of guilt and judgmentalism. Dump the myth and have a happy holiday season.”

While I would agree that there is quite a bit about the traditions of the Christmas holiday that is founded in fiction, Jesus is not a myth! Although, I don’t presume to convince Silverman, MacBain or any atheist that Jesus is the Christ in a 500 word blog, true seekers should consider a few simple facts.

(1) **The historicity of Jesus is beyond question.** Whether you believe Jesus was the Son of God, it must be admitted that He lived in the first century. The German historian Adolf Harnack (1851-1930) wrote that Jesus was such a dominate figure in history that he was “far beyond the power of men to invent.” He further said those regarding him as a myth are lacking “the capacity to distinguish between fiction and the documentary evidence” Joseph Klausner, a Jewish scholar of Hebrew University, denied the deity of Jesus, yet he admitted that Jesus was a real person who lived and “exerted a powerful influence.” *Continued inside*



PRAYER LIST - AS OF 12/14/2020

Matthew Bruce deployed until April 2021. In a hut now!
John Norris Covid 19
Charles & Charlotte McPeak family Covid-19 plus Charles' father in North FL
Shearal and Cathy Wigginton - Natalie Bruce's uncle with shoulder replacement & dementia.
All Hart family – Gary, Janis, Pat at home with Covid 19 Jess in Baptist with Covid
Mark & Rhonda Looney - Covid-19 & pneumonia- sister & in-law of Kim Porter
Joe Estes, former elder - Dehydrated, Light case so far of COVID-19
Mary Domingus - heart rhythm - Pacemaker on Dec. 14.
Howe's daughter, Wendy - unfaithful and serious auto accident
Aaron Beard - passing of his mother (confirmed)
Bess Powell's niece's baby - infection
Rodger Cobia's sisters, Betty, Margie & Sara. Betty to have radiation.
Ann Carr - 11/29, death of her youngest sister, Margaret Wheeler in Huntsville.
John DeMas' mother, Janet - Grace Meyers - in KY - friends of Bill's daughter - leukemia
David Turner - Still fighting an infection
Janie Brewer - arthritis in her knees. Physical therapy & shots helping- quarantined because of Hart's Covid.
Marsha Williamson - Parkinson's - Had CT scan - hopeful implant surgery soon
Beth Beasley (Marsha's sister) - fractured shoulder, COPD, Hospice
Patricia Lange (Carrie Puckett's mother) - Finished last chemo. Oncologist evaluating this week.
Agnes Kochik - (Ron's mother) -Fall, hip
Susan Kochik - (Ron's niece) - therapy working
Neal Smith - Recovering from scalp surgery.

Please continue to pray for our **deacons** (Jim Keith, Kerry Lashlee, Ron McDonald, Bud Porter, Paul Puckett, Craig Sims, Gary Smith, Curt Williamson) and their work. Please continue to pray for our **elders** (John Burch, Rodger Cobia, Ron Kochik and Neal Smith) and their work. Please continue to pray for the **evangelists** whom we support (Navitesh Dutt in Fiji; Joel Holt in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Ricky Shanks now working in Georgia; Tim Shepherd in Tennessee; Gustavo Marino in Montgomery area **and our own Bill Robinson**).

Continued

In addition to the New Testament documents, the reality of Jesus' life is found in many secular sources. Ancient Jewish writings like Flavius Josephus. Roman writers Pliny, Tacitus and Suetonius, all make historical references to Jesus.

- (2) **Antagonists of Christianity admit his historicity.** Celsus, a pagan philosopher, Lucian of Samosata, who both lived in the second century were critics of Christianity, yet admitted that Jesus was a real person. So, did third century philosopher Porphyry of Tyre. He wrote 15 books in opposition to the Christian faith. Ironically, his impassioned opposition was an inadvertent admission of Jesus' existence.
- (3) **The evidence of the catacombs.** Beneath the city of Rome are over 600 miles of subterranean passages where persecuted Christians met between the second and fifth century. The walls are filled with art work and inscriptions that testify to their faith in Christ. Many were martyred for their convictions. Did they meet in secret and die for a myth?
- (4) **The Conversion of modern-day skeptics, atheist or infidels.** John Clayton was an admitted atheist as a young man. Today he is a Christian. And a powerful proponent for the Christian faith. He uses his influence through his "Does God exist?" ministry. (<http://www.doesgodexist.org/>)

Josh McDowell has written many books of evidence about God, Jesus and Christianity. In his book, "He Walked Among Us", he documents detailed evidence for the historical Jesus. He writes, "After personally trying, as a skeptic myself, to shatter the historicity and validity of the Scriptures, I had to conclude that they actually are historically trustworthy"

Chicago Journalist Lee Strobel, once an atheist, but now a Christian, tells of his personal journey from scoffer and skeptic to believer and follower in his well researched books "The Case for a Creator," "The Case of Christ," and "The Case for Faith ." He came to this conclusion "Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah, or the Anointed One, who would redeem God's people. In effect, dozens of these Old Testament prophecies created a fingerprint that only the true Messiah could fit. This gave Israel a way to rule out impostors and validate the credentials of the authentic Messiah...Jesus, and only Jesus, matched this prophetic fingerprint."

Atheists can insult us. Unbelievers can mock us. And infidels can doubt us. "But I know in whom I have believed..." Jesus is not a myth. He's my Master. Lord. Christ. And the Savior of all mankind.

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman