

The Register Citizen (registercitizen.com), Serving Torrington, CT

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Opinion

## Letters to the Editor for Dec. 19

Saturday, December 19, 2009

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### More on cutting children's programs

Early childhood programs are important not only for the health and development of young children, but for the well-being of the state's economy

A 2004 report by the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis at UConn noted that early care and education is a vital industry in Connecticut, directly employing more than 15,000 state residents.

That same report noted that nearly 10 percent of the state's total workforce uses regulated early childhood programs, allowing 160,000 parents to work outside the home.

As children are dropped from programs due to budget cuts, there is a corresponding impact on the workforce.

Working parents rely on these programs to maintain their employment.

The proposed cuts will not only harm children, but will also add thousands of parents to the unemployment rolls.

Under Governor Rell's deficit mitigation proposal, significant cuts would be made to State Funded Child Care centers, the Care4Kids child care subsidy, Community Plans for Early Childhood, Early Literacy, the Office of Early Childhood Planning, Outreach and Coordination, and the Children's Trust Fund.

Legislators, as you prepare your budget deliberations, please remember that children did not get the state into the current budget crisis,

The budget should not be balanced on their backs.

Tina McBride

Torrington

### Thank you to the Living Nativity participants

We would like to take a moment to thank all of the incredibly talented and generous students who took part in the Living Nativity at Lourdes Dec. 13.

Even with the abysmal weather they all turned up and played their roles with great polish.

It was clear they had really invested their time in order to perform well. We deeply appreciate their efforts.

The choir with their choice of music, was terrific as always. The bell choir, under the direction of Susan Aziz, is a beautiful addition that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Those who worked to memorize lines did a great job and did it with great poise.

The Northville junior firemen once again took on the traffic direction and kept everyone safe.

As for all the rest; the shepherds, angels, animal caretakers, and greeters- they kept the pageant flowing smoothly. Great job!

We thank you for once again giving this great Christmas gift to our community.

The Nativity Committee:

Tammy Knox, Joanne Moore, Kathy Murray, Nancy Russell and Colette Boyd

Litchfield

#### **A letter from Jesus**

There have been "Sound Off" entries over the past month or so which had to do with persons who do not believe in God or want to change Christmas Village to Holiday Village.

Well, I received this email which I don't know that anyone can dispute no matter what faith you are.

Here it is.

Letter from Jesus about Christmas

I has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking my name out of season.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own.

I don't care what you call the day.

If you want to celebrate my birth, just get along and love one another.

Now, having said that let me go on.

If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting my birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn if all my followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree.

It was I who made all trees.

You can remember me anytime you see any tree.

Decorate a grape vine of your wish: I actually spoke of that one on a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15:1-8.

If you want to give me a present in remembrance of my birth here is my wish list, Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way my birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home.

They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of the year, I know, they tell me all the time.

2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.

3. Instead of writing the president complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year.

Then follow up...it will be nice hearing from you again.

4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them.

Tell them the story of my birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.

6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless?

Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile, it could make the difference.

7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word.

Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one.

Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.

8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary-especially one who takes my love and good news to those who have never heard my name.

9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive.

If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in me and they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to me, then behave like a Christian.

Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in my presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of myself. Just love me and do what I have told you to do.

I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short.

I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember,

I Love You,

Jesus

Claire Nemcik

Torrington

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