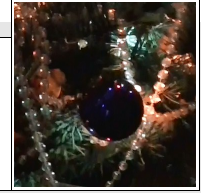




Animalzanian Times



December 2013

News of Interest

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The President's Little Speech

Merry Christmas, everyone! We are glad that the missing Animalzanians have been found and will be returning in time for Christmas.

Remember, this season is not about presents, hams, turkeys, and Christmas trees. This season is about Christ's birth because He came to save the world. He came as a tiny baby to save mankind from all their sin. The reason why He had to come was so that all people can be saved.

God bless you! Merry Christmas!

Written by President Peter Fir (Josiah Riojas)

Matthew 1: 18-25

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

“Then Joseph her husband, being a just man and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

“But while he thought upon these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying Joseph, thou son of David, fear

Bible Verses of the Month

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

-Matthew 1:21

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

-Luke 2: 13-14

not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

“And she shall bring forth a sone, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

“Now all of this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

“Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

“And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”



Town News

Christmas

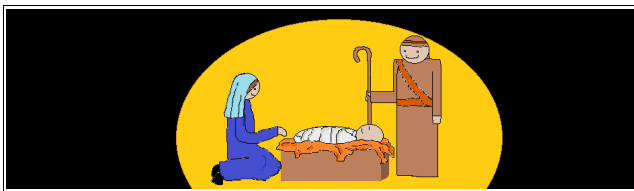
We celebrate in December the birth of Jesus Christ who came down to earth as a baby and who fulfilled God's promise to man that He would send them a Savior. Jesus died on the Cross and rose again on the third day for our sins so that we can be made right with God. It is around Christmas that we especially remember when Jesus was born, and we thank God for sending Him to save us.



This year in Farjay, we are having a wonderful celebration. In the Rose Theater, the young people and children will perform the entire Christmas story on Christmas Eve, and the Choir will be singing too! After Christmas, there is to be a ball at the Hall (we didn't have it on Christmas Day because we wanted families to be able to celebrate Christmas together). There is also going to be a cookie sale throughout the Christmas week which will give the proceeds of the sale to the poor in Farjay.

Christmas is going to be fun this year, but don't forget why we celebrate this holiday every year. We remember Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and rejoice that God sent us a Savior! Merry Christmas!

-Miss Sarah Trotter



Christmas with the Roses and Firs

We celebrated Christmas Eve and Christmas Day together at the Roses' (Christmas Eve) and the Fir's (Christmas Day). The children were all over the place and made an awful amount of noise for over twenty kids. Iceburg was able to stop his space exploration travel long enough to spend the entire week with his parents.

The turkey was cooked by the John Fir family, and Zuzu and Zoro Fir were proud to announce that the twins were going to be expected in summer (June and July to be exact). They have been expecting for almost three years.

After eating, we opened presents. The children were excited to find little pistols and rifles that shoot little round pellets and, after we had read, they went out into the backyard and built a shooting range.

Before we left to go to our home, we read from the Bible about the Birth of Jesus and sang several carols together.

We are so grateful to God for sending His Son to die on the Cross for our sins and we wish everyone on Animal and Earth:

Merry Christmas!

-Mrs. Rose II

The Missing Return in Time for Christmas!

The story of how the exploration team which had been sent to the planet Tropicalla has been a headline during the recent months, and we were happy to announce that they were found last month.

Today we are excited to announce that the missing men and women will be returning on the 23rd. Just in time for Christmas!

One family said when they received the news that their dad was returning: "It is the best Christmas present we have every received!"

We are happy that families will be reunited this Christmas. May God bless everyone and thank you for praying for these men and women who were lost and have been found! Merry Christmas everyone!!

-N.R.

World and National News

Thief: Jim Backer Found!

We are glad to announce that the six month search for Jim Backer has finally come to a close. The last article mentioning him was in August, and the article stated that Jim Backer mysteriously disappeared off a ship which was heading to Animalzania.

In the ship's log, a name was found among all of the passengers' which was Mr. Jim Black. Further on into the log's records, it was found that for three days straight the ship had been caught in a storm half-way between Animalzania and Camping Island. It appeared that Mr. Jim Black was reported to have been swept overboard during the storm.

Upon arriving at the port, the ship's captain searched for any living relatives of Mr. Black and found there to be none. In fact, he found that there was no such person as Jim Black! This and the searching of his ship for the thief roused his suspicions, and he spent the next few months scanning the bottom of the ocean floor for many miles between Canary Island and Animalzania.

In October, they came across some evidence. They found the remains of the body of a short, thin bear on the bottom of the ocean floor weighed down by a heavy sack.

The body met all of the descriptions for Mr. Jim Backer and the convincing evidence of the King of England's crown in the bag only made the police certain for sure that Mr. Jim

Backer had gone down to his demise in August.

They returned the King of England's crown, and the King rewarded them handsomely. We are happy that nothing worse had happened.

-The Police Headquarters, Pearl County.

Mysterious Phone Calls: Location Found

The location of the mysterious phone calls that have been bothering us during November and early December has been

discovered. It appears that the signal came from the planet Tropicalla, and interestingly enough it comes from the settlement where our missing

exploration team had been kept. The A.S.S.E. Aliens

Communication Center believes that the cat-like creatures were possibly trying to let us know that our crew was there since the calls ended on the day the crew was rescued.

We can be thankful that the mysterious phone calls were not about a space war, and we wish the A.S.S.E.:

A Merry, merry Christmas!

-N.R.



★ Tickle Your Funny Bone ★

Question: Why didn't Noah and his sons go fishing off the Ark?

Answer: They only had two worms!

Question: On which side does a chicken have feathers?

Answer: On the outside!

Comic Page

White Fang and Company!



ATTENTION ALL READERS!!! The Animalzanian Times is going to stop for a few months so that the Editor and staff can have a

vacation. We will be back in May of 2014. Sorry about the inconvenience.
Sincerely, the Editor.

Writer's Nook



"Oh, How Wonderful Is The Winter"

The wind is in the firs.
Snow falls down outside
The lake is frozen over now.
The skaters skate side by side.

Cardinals rest upon a snowy branch,
And sing a winter's song
While children make snowmen,
And the birds join the throng.

Shots in the forest are heard!
The deer and doe run far away
Through a snowy wonderland,
To return one day.

Crickets chirp in the thicket,
From the windows comes a glow,
The stars look down upon the land,
And the wind blows in more snow.

Oh, winter with thy chill,
How beautiful you are!
Oh, how much I remember of you –
So much so far!

"You Came"

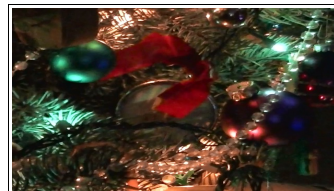
You came –
Not as expected by the world.
You came down in a stable,
And lived as a perfect man.
You died on the cross.
You rose again.
Now, we see!

"Winter"

Winter comes,
With its chill.
Freezes water,
Hardens will.
Farms and fields
Covered deep in snow
Sing of Winter's Chill.

Winter is here.
The ice is hard.
The farms are under snow.
Smoke curls up, as they
Sing of spring days, yet to be.

Winter is past,
The ice has cracked.
Snow has left the farms.
New plowed land and farmer's hand
Sing of hope and spring.



Written by Elyzabeth McDunn



Title: “What is Christmas?” Part I

Author: Miss Elyzabeth McDunn

Setting: Polly Walker, an eighth grader in Heartland Middle School asks her teacher a simple question little knowing how much trouble it will cause...

I was in Heartland Middle School grade eight when I first verbally asked the question that had been running through my young brain. Reading had awakened the question, and often I had thought about its answer.

Of course, I read the books our principal (and the government) allowed us students to read in our spare hours when we weren't pouring over texts and doing P.E. But there were a few old, old classics which implied some sort of holiday called 'Christmas' that was done during the winter – namely during the month of December.

Now I had never heard of such a holiday, especially in December when we have winter solstice celebrations and the exchange of gifts for the New Year. So it naturally caused me to think about what exactly this strange holiday must mean.

It had been for two years that I had thought over this as I walked to and from the classroom and my room which I shared with a girl named Reese. It was in the beginning of December that I finally raised my hand and asked the teacher:

“Miss Tower, what is Christmas?”

It was as if I had dropped a bomb in the room. Miss Tower straightened and laid down her iPad. Fixing her glasses, she “bored holes” in me until she asked:

“How have you learned about Christmas?”

“Through reading.”

“What?”

“Books – the books the principal bought me.” I wondered at why Miss Tower sounded so shocked and horrified.

“Oh?” the teacher gave me a double-look as if I had been lying.

“Yes, Miss Tower.”

“Polly you may sit down now,” said Miss Tower tapping hastily on the surface of the iPad (possibly sending some message to some one in the administration).

Still wondering, I went through the normal classes, but I noticed that each teacher, janitor, administrator, and even the principal (she passed me once in the hall) kept both of their eyes on me as if I had committed some crime.

Why was Miss Tower so shocked by my simple question and made such a fuss over it was the question that repeated itself over and over in my mind.

It wasn't until I went to my room that evening that I really knew how seriously my question had been taken, and instead of terrifying me, it only increased my curiosity to know what it was the administration didn't want me to know.

On the front of the door where my name, Polly Smith, and Reese Walker always were, I saw my roommate's name and Sarah Turner.

Obviously, I had been replaced by Sarah Turner so as not to “contaminate” Reese. I had heard of such things happening to other students but had never thought that it would happen to me.

“Hey, Polly!” cried someone behind me

in the hall. "Seems as if you're *lost*?"

"Nice, Sarah!" I returned.

"You're *lost* 'cause if you didn't notice," she tapped the little plaque which had her name on it, "*my name's on the door now. You'd better scat, Polly-olly!*"

"I hope you're going to be *nice* to Reese," I returned sarcastically.

"Oh, I wouldn't worry about Reese. 'Cause you're in *big* trouble, Pole. Ho! Ho! I won't want to be in *your* shoes. Get lost, Polly-golly!" The door slammed rudely in my face.

Like many other students who had been in a similar predicament, I went to the principal's office.

"Come in, Walker" (she always called us students by our last names).

Opening the door, I entered the room and walked up to the desk.

"Madame –," I began.

"Walker! Do not speak until *I* have spoken to you!" She glared at me.

I was astounded. This was *not* how the administration treated students under any circumstances – unless... unless my circumstance was not any "ordinary" circumstance.

"Walker, you have been moved from your usual room to the rehabilitation section of the facility. Your possessions, books, clothes, diaries, electronics, etc. have been confiscated from you for study. You shall receive new clothes from the facility, and you are required not to speak to any former acquaintances, friends, etc. More explicit information, including the *penalties* if these rules are disobeyed are written in this pamphlet." She handed me a large hunk of printed paper that to me felt as if it weighed one pound.

"You must now go to your assigned room, check in with the receptionist, and..."

she glared harder at me as if to intimidate me, "... and *never* ask the question you asked to anyone on pain of being *expelled*. Walker, you are now dismissed!"

I was thoroughly shocked, but my subconscious mind had expected what she had said. You could say it was the shock that *this* had *actually* happened to me that caused me to pause after the dismissal.

"Get on, Walker!" she cried impatiently. "I said, 'you are *dismissed*!'"

The End of Part 1

To be continued in January...

Thank you for reading our newspaper!

We hope it has been a blessing!

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Editor: Miss Courtney Riojas

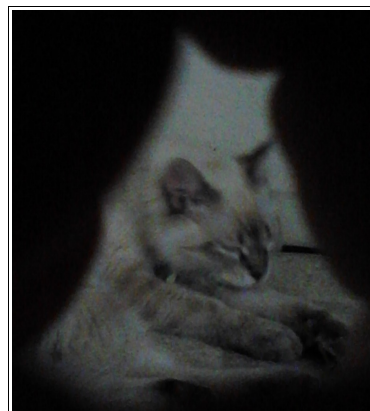
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If you would like to become a member, have a question or comment, or want to send in a fiction article, story (one with morals), or poem to the newspaper, please email:

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www.riverleaves.org/AT

Next month's is coming soon!



*Removed address and phone number.