

December 2000  
January 2001

# *Patriot's Progress* *Magazet*

*Good Reading for students and friends of Patriot University*

# 2001

As we rush into the new millenium—remember the year 2000 was the *last* year of the 20th Century—we find our nation in turmoil. Political turbulence, Wall Street tremors, churches compromising, morality dissolving—and it seems multitudes are bent on forgetting the only One Who can help us! Will Jesus come back before we self-destruct? Will America yet wake up and return to God and His Word? What a time for us to let the Light of Christ shine in the midst of so much darkness!

Here at Patriot University, the Lord has blessed your school with a record year—in every way! We are thankful!

But we can't help but believe that God would have all of us to make a much greater impact for our Lord in 2001! Let's set some goals, and pray that each of us may *double* our effectiveness for Him during the coming year!

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# All I Want for Christmas!

By Dr. Lonnie Skinner



“All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth.” Do you remember that little song? It was cute, but dumb. What kid in his or her right mind would say that’s *all* I want for Christmas?

As a child I lived in a small community between the school and the church, about a hundred yards from each. In those days I found it hard to get up at 6:30 each morning for school. For some reason it was even harder to get up at 8:30 for Sunday school. But getting up at 3 o’clock on Christmas morning was never a problem.

Even today I can almost smell the cedar from the Christmas tree and the oranges that were placed around it on those crisp Louisiana mornings. And I still sense the thrill when I switched on the light to see the neatly arranged gifts spread out on the floor for my brothers and me. Let’s be honest, we all love receiving gifts.

It’s “more blessed to give than to receive.” That’s true. But it can be okay to want to receive, too. In fact God tells us to “covet earnestly the best gifts...” (1 Corinthians 12:31).

What are some good gifts for your wish list this Christmas? How about a happy home, a revived church, a godly nation? Or you might request things like joy, hope, peace, love, faith. Or how about some personal needs that include a pure heart, a clean mind, a faithful life?

How about giving some special gifts to ourselves, gifts that will last long after this Christmas? Here are some suggestions:

1. *Continue your education.* Let it include not just man’s books, but God’s Book. “as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

2. *Improve your love life.* Get involved with the greatest love. Jesus said “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matthew 22:37). “And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all...” (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

3. *Discover & use your spiritual gifts to glorify God.* “Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts...” (1 Corinthians 14:1).

4. *Enter public service.* It is not necessary to run for office to do this. If you know Jesus you have already been appointed as “an ambassadors for Christ...” (2 Corinthians 5:20). Make a difference. Be a leader? How? By focusing on how you can serve. Jesus said, “whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister” (Mark 10:43). “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all...” (Galatians 6:10).

5. *Contact a Friend in High Places.* It’s not what you know but who you know that counts, especially if that person is your friend, Jesus Christ. He is your benefactor, the source of whatever is needed. “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

6. *Experience closeness in church family.* “...that their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love” (Colossians 2:2). “Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:12).

7. *Invest in your future in Heaven.* First, make sure you have a future home in Heaven. That comes only through receiving the greatest Gift of all—the Lord Jesus Christ. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...” (Titus 3:5). If you have received Jesus as your Savior, then it is time to “...seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:1-2).

What do you want for Christmas? Why not give yourself something big, something that will last, something that must come from God?

Some gifts you can give this Christmas are beyond monetary value: Mend a quarrel, dismiss suspicion, tell someone, “I love you.” Give something away—anonymously. Forgive someone who has treated you wrong. Turn away wrath with a soft answer. Visit someone in a nursing home. Apologize if you were wrong. Be especially kind to someone with whom you work. Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation, or announcement, or reservation, or hypocrisy.

Charles Swindoll

He began His ministry by being hungry, yet He is the Bread of Life.  
Jesus ended His earthly ministry thirsty, yet He is the Living Water.  
Jesus was weary, yet He is our rest. Jesus paid tribute, yet He is the King.  
Jesus was accused of having a demon, yet He cast out demons.  
Jesus wept, yet He wipes away our tears.  
Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver, yet He redeemed the world.  
He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, yet He is the Good Shepherd.  
Jesus died, yet by His death He destroyed the power of death.

*Gregory of Nazianzus, A.D. 381.*



## Consider Christmas

In A.D. 353, Pope Julius I authorized December 25 to be celebrated as the birthday of Jesus.

Professor Charles Follen lit candles on the first Christmas tree in America in 1832.

We've come a long way since 1832, longer still since 353, much longer still since that dark night brightened by a special star in which Jesus the king was born.

But as we approach December 25 again we have another opportunity to pause and remember Him!

In the midst of all the excitement and elaborate decorations and expensive commercialization which surround Christmas today, let's focus again on the event of Christmas and the person whose birth we celebrate.

—James W. Cox

What Do  
You See &  
Hear at  
Christmas!



Oh, you say, if I'd been there at Bethlehem that night I would have seen. I would have understood. I would have known it was the Christ child. Would you? There's one way to find out:

*Ask yourself what you are seeing and hearing this Christmas Season.*

- When you watch the TV news do you just see chaos and strife, or do you see sheep without a shepherd?
- When you go out to do your shopping do you see only hordes of people in the stores, or do you notice worried expressions on faces that are crying for help, help they can only find in Jesus?

*What do you hear this Christmas?*

- Do you hear only the blast of music and carols, or do you hear the silent sighs of the lonely and the bereaved who may be dreading Christmas because it accentuates their loneliness?
- In the midst of the sounds of honking horns and people arguing over parking places, do you hear faint sounds of laughter coming from missions projects because you furnished food and toys for families and children?

What we see and hear is usually not dependent on the event but on us. If you do hear the cry from the lonely, the laughter of poor children, if you see the sheep without a shepherd, then you might really notice the events that took place in Bethlehem that night. Without that spiritual seeing and hearing then you probably will be with the 99% who were present but who saw or heard nothing out of the ordinary.

—Brett Blair

## ***Did You Know...***

That 100 million lawsuits are filed in the U.S. each year?

That you are three times more likely to be taken to court than you are to be in the hospital during the next year?

That Satan has stirred certain factions of our society to declare “open-season” on Christian ministries and their workers, and that outrageous legal attacks against Christians are increasing dramatically?

That 70% of Americans do not have a will?

That you can now have quality legal protection for the price of a cup of coffee each day?

### ***Pre-Paid Legal Services includes:***

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***If not, you can help your Patriot University  
by getting it through us!***

**For more information, contact Dr. Lonnie Skinner  
at Patriot or go to the following web-site:**

**[www.prepaidlegal.com/go/lonnieskinner](http://www.prepaidlegal.com/go/lonnieskinner)**

*Pastor's Potpourri...*

## *What Else is There?*

It has often been said that if a pastor could be satisfied doing anything else, he should do it. Stated another way, if your calling is not crystal clear, if you could find fulfillment in another line of work, or even in another form of ministry, then you may not be cut out for the role of pastor.

Look at all the tasks that you are called to perform. Look at the hours needed to run an organization, to minister to people, to reach out to others in

the community, and to disciple the saints (when they are there). Consider the pay of most small church pastors. What keeps you going?

Your compassion must be like Jeremiah's, who said that God's Word burned as a fire in his bones that he could not hold in (Jer. 20:9)

Your compulsion must be like Paul's, who said, "woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (1 Cor. 9:16).

When you finish that next busy Sunday ask yourself if you really have the passion of Jeremiah or the compulsion of Paul. You will probably find that God has you doing just what He prepared you for all along.

—*Walt Hammonds*

## *When You Preach, Remember*

When you enter the pulpit make no apologies. If you have a message from God, deliver it. Do not waste time by long prefaces; but say good things from the start. And do not keep on talking after you are finished. Better leave the people longing than loathing.

Leave self out of the pulpit and take Christ in. Do not preach old sermons without warming them over. And never stop growing.

Do not harp too much on one string, but give the great variety of the Bible.

Take care of your character—let God take care of your reputation.

Paul kept the faith, and lost his head. But God will give it back to him gloriously crowned. A setting star may rise again but a falling star never.

Do not abuse people for not liking you. Perhaps you like yourself too well. Blame them for not loving Jesus.

You are not a preacher, no matter whose hands have been laid upon you, unless you know the truth and are anointed by the Holy Spirit. Do not scold. Be a friend of sinners, but not of sin.

Give something special when you preach to those who come on rainy days. Christ preached marvelously to one woman at the well and to one rabbi at night.

It is easy to manage a congregation when they are kept near to Christ. Forsake Him, and your congregation will (and should) forsake you!

You can do everything God wants you to do. What you do depends on what you are.

—*Author Unknown*



An idea  
for helping  
others,  
yourself  
and your  
family!

## Tentmaking Opportunity

The Apostle Paul—as well as the husband and wife team of Aquila and Priscilla—made and sold tents to pay their bills while they ministered for the Lord Jesus Christ.


What about you? Would you be interested in a business opportunity that could add an extra \$500-\$1,000 to your income every month? That's what can happen if you can find 6-10 hours a week to work this business.

*Dr. Lonnie Skinner says:*

“During the 21 years since I helped found Patriot University, this is the first time I have ever recommended a “tent-making” opportunity for our students. But I believe I would be doing you an injustice *not* to let you know about the income prospects now available through *Pre-Paid Legal*. The time is riper than ever for anyone who is interested in earning income while offering a service almost everyone in America needs.”

For more information contact Dr. Lonnie Skinner here at Patriot, or go to the following web-site:

[www.prepaidlegal.com/go/lonnieskinner](http://www.prepaidlegal.com/go/lonnieskinner)



In upcoming issues of *Patriot's Progress* we'd like to feature some of our students. Why don't you submit your testimony, telling what God is doing in your life and ministry?



***Have You Heard?***  
***You can Have a Bible Institute  
in Your Church!***

Now your church can have its own Bible Institute. The 32-course curriculum offers a Bible institute *Certificate in Biblical Studies* (at the halfway point) and a *Diploma in Biblical Studies* after completion of all 32 courses. And full-credit toward a degree with Patriot University is also available.

Classes meet weekly for 6-week terms, and complete their workbook for homework. Most students find that meeting each week is very helpful with self-discipline in completing courses.

We'd be glad to send you more information about how your church can have its own Bible Institute.

## Heavenly Peace

A little boy and girl were singing their favorite Christmas carol in church the Sunday before Christmas. The boy concluded "Silent Night" with the words, "Sleep in heavenly beans." "No," his sister corrected, "not beans, peas." – Michael P. Green



## *'Twas the Night before Jesus Came*

'Twas the night before Jesus came and  
all through the house

Not a creature was praying, not one in  
the house.

Their Bibles were lain on the shelf  
without care

In hopes that Jesus would not come in  
there.

The children were dressing to crawl  
into bed,

Not once ever kneeling or bowing a  
head,

And Mom in her rocker, babe in her lap  
Was watching the Late Show while I  
took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a  
clatter,

I sprang to my feet to see what was the  
matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash  
Tore open the shutters, threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes  
should appear

But angels proclaiming that Jesus was  
here.

With a light like the sun sending forth a  
bright ray

I knew in a moment this must be THE  
DAY!

The light of His face made me cover  
my head

It was Jesus! Returning just like He had  
said.

And though I possessed worldly  
wisdom and wealth,

I cried when I saw Him in spite of  
myself.

In the Book of Life which he held in  
His hand

Was written the name of every saved  
man.

He spoke not a word as He searched for  
my name;

When He said, "It's not here," my head  
hung in shame.

The people whose names had been  
written with love

He gathered to take to His Father  
above.

With those who were ready He rose  
without sound

While all of the rest were left standing  
around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late:  
I had waited too long and thus sealed  
my fate.

I stood and I cried as they rose out of  
sight.

Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning  
is clear;

The coming of Jesus is soon drawing  
near.

There's only one life and when comes  
the last call—

We'll find the Bible was true after all!



*Our Heritage...*

## *Christians You Should Know!*

### **Christmas Evans** **1766 - 1838**

*“Always have a book to read, instead of indulging in vain conversations. Remember this, that you cannot commit some loved sin in private and perform the work of the ministry in public with facility and acceptance.”*

Christmas Evans was born in Wales on December 25, 1766. His father died when he was very young, and he went to live with a wicked, ungodly uncle.

Despite the bitterness and trials of his life, he accepted Jesus Christ as Savior at the age of seventeen.

He had no formal education, but managed to teach himself Hebrew and Greek so he could study the Bible.

Shortly after his conversion one of his eyes was gouged out when he was badly beaten by former friends because

of his new faith. But he kept reading and studying to broaden his knowledge of God.

Evans was ordained a Baptist minister when he was 23, pastoring a church in Lleyn. Two years later, he had the opportunity to preach as a substitute to 20,000 people in Felinfoel. Great doors of opportunity opened to him after that.

But he believed God wanted him to serve on the island of Anglesea, and ministered there for the next 34 years. Much was accomplished as he united the warring Baptist societies to be effective evangelistic workers for God. But he left the island at age 59 with a broken heart when thousands turned their backs on him and the Gospel he preached.

After the death of his wife in 1823, Evans relocated to Caernarvon where he took a small, struggling church. He led the congregation to pay off their debts and saw the church marvelously blessed of God with converts.

His preaching started what became known as the “Welsh Revival.” Thousands were saved as the power of God shook the country. Men and women traveled from everywhere to hear Evans preach.

On his last Sunday at the church, Evans preached on the Prodigal Son. Friday of that week as he lay dying, he said, “I have never ministered without the blood in the basin.”

His last words were, “Drive on!”

# The True Meaning of Christmas

**C** is for the Christ child who was born about 2,000 years ago in a manger in Bethlehem.

**H** is for the HOPE that Jesus brings to all who believe in Him and trust Him for their salvation.

**R** is for resurrection of Jesus Christ who was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was both man and God, died on the cross for our sins, and then was raised from the dead (resurrected) and is now sitting at the right hand of God in heaven.

**I** is for Israel who God chose to bring forth the promised saviour of the world.

**S** is for the salvation that Jesus offers to all who are willing to confess their sin, believe in Him, and confess their belief in Jesus with their mouth.

**T** is for the empty tomb on Easter morning.

**M** is for the mercy God has shown the world by sending His only Son to suffer for our sins and bridge the gap between man and God.

**A** is for our AWESOME GOD who loves us unconditionally.

**S** is for the shining light that Jesus brought to the world!

*Merry Christmas  
and a  
Blessed 2001  
from the staff at  
Patriot University*



*Bill Knight*

*Kay Curtis*

*Becky Silingo*

*Wayne Knight*

*MaShalle Cooley*

*Patty Pierce*

*Lonnie Skinner*

*Walt Hammonds*

*Jane Devine*

*Toni Skinner*

*Rachael Humphrey*

*Daniel Kim*

## *Important Announcements*

*Patriot University offices will be closed  
December 22-January 2.*

This magazet is for **December and January**. The next issue will be sent the third week of January, and will include a financial summary of your giving and payments for 2000.

**Plan A** monthly tuition offering coupons are enclosed for both December and January. Don't forget, we must charge a \$75 reinstatement fee when a student misses a month. We thank the Lord for your faithfulness in giving during the busy holiday season.

You might also pray about giving to the *scholarship fund* during this season. We have many requests for courses from inmates and others who have no funds to pay. *Can you help!*