



Times Remembered
Betty A. Young

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In 1897 an eight year old asked her father if there was a Santa Claus. He told her to ask The Sun Newspaper, He said, "If you see it in the newspaper it is so." So Virginia decided to write a letter to the newspaper.

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years and some of my little friends say there is no Santa Clause. Papa says "If you see it in The Sun its so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Clause?

Virginia O'Halon
115 West Ninety-Fifth Street
Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age.

They don't believe except (what) they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensive by their little minds. All minds,

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little

In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Clause. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would the world be if there were no Santa Claus? It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias.

There would be no child like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We would have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your Papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees

Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there.

Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may see tear apart the baby rattler and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy poetry, love, and romance can push that curtain

And view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it real? Ah! Virginia, in all this world there

Is nothing else real and abiding?

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Francis Pharcellus
The Sun Church Editor

Imagine that: Sheepdog returns lost Bible to the devout farmer



America's Heartland
Roger Alford

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I heard a tale the other day about a devout farmer who had lost his favorite Bible while out plowing fields for his corn crop.

The next Sunday morning, as the farmer was walking out the door to go to church, an old sheepdog came strolling into his front yard with the lost Bible in his mouth.

The farmer could hardly believe his eyes. He reached down and took his Bible from the dog's mouth and proclaimed: "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," the sheepdog said. "Your name is written on the inside cover."

If you've ever been around sheepdogs, whether Australian shepherds, border collies or any other breed, you no doubt recognize just how smart they are. Perhaps not smart enough to read, but very

smart nonetheless.

Our family has large-ly kept hounds, which tend to be known more for brawn than brains. We also have Mountain Feists, which I'm convinced rate right up there with border collies in intelligence.

I know many of you have smart dogs as well. I know you have cats and birds and livestock of all kinds. We certainly love our animals. And God does, too.

I've been thinking about how smart some of the animals are that God used in scripture to help people.

If you remember, when the Old Testament prophet Elijah was in hiding because his life was in danger, God commanded ravens to take him food, and they did. When Jonah needed rescuing from a raging sea, God sent a whale to provide safe transport to shore. When the Apostle Peter needed a "sermon" to bring him to his senses, the Lord used a rooster to flap his wings and crow just as loud as he could, bringing Peter to tears. Now, that was a powerful "sermon."

There are so many more examples in the Bible of how God has used animals, and that reflect God's concern for animals.

"Not even a sparrow can fall to the ground without your Heavenly Father knowing" (Mat-

thew 10:29).

In 1905, songwriter Civilla D. Martin wrote the lyrics: "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me."

Jesus made that abundantly clear during his public ministry here on earth. "Look at the birds of the air," he said. "They neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more valuable than they" (Matthew 6:26).

Did you hear that? God provides for the animals, and He provides for us.

God will meet our every need. It shouldn't take a sheepdog to help us figure that out.

Roger Alford offers words of encouragement to residents of America's heartland. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com.



Gifts of the Spirit
Gifts are not always material. My father was an artist and a lover of nature. He painted many pictures of birds and other scenes of nature. And that is a gift he passed on to me, a love for birds and nature. For that, I am grateful. Holiday greetings to you all.

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com
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ESTILL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE
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DECEMBER 17-21, 2018

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ESTILL COUNTY SCHOOLS MENUS

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Monday, Dec. 17
South Irvine PS

Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, juice, and milk.

Lunch: Chicken pattie on bun, chips, baked beans, applesauce, and milk.

Estill Springs Elementary

Breakfast: Breakfast pizza or toast/cocoa puffs, pineapple tidbits, asst. juice, and milk.

Lunch: Chicken tenders/roll, mac & cheese, baked beans, fresh broccoli/dip, mandarin oranges, milk, BBQ sauce/ketchup.

West Irvine Intermediate

Breakfast: Pancakes/syrup or cereal, apple, juice, and mil.

Lunch: Chicken Nuggets/roll, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, and milk.

ECMS

Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, frosted flakes, cereal bars, assorted pop tarts, mandarin oranges, assorted fruit juices, and milk choices.

Lunch: Oven roasted BBQ chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, peas, apple/strawberry cup, milk or juice.

ECHS

Breakfast: Breakfast honey bun, cereal, cereal bars, pop tarts, mini chocolate donuts, oranges or apples, juice, and milk.

Lunch: Hamburger on bun, chili dogs, lettuce, tomato, pickles, potato wedges, baked beans, tropical fruit, sidekicks, juice, assorted milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 18
South Irvine PS

Breakfast: Cinnamon toast crunch cereal, juice, and milk.

Lunch: Ham, roll, mashed potatoes, green beans, fruit salad, ice cream, and milk.

Estill Springs Elementary

Breakfast: Mini maple pancakes/syrup or cinnamon toast crunch/graham snacks, applesauce, asst. juice, and milk choices.

Lunch: Hamburger/bun, chips, lettuce, tomato, California blend veggies, pineapple tidbits, milk, and ketchup/mustard.

West Irvine Intermediate

Breakfast: Toast, egg extravaganza or cereal, mandarin oranges, juice, and milk.

Lunch: Walking taco, taco meat/chips, shredded cheese, refried beans, salsa, peaches, and milk.

ECMS

Breakfast: Sausage and biscuit, fruit loops, cereal bars, assorted pop tarts, pineapples, assorted fruit juices, and milk choices.

Lunch: Cheeseburger on bun or pork chop on bun, French fries, lettuce, tomato, and onion, mandarin oranges/mixed fruit, milk or juice.

ECHS

Breakfast: Pancake porky, pop tarts, donut holes, yogurt parfait, oranges or apples, juice, milk.

Lunch: Oven roasted chicken, roll, Pizza Hut pizza, lettuce, tomato, pickles, mashed potatoes, green beans, cantaloupe, applesauce, juice/assorted milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 19
South Irvine PS

Breakfast: Pancake porky, apples, and milk.

Lunch: Pizza, corn, pears, and milk.

Estill Springs Elementary

Breakfast: Donuts or strawberry pop tart/trix, peaches, asst. juice, and milk choices.

Lunch: Cheese pizza, corn, baby carrots/dip, peaches, and milk.

West Irvine Intermediate

Breakfast: Donuts or cereal, strawberry cup, and milk.

Lunch: Hot dog/bun, carrots/dip, pork & beans, apple, and milk.

ECMS

Breakfast: Mini pancakes & syrup, cocoa puffs, cereal bars, assorted pop tarts, applesauce, assorted fruit choices, and milk choices.

Lunch: Chicken pattie on bun or potato bar w/breadstick, steamed broccoli & cheese, baked beans, peaches/pears, milk or juice.

ECHS

Breakfast: Bacon, egg, and cheese biscuit, pop tarts, yogurt parfait, mini chocolate donuts, oranges or apples, juice/milk.

Lunch: Burrito bar, lettuce, tomato, cheese, Mexican rice, refried beans, corn, salsa, peaches and pineapples, juice/assorted milk.

Specials Each Wednesday **Breakfast or Dinner Anytime**

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New Menu Items **Homemade Desserts**

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