



*Merry
Christmas,
4th Dayers!*

The Meaning of the Christmas Tree

*Each part of the Christmas tree celebrates Christ's birth
And tells the story of how God sent His Son to earth.*

*The wood reminds us of the manger where He lay
and of the rugged cross where He gave His life one day.*

*The evergreen shows the eternal life Christ gives –
anyone who believes in Him forever lives!*

*The decorations represent blessings from above
and inspire us to thank the Lord for his tender love.*

*The shining lights show us how we're to do the same,
as we share His grace and seek to glorify His name.*

*So may each beautiful tree bring honor to our King,
And may we celebrate Christ's love in everything!*

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A LITTLE BOY'S EXPLANATION OF GOD

It was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista , CA .. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.' I wonder if any of us could have done as well?

[.... and that he had such an assignment, in California , and someone published it, I guess miracles do happen ! ...]

EXPLANATION OF GOD:

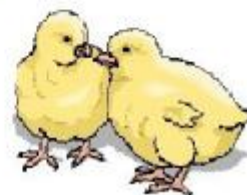
'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista . At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.'



His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God.'



Happy New Year!

Seize the day and
Seize the year.
Support your Ultreya
and
Via de Cristo

Carpe Diem

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It has been a privilege and a blessing to act as the North Texas Via de Cristo database administrator since 2004, but now it's time to hand over the reigns to someone new.

Starting in January 2010, your emails from the North Texas Via de Cristo will be coming from a different email address—that's because Linda Neal, weekend #77, will soon be taking over as the database administrator for the community. When you see emails from lmneal_1@charter.net, that's Linda passing along information to our community. If your email system requires it, please add her email address to your address book, so you won't miss anything.

Thank you for all your support in the past six years. You helped keep our database current whenever you sent your information changes such as your email address, phone, address, and church. Please continue to provide Linda with the same support.

I'll still be around and hope to see you at Clausura, Wake-Up, Grand Ultreya, or Staff Training School. Have a blessed Christmas and wonderful 2010.

Pat Carr, #49