

Cybercolumn for 12/22: Pondering by Berry D. Simpson_122203

December 19, 2003

Posted: 12/19/03

CYBERCOLUMN Pondering

By Berry D, Simpson

This morning at my weekly McDonald's Power Breakfast (hotcakes and large Diet Coke), my friend Bear was talking about a phrase from Sunday morning's sermon, that "Mary pondered these things in her heart" (Luke 2:19).

There was no one closer to the person of Jesus or the circumstances of his origin than Mary, yet she still did not understand the meaning of it all. The one who was closest still had some things to ponder. And even in her pondering, she was obedient at every step. Without knowing all the answers, she still did everything God asked of her in spite of the fact that it caused her great discomfort and public humiliation and a lifetime of being misunderstood. She not only obeyed, but she also praised God with her life and her words. She said, "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."



Berry D.
Simpson

Mother, heaven and Christmas by Debbie Davies_122203

December 19, 2003

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Mother, heaven and Christmas

By Debbi Davies

Unbelievably, 2003 is almost over, and we're into the eye of the holiday storm.

To me, the first thing that comes to my mind is that it has been two full years since my mother unexpectedly died, and praise God, waits for me in Heaven. Even two years later, everything to me is either before my mother died or after my mother died. It has that impact on me.

storylist_120803

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Cubercolumn for 12/15: Of Christmas and angels by John Duncan_120803

December 19, 2003

Posted: 12/15/03

CYBERCOLUMN Of Christmas and angels

By John Duncan

I am sitting here under the old oak tree, thinking of Christmas. What do you remember about Christmas?

It was Christmas 2002. Our family opened gifts. Crinkled wrapping paper littered the living room floor. Gifts were stacked in small piles. The Christmas tree appeared barren, empty, awash with pine needles loosely scattered.

CYBERCOLUMN: The career plan by Donna Van

Cleve_120803

December 19, 2003

Posted: 12/09/03

CYBERCOLUMN: The career plan

By Donna Van Cleve

I thought I was ready to be put out to pasture. I thought I was on the downhill side of my life. I thought I could retire the rest of those brain cells that had been misfiring for years now.

I was wrong.

Paul Powell to stay on as Truett dean_122203

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Paul Powell to stay on as Truett dean

WACO-Although he had intended to retire at the end of the current academic year, Paul Powell will stay on as dean of Baylor University's

Truett Theological Seminary.

Baylor President Robert Sloan announced Powell's decision Dec. 5.

Powell came to the post in February 2001 with a commitment to serve up to three years.

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Even Baptists light a candle for Advent_120803

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Even Baptists light a candle for Advent

By Christina Denny

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-Evangelical Christians, including Baptists, are increasingly jumping on the Advent bandwagon, according to an Oklahoma man who provides educational resources for observing the church year.

Advent traditions_120803

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Advent traditions

Advent wreath

Perhaps the most popular Advent institution, the Advent wreath is a tradition shared by Catholics and Protestants. Made of evergreens to symbolize eternal life in Christ, the wreath has four candles that count down the four Sundays until Christmas. An additional candle is lit each week-traditionally three purple candles and one pink candle, lit on the third Sunday of Advent. A fifth white candle may be used in the center to represent Jesus.

Liturgical colors

Around the State_120803

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Around the State

Appointments

Shad and **Michelle Spannagel** recently were appointed as apprentice missionaries to Fulani people of West Africa as church starters. Both are graduates of Hardin-Simmons University. She is the daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries **Marvin** and **La-Nette Thompson**, currently serving in Mali. The couple has a daughter, **Hannah**, who will celebrate her first birthday next month.



Baylor seeks to pamper president's papers_120803

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Baylor seeks to pamper president's

papers

WACO-Baylor University has named a national steering committee for its proposed George W. Bush Presidential Library Center.

The committee's primary objectives are to oversee the university's formal presidential library planning committee and to direct fund-raising efforts for the library.

While the White House has not announced any decision on the location of the future presidential library, Baylor and Southern Methodist University are widely considered top contenders. The library of the current president's father, George Bush, is located at Texas A&M University in College Station.

In selling Waco as a location, Robert Sloan noted that 80 percent of the state's population lives within 200 miles of Baylor.

Baylor Christmas program airing_120803

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