

# Red Letter Edition

Dec. 2012

What did Jesus Say?



Tenth Month  
6012

LOOK for the crescent!

Sundown  
12/14/2012  
2.5% illumination  
12° above horizon

## Keeping the 'X' in Xmas

[CLICK HERE TO GET YOUR CALENDAR](#)

In This Edition:

*Keeping the 'X' in Xmas* 1

*Reason for the Season?* 3

*Letters* 4

*"Lies We've Been Told"* 5



Beyond the  
Printed  
Word

TRI Radio is **LIVE!** every morning EXCEPT Sabbath days. And, make yours a **RED-LETTER** sun-day with TRI TV AND Radio! Watch & Listen! During the week the *audio* content may NOT be the same as TRI TV *video* content but TV & Radio are simulcast on sun-days at 9 am (MST).

Take TRI with you wherever you go! The telephone listen line is available during **LIVE** programming—weekdays at 6 AM and sun-days at 9 AM. (Mountain Time)

Try it: (323) 443-7210

LIVE! Every morning at 6 MST!

TRI Radio offers this "fastest hour in radio". **Red Letter** Edition - **WEEKDAYS!** makes short work of understanding the Bible. You'll be constantly challenged to verify your beliefs in a way that will ultimately result in a living and lasting relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

“**T**his may come as a surprise to some, but, originally, I did not eliminate Christmas observance for the same reasons that I do not keep it now. The fact is, I can list several reasons why I do not keep Christmas and never even talk about Spiritual things. Most people, if they have a complaint about Christmas, it is that it is too commercial. I'm amazed that the very same people who complain of this fully participate in the commercial aspect of Christmas every year. (Can you say, "Hypocrisy"?)”

If you are one who does not keep this “most holy day of the year,” no doubt, like me, you will be asked the reason why. I remember our first “Non Christmas”. In the past, we had a nice outdoor light display and that year it was noticeably absent. My neighbor across the road said, “You’d better hurry and get those lights up.”

“Christmas is no longer a part of the Harris household,” I explained.

With a look of horror, she responded, “Have you lost your faith?”

How *did* this celebration get so intertwined with faith in God? I have since found that a number of people think that if you don't celebrate Christmas you must not believe that Christ was born. Do houses and trees adorned with lights point to the birth of a Savior? Does everyone who buys and gives a gift now testify to a faith in the Son of God? Does everyone who celebrates Christmas even believe in Christ?

**No, of course not!**

How then is the absence of Christmas an indication of a lack of faith? The traditional view of Christmas is the source of this disparity.



**Put your money where your mouth is!**

This year, I would like to call on everyone who has no reluctance about celebrating this day to put your money where your mouth is. If you believe this is a holy day...if you believe it is a day sanctioned by God to keep in observance to His Son's birth, then

(Continued on page 2)

# Red Letter Edition

come out of the commercialization you despise so vehemently and eliminate the giving of gifts! (It is, after all, the only birthday in the world celebrated by giving gifts to everyone but the guest of honor!)

## *Give no gifts – receive no gifts!*

If you celebrate at all, celebrate only the blessed event of His birth. My guess is that after a few years of keeping this “Anti-gift” Policy, this “holiday” will end for you! The truth is that when the gifts stop, when the hypocrisy ends, so will the celebration.

So...without gift-giving, how will you celebrate the holiday? No lights, malls, shopping, no Santa Claus...how will you celebrate? Will you find yourself sitting in a room lit by twinkling lights on an evergreen tree, bereft of gifts? Will you take the kids to grandma’s house (or, invite grandkids to your house?) Will you wake up early and come to the tree and pray?



No, it is not honest to say that gift-giving is only a minor part of Christmas. And, it’s dishonest to put up a tree and rationalize that the evergreen symbolizes eternal life – the gift from our Savior who supposedly was born on this day. It is disingenuous to say you believe that the pointed shape shows the way to heaven provided by our

Savior, the star or angel atop recalls the star that appeared in the east to direct the wise men and the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night, the gold and silver balls symbolize the royal house into which Christ was born, or that the lights remind you that He is the light of the world. The Christmas tree is rife with symbolism and metaphor passed down by the traditions of men throughout the centuries.

It is odd that “Shame on you!” is the common sentiment today if you believe the true history of the evergreen tree and the symbolism of the new life given to the sun god, Nimrod, through his virgin born son, Tammuz. How strange that the testicular symbolism of fertility in the ornaments placed on the tree is commonly expressed as, “That is not what it means to me!” When, through the prophet Jeremiah, YHVH warned us to “Go not the way of the heathen...” it is most often countered as a misinterpretation of the Scriptures. (Jeremiah 10)

The fact is trees were used as artifacts of worship long before Christmas was ever celebrated. This pagan custom was carried over into Christmas and “Christianized” so that it now stands in many churches and in nearly every “Christian” home.

If we are to keep a pure Christmas, these things will have to go. If there are no presents to put under it and no Scriptural basis to have it and even an admonition to remove it – do we really have a choice to use it?



How about a Madonna? The Madonna (mother and child) as a symbol of Christmas is a tradition out of paganism as well. The mother and child were worshipped many centuries before the advent of Christmas.

How about a manger scene (a nativity)? At least, let’s make it a Scriptural scene! How many wise men were present at this event?

Zero. It took about two years for the wise men to visit “the child in the house.” And the Bible does not even tell us how many came that day.



## *What about the manger?*

(Continued on page 6)

# Red Letter Edition

## The Reason for the Season?

*"Ya' know, nobody really knows when Jesus was born!"*

**Oh Yeah?**

Luke 1:5: There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

Interesting! "...the course of Abia..."

1 Chronicles 24:1-10, "Now these are the [courses] of the sons of Aaron (the Priests). The sons of Aaron; Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ... And David distributed them ... according to their offices in their service. ... and thus were they divided. ... Now the first lot came forth to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaijah, The third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, The fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, The seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah..." You can read more if you wish, but, here, King David set up the courses of the priests.

1 Chronicles 23:6, "And David divided them into courses among the sons of Levi..." Since David set 24 courses for the year, it is reasonable that each course was two weeks long.

The Hebrew year starts at First Month, 1 (the Jews call it Nissan). When we add eight courses of two weeks (four months), we arrive at Fifth Month, 1.

Zacharias finished out his eighth course and went home, and the Bible says, "And *after those days* his wife

Elisabeth conceived" (Luke 1:36)

Elizabth got pregnant when she and Zacharias arrived home, *after* he served his course. Whatever number of days are inserted here, they shouldn't be more than two weeks. Then, when we add the 6 months mentioned in Luke 1:36 we are at Tenth Month, 14. Nine months later, when Jesus is born, the date becomes Seventh Month, 14.

This shows John the Baptist being born on First Month 14 (The Jews still look for Elijah on Passover – Jesus said, (speaking of John) "This is Elijah..." Matthew 11:14)

This also means that Jesus was born on the first day of The Feast of Tabernacles.

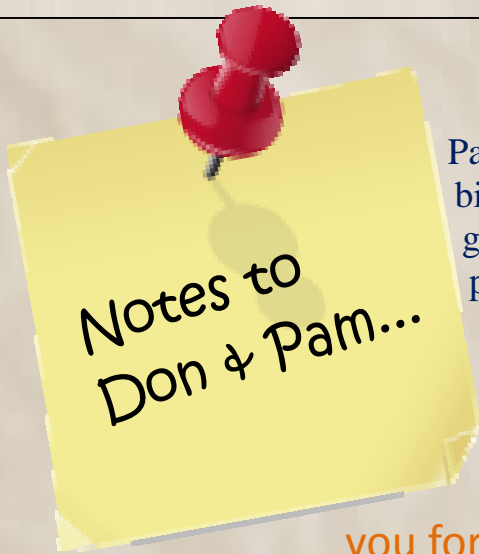
Remember Luke 2:20-21 says, "... And when eight days were accomplished..." This shows Messiah fulfilling the covenant circumcision on the Last Great Day of the Feast.

It seems that Jehovah's calendar really does have significance in everything He does.

\*\*\*



# Red Letter Edition



Part of the mechanics credo is "if at first you don't succeed, get a bigger hammer!" You have a very big hammer and use it well in getting Gods' truth into thick heads like mine so that God can put in into our hearts. Thank you. (CO)

Greetings, You guys are doing great. (GA)

We are blessed with your information...Thank you for sharing. May YHVH continue to bless and use you. (CO)

TRI is the best. Thank you to all who work so hard for us. (TX)

We first got acquainted with you on God's Learning Channel. We have been listening to your archives for quite a while. We are so thankful you are feeling better and back on the air again. As we are studying your messages, things are making a lot more sense. Like you said, you wanted your Christianity to make sense. We have learned so much about the Sabbath and this will help us to do better at keeping it. I have gone through the Creator's Calendar several times; I need to study it more so I can do better day by day. Thank you for your sharing what our Lord has taught you. (CO)

It was such a surprise to get a reply from you! I expected no reply because I thought you would be still weathering the "storm" of the stroke. Anyway, was great to hear from you... At present I am visiting Thailand but will return soon to UK, A really funny thing happened about a week ago. I don't know how it happened but I found some DVDs you sent me I have never seen. I have been watching and learning some great and wonderful things you have in the tabernacles talks. It has opened my eyes to some things I never thought about. Sometimes I think some things go off into some other dimension for a holiday (especially keys!!!!) because I have no explanation why I never saw these DVDs... So like me, you too have a problem to work around, and whether we do or don't succeed does not matter so long as we do our best before the lord. Once again was super to hear your surviving. Stay safe and be heartened by the fact you are showing many people like us to the place/person we need to be. Cannot thank you enough. Love and best wishes (GR. BRITAIN)

# **Red Letter Edition**

---

## **LIES WE'VE BEEN TOLD**

(to the tune of the song "My Favorite Things")

**Gifts at the manger and little boys drumming,  
Shepherds in winter and three wise men coming.  
Churches and preachers these lies they have told,  
Christmas is really 4000 years old!**

**Though it's December the babe's in a manger.  
We're told that shepherds are still on the range there.  
Ignore your good sense, true logic avoid,  
Soon you'll be covered in candy and toys.**

**Sell your birthright...Eat your pottage, pretty soon you'll find...  
Confusion, deception, idolatry, too;  
Perhaps we should change our minds.**

**Chemosh and Molech mixed with Saturnalia.  
Phallic trees decked with their god's genitalia.  
Though it's disgusting we wink and we nod,  
Whose ideas was it to give these to God?**

**Yah's truth with fables we twist and we mingle.  
We've traded our Savior for gods like Kris Kringle.  
The truth is not hidden from those who will hear,  
Yah's calendar's plain and His holy days clear.**

**Forget what men say...read your Bible... very soon you'll find...  
Yah's holy days listed and Christmas not there,  
How could we have been.....SO BLIND?**

# Red Letter Edition

(Continued from page 2) **X-MAS**

In actuality, Christ's birth was at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles – in the fall of the year. A census wasn't the reason for Mary to come to Jerusalem with Joseph. They came, with all of Israel, to attend this Feast. (No wonder there was no room at the inn!) It is entirely possible that the Septuagint translators would have translated the word *sukka* (tent or tabernacle) as *manger*. Everyone lived in tents during the Feast of Tabernacles (*sukkot*). Jesus was likely born in a *sukka*, not a feed trough.

When we determine to do things the Yah-way, there is little left of man's tradition. No gifts! No trees! No decorations!

What's the sense in keeping Christmas? My point exactly!

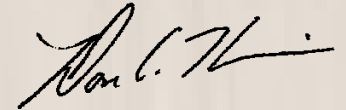
“Think **Red Ink**” is not just a cute phrase; it is a heavenly mandate – a divine order, an imperative for our own good. It is the only medicine that will cure the *dis-ease* of our souls. To **think red ink** is not a mere distraction, it is a true therapeutic. It provides diagnosis and prognosis, analysis and prescription. It is the ease we so desperately need for the *dis-ease* in our lives.

**John 18:37, "...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one**

**that is of the truth heareth my voice.**

**"To this end was I born"?**

**Isn't it a shame that Jesus' only mention of His birth was that He was to testify to Truth—and it is His "birthday" that is so riddled with lies.**



(Continued from page 4) **LETTERS**

Don, so glad you're able to do the First Day Live broadcasts. While you look and sound great, you mentioned you still have some health issues, so hope for a complete recovery. I appreciate the sessions on "Immortality of the Soul." You give insights on questions I had about 2 Esdras in the 11/25/2012 broadcast. Thank you also for the re-winds on the Sabbath Day as that is the only opportunity for us to tune in! In loving kindness (TX)

... All of this info is so reaffirming to me as I go through some feelings of being ostracized by some of my former teaching colleagues, friends and family members as they know that I no longer celebrate Christmas. Along with that, my stand on keeping the 7th day Sabbath has separated me from the fellowship of the Baptist church I used to attend as well as the little Messiah congregation I had been attending. The pastor of that congregation has his feet on both sides of the fence as he continues to have a Sunday service for a few people who have not accepted the true Sabbath. This pastor is also one who continues to teach the rapture doctrine, going immediately to heaven or hell

# Red Letter Edition

*(Continued from page 6)*

at death, and other doctrines which I have learned are "teaching for doctrine the traditions of man". I want to thank you, Don and Pam, for your ministry. I continue to be blessed and informed by all the different programs, CD's and DVD's you have sent me. I received "On Paul" yesterday and am anxious to listen to it. You, along with others have been instrumental in my learning to be "in truth".

After I sent the article and response below to a few people, I realized that it was probably not going to be received by some who do not want to have their holiday "paradigm" disputed and I would be "separated from their midst" even more. As you say Don, they would rather belong than be right.

**(This ThINKer's Letter follows here:)** While I was teaching 4th grade, I had a tradition of making "units" of study, art activities, writing projects, etc. to teach children what I thought was the true meaning of Christmas. For many years I had the children prepare a Christmas book for their parents which consisted of various short essays, poems, art work, and a special story which was entitled "I Was There..." . This story was to be written from the children's imaginations as to what it might be like from a minor character's point of view (a dove, donkey, camel, horse, mouse, shepherd, lamb ... ) describing what it may have been like the special night of Jesus' birth in the stable. I read to them as many stories as I could find which had the details of the "true" Christmas story. I read the bible story from Luke. We did much talking and sharing to stimulate their imaginations to visualize what it was like "that special night". The stories the children wrote always touched, delighted and amazed me. I always thought the final projects in the books bound with the beautiful "stained glass" covers was something their parents would love and cherish. I realized that I might be risking reprimand for teaching so much of the biblical side of the Christmas story, but in all the years I did this project with the children thankfully I never had any complaints from a parent or from a principal...I loved decorating, using my artistic talents to beautify my classroom and my home, the music of Christmas, the baking and preparing special traditional recipes, and the gift giving - although I always thought there was too much hype, stress, and commercialism in the season. As do most people- I loved the Christmas season. And yet, in the back of my mind there was an uneasy feeling about the shallowness and even idolatry of the holiday.

I am telling you all of this to say that in the last few years since I retired from teaching, I have been in a season of studying, reading the bible and other books, internet articles and teachings, rethinking, researching, and re-examining my belief systems. I have a hunger to know truth even when it convicts and hurts. I have been reading the bible to believe what it says instead of trying to "shoehorn" my beliefs into certain proof texts as I had been taught to do. I realized that many of my cherished traditions and beliefs were actually learned from well-meaning teachers and preachers who were "teaching for doctrine the traditions of man". As so much has been revealed to me, I have had to decide if I was going to continue as I always had in celebrating Christmas, after all that I have learned about its pagan roots and history or be willing to set it aside. My decision has been to do just that. It has not been a hard choice in spite of the feelings of separation from many friends and family members. In fact I can say that I feel so blessed and free as I try to please and obey God's will for my life. Yes, I have gone through a little grieving process, but now I have "joy in morning"! It has also been so liberating not to be stressed with the frenzy and madness of shopping, traffic, crowds, busy-ness, and then the depression so many go through especially during the holidays. Yes, there is also many happy times and I will cherish the times we will gather together as a family to share in food, and fellowship.

(NM)

