Over-the-Top
And
Politically Incorrect
Christmas Stories

By Kerry Beck

www.ChristmasCelebrationIdeas.com
OVER THE TOP & POLITICALLY INCORRECT CHRISTMAS STORIES

Have you noticed over the past few years how those around us have taken Christ out of Christmas? It makes me sick to see and hear what is going on around me. In this report, I want to share real life stories that tell me it’s time to make a change around here, as well as some encouraging “politically incorrect” stories!

(NOTE: All stories were taken from the internet. You can find links to the actual stories at the end of this report.)

TOP 10 “OVER THE TOP” CHRISTMAS (eh, holiday) STORIES

#10 Merry Persons?
"God Rest Ye Merry Persons" for "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen": A Christmas, eh, Holiday, carol with 500 years of history is not enough to sway the Anglican Church at Cardiff Cathedral (Wales) from changing the original lyrics. There are those who suggest going one step further: "Higher Power Rest Ye Merry Persons".

#9 White House Christmas Cards
This week, fury erupted after the White House Christmas card omitted the word Christmas yet again, including wishes instead for a happy “holiday season.”

#8 Even “Red” Gets Banned from the Junior High...
Elsewhere in the region, a couple of Medway parents complained last year that the schools were too Christmas-oriented, leading to selections from the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" being temporarily removed from a middle school concert and the color red taken from elves' hats used in an elementary performance. While the observances of Halloween and Easter have been problems at times for regional schools, Christmas seems to be the holiday that elicits the most intense response from parents.

#7 Salvation Army Gets “Kicked Out”
And the Salvation Army has been kicked out of Target department stores this season, nixing a potential nine million dollars in donations for the hungry and homeless. Target claims the move is because they get requests from all kinds of groups who want to solicit in front of their stores. But the real reason, Buchanan
says, is because homosexual activists have petitioned Target to deny the Salvation Army because the Army teaches that homosexuality is sinful.

#6 Merry Christmas or Meaningless Winter Holiday
Teachers at a Georgia elementary school reportedly were told to nix any religious pins and refrain from referring to a party as a “Christmas” party, while the local district has censored certain religious Christmas songs from its “winter” program. The Alliance Defense Fund, a religious-liberties law group, wrote a letter to the district yesterday informing the Jackson County School System in Jefferson, Ga., that it stands on shaky constitutional ground due to its actions.

“Frankly, it's ridiculous that we're even discussing whether it's OK to say ‘Merry Christmas.' I'm sure just about everyone would rather have a merry Christmas than a meaningless winter holiday,” said ADF senior legal counsel David Cortman in a statement.

#5 Christmas Party Apology
The mayor of Somerville, Massachusetts recently apologized for calling the city’s Christmas party a Christmas party. It’s now a Holiday party. “Simma Lieberman Associates bluntly advises, 'make sure your Holiday party isn't a Christmas party in disguise.' Off with the red and green!

#4 Friendship Trees…sure!!
In some schools and other public establishments across the country Christmas Trees have been renamed Holiday Trees or Friendship Trees.

#3 Secret Snowflakes instead of Secret Santas?
“Matt Cherry of the Institute of Humanist Studies also favors ‘Holiday’ parties over Christmas parties and advocates secret ‘Snowflakes' instead of secret ‘Santas.’

#2 Don’t Ban Christmas Altogether…You May Lose Some Profits.
"If you're looking for an explanation for all this, consider what Arlene Vernon of HrxInc says: employers need to be 'sensitive to the fact that holidays don't make everyone happy,'" Donohue concludes. "If she had any guts, she’d advocate banning Christmas altogether, but that may affect her profits."
#1 You Really Won’t Believe This One!!! REALLY!!

Christian Charity Samaritan’s Purse Fears Anything Relating to Jesus May Offend Muslims (November 2006)

It is a Christian charity bringing Christmas cheer to needy children abroad. So its decision to ban Jesus, God and anything else connected with its own faith has been greeted with little short of puzzlement.

Operation Christmas Child, run by the charity Samaritan’s Purse, sends festive packages to deprived youngsters in countries ravaged by war and famine. Donors are asked to pack shoeboxes with a cuddly toy, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap and flannel, notepads, colouring books and crayons – but nothing to do with Christmas.

Stories from the Bible, images of Jesus and any other Christian literature are expressly forbidden – in case Muslims are offended. Yesterday the charity’s policy of censoring its own faith was described as political correctness gone mad.

Last Christmas, Britons filled 1.13million shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse to send to children abroad.

But Barbara Hill, who works at the worldwide charity’s UK headquarters in Buckhurst Hill, Essex, said: “Anything we find in the boxes which has a religious nature will be removed. “If a box was opened by a Muslim child in a Muslim country they may be offended so we try to avoid religious images.” The charity has also banned war-related items such as Action Man-type figures, as well as chocolate and cake. Yesterday the policy was condemned as “bizarre”. John Midgley, cofounder of the Campaign Against Political Correctness, said: “It seems extraordinary that a Christian charity is so concerned about political correctness that it is banning itself from its own core values We have members from all faiths who would be appalled at this patronising sort of attitude.”

I was truly shocked when I read the #1 Over the Top Story. I simply could not believe that Samaritan’s Purse had taken all references from Christ out of their Operation “Christ”mas Child. In my opinion, they need to re-name their program!

Our family has participated in Operation Christmas Child in the past, but we will never participate again if they continue to take this stance. Thank goodness we found another organization, Compassion International, that has a goal of sharing Jesus Christ with children around the world.
****NOTE: After re-publishing this article, I discovered that Samaritan’s Purse has DIFFERENT guidelines according to which country you live. I wanted to set the record straight as soon as I found this information.

The story I reported is from the United Kingdom where all religious material, Christian or otherwise, is removed from the shoe boxes. It is not banned, but simply removed from the boxes. The UK division of Samaritan’s Purse then decides how to distribute the material that is removed.

To read their response, click here

On to some “merrier” stories…
TOP “POLITICALLY INCORRECT” CHRISTMAS STORIES

Americans Demanding End to Generic Holiday
Sensitivity has taken the fun from Christmas, many say . . .

If this were allowed to continue, we’d soon be stringing “holiday” lights on the “holiday” tree, wishing each other “Merry Winter” and going “celebration” shopping at the department store’s Seasons’ Greetings sale.

But now, after years of all this “holiday” grinching, Americans are revolting and demanding Christmas back. . . .

Retailers facing boycotts over a lack of Christmas signage have caved, with Lowe’s agreeing to take down “holiday tree” signs and Target on Friday agreeing to use “Christmas” in its advertisements.

The glittering spruce on the Capitol lawn in Washington reclaimed its Christmas tree title this year after a decade as a generic “holiday” monument.

Even WalMart Learns Their Lesson
After testing out a generic, yet all-inclusive, "happy holidays" theme last year, the nation’s largest retailer announced this month that Christmas will dominate its seasonal marketing in the U.S.

"We've learned our lesson," said Wal-Mart spokeswoman Marisa Bluestone. "This year, we're not afraid to say, 'Merry Christmas.'"

Christmas Music in County Jail
In Phoenix, the sheriff has ordered Christmas music to play throughout the county jail all day long — hymns and carols — and for agnostics he says he'll mix in the singing Chipmunks.

"We can't say 'Merry Christmas' in the U.S., in the world anymore," said Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County, Ariz. "What are we coming to? I am saying it. I am singing it. It's gonna be in this jail, and that's the way the ball bounces."
I’ll have a Blue “Holiday” Without You…
Elvis didn’t sing about ‘Blue Holiday,’ ” he said. "Nobody says 'I'll be home for the holiday.' It's, 'I'll be home for Christmas.' If you can't say Christmas at Christmas time, when 85 percent of the population is Christian and 96 percent of the population celebrates Christmas, something's wrong."

95 percent Americans Celebrate Christmas
Of course, he’s right. According to several polls, an overwhelming majority of Americans think we should publicly celebrate Christmas. A 2005 Fox News/Opinion Dynamics poll confirmed that 95 percent of Americans celebrate Christmas. According to other polls, 90 percent of Americans recognize Christmas as the birthday of Jesus Christ (Gallup, 2000), and 87 percent believe that nativity scenes should be allowed on public property (Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, 2003).

Citing other equally-significant poll results, the ADF also noted that: 90 percent of Americans recognized Christmas as the birthday of Jesus Christ (Gallup, 2000); 88 percent say its okay for people to wish others “Merry Christmas”; a majority of Americans are more likely to wish someone they just met “Merry Christmas” rather than “Happy Holidays” (CNN/USA Today/Gallup, 2004); and 87% of Americans believe nativity scenes should be allowed on public property (Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, 2003).

“Holy”day
Happy Holidays or Season's Greetings for Christmas (which in some UK schools now label Wintervale). However, the word holiday is derived directly from Holy Day.
It’s Okay to Say “Merry Christmas”

Picture it. Snow is falling and the fireplace is aglow. You're warm and comfy in your favorite easy chair sipping a cup of hot cider. The chords of a timeless tune begin to warm your heart:

I'm dreaming of a whatever  
Just like the ones I've come to know  
Where officials chicken and lawyers quicken  
To file lawsuits for the dough

I'm dreaming of a whatever  
With every fuzzy card I write  
May your days be neutral and vague  
And may all your whatevers be trite  
"Bah, humbug" to the unholiday!

Even Scrooge gets it. "And God bless us everyone"!
Yes, Virginia, there is a Jesus! "MERRY CHRISTMAS!!" It's His birthday, and it's okay to say it.

Jesus is still the reason for the season - the gift that keeps on giving - the good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

The angels proclaimed His name and so should we!

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." (Luke 2: 9-15)

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If you liked this report, check out our Christmas & Advent Celebrations website. It's all about putting Christ back into Christmas.

Stories came from the following websites:

http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/m/merrychristmas.htm
http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=145816
http://www.renewamerica.us/bb/viewtopic.php?t=3818&sid=49ffff5c5626fe8d0c405f0c0b204f2

http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/ChristmasCountdown/story?id=1394841
Americans demanding end to generic holiday
http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/ChristmasCountdown/story?id=1394841
http://www.bpnews.net/bpcolumn.asp?ID=2082
http://www.cwfa.org/articles/11879/LEGAL/freedom/index.htm

Put Christ Back In Your Christmas here:
http://www.ChristmasCelebrationIdeas.com
OTHER TITLES BY RANGER PRESS

Homeschooling

Raising Leaders, Not Followers
by Kerry Beck
Click Here to Purchase!
Do you follow the same model of education you were taught in school? Break the habit and change your children’s education. Cultivate wisdom and virtue, by getting off that conveyor belt and raise your children to be Christian leaders of tomorrow. Kerry Beck shows how you can change your own education models and successfully raise your children to use wisdom and virtue, to love learning and to have the tools to learn for the rest of their lives. Most importantly, children should be taught “how to think” so they can lead as Christian entrepreneurs and statesmen. Give your children the excellent, strong education they deserve and you will prepare them to be wise and virtuous leaders for Christ.

• 3 books: Raising Leaders, Not Followers
  Teach Your Children "How to Think" with Mentoring
  Hop Off the Conveyor Belt - Tips & Stories

• 2 CDs: Raising Leaders, Not Followers
  Teach Your Child “How to Think” with Mentoring
(www.Raising-Leaders.com)

Giving Your Children an Entrepreneurial Spirit

How To Start A Business…for Families & Teens -DVD course
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Unleash The Secret Techniques, Profit Strategies and the Successful Marketing Tactics Which Took Me 20 Years To Learn...And Hand Them Over To You In 8 Hours Of The Most Complete Information Driven Business Collection Ever Put Together
8 hours of workshops on 4 DVDs, 1 CD-ROM with workbook & resources
(http://www.familyebiz.com/businessdvd/index.php)

A Quick Study in Debt Bundle Package
by Stephen Beck  Click Here to Purchase!
by Stephen Beck
The Bible refers more to the subject of money than any other topic. Where will your children learn these important lessons about finances? Are you teaching them about finances and debt before they find themselves neck-deep in student loans, a mortgage and a $15,000 credit card debt? Use this quick study to effectively teach your children the biblical view of finances and debt.
(http://www.curriculumconnection.net/quickstudydebt.htm)
Teaching Your Children to Start their Own Business –CD
by Stephen Beck
Click Here to Purchase!
One of the main principles in homeschooling is multi-generational thinking. Even though you may not have your own business, you can teach your children to one day have theirs or perhaps just give them some entrepreneurial skills. Drawing from 17 years of self-employment, we will share our hard-won knowledge on how to start and maintain a family business, the pros and cons of having your own business, the economics and the headaches. Above all, we will seek to please our God in whatever situation He has called us.
(http://www.curriculumconnection.net/audiocdbusiness.htm)

The Merchant Maiden: *Earning an Income Without Compromising Convictions*
by Crystal Paine
Click Here to Purchase!
Drawing upon personal experience, Crystal Paine encourages young women and their families with Scripture, advice, suggestions, personal testimonies, wisdom, and practical ideas. Not just for unmarried women, this booklet is a treasure trove of information for any woman who desires to earn an income while still being a "keeper at home."
(http://www.curriculumconnection.net/merchantmaiden.htm)

**Spiritual**

A Father's Stew
by Stephen Beck
Click Here to Purchase!
In an age where fathers are separated from their families for most of the day, how can we fulfill the biblical mandate to train our children when "you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up"? What is God's provision for raising godly children and what are our responsibilities? Read on to discover God's vision for fathers as we are challenged from the Scripture to balance the areas of family, work and ministry and to blend these three ingredients to form a godly stew, a sweet smelling aroma to God.
http://www.fathersstew.com

Making Biblical Decisions (Book)
by Stephen Beck
Click Here to Purchase!
You can tell the maturity of a believer by the decisions he makes. Why do Christians tend to make such poor decisions? How can we be sure that the decisions we are making are pleasing to God and not just based on our feelings, circumstances or other's opinions? How can we be sure that we are in the will of God? Read and be challenged about the way we should make everyday
decisions according to the bible…ones we are sure will please our Lord and Master!
http://www.curriculumconnection.net/makingbiblicaldecisions.htm

Teaching Faithful Men to Teach Others Also: Making Disciplemakers
by Stephen Beck
A 10-week curriculum designed to aid in bringing a man to maturity in Christ and then, to teach him to do the same with others. Each lesson has real life scenarios in conjunction with Scripture to teach the student to apply biblical principles to everyday life. The goal is not to teach a man to merely survive in a hostile culture, but to train a battle-ready soldier who can cross the enemy lines and take captives for his Lord! Plenty of notes for the would-be discipler as well!
http://www.curriculumconnection.net/teachingfaithful.htm

Foundations: A Bible Study for the New Believer
by Stephen Beck
A 10-week Bible study for those who are new believers of those who, although they may have been a Christian for a long time, have not had the opportunity to learn the foundational truths of the Christian life. It can also be used by the mature believer to “brush up” on the fundamentals as well as a tool for that mature believer to bring younger believers to maturity. It includes a quick, overview of the old and new testament, as well as studies on salvation, the Word of God, God’s character, our victorious Christian life and reproducing ourselves in others.
http://www.curriculumconnection.net/foundations.htm

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