



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

THE VOICE ACROSS THE WAVES

VOLUME IV, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2008

THE EMPEROR COMMODUS, OSTRICHES, AND CHRISTMAS.

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR CORBETT....

In Rupert Matthews book; The Age Of Gladiators, Savagery & Spectacle In Ancient Rome, we learn the following; “Commodus was a tall, muscular man and had a very real skill with weapons. At first he went into the arena to show off his talents in relatively harmless fashion. One chronicler recorded ‘His marksmanship with a bow was generally agreed to be astonishing. On one occasion he used some arrows with crescent-shaped heads to shoot at ostriches. Commodus decapitated the birds at the top of their necks with his arrows so that they went on running around as though they had not been touched.’” (pg. 55)

What would this have to do with our celebration of Christmas?-I’m glad you asked. While avoiding the attitude that generally tamps down all enthusiasm for extracurricular celebrations and trappings at Christmas time, I would still give a warning to all of us. It is easy to get caught in the hustle, bustle, and madness of the Christmas season so that like those ostriches we may be running around the arena without realizing that we have lost our “head.” That is to say, it is possible to overdue at this time of the year and forget that this is the season when we chose to remember the marvelous truth of the incarnation.

In contrast to the common myth concerning ostriches; that they bury their head in the sand during times of danger, we can become so involved with gifts, meals, and social functions that we fail to “celebrate” the fact that God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.

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IN THE NEWS

TALIBAN BLAMED FOR ACID ATTACK ON SCHOOLGIRLS

Fox News, November 14, 2008 — “No students showed up at Mir-wais Men girls’ school in the Taliban’s spiritual birthplace the morning after it happened. A day earlier, men on motorcycles attacked 15 girls and teachers with acid. The men squirted the acid from water bottles onto three groups of students and teachers walking to school Wednesday, principal Mehmood Qaderi said. Some of the girls have burn only on their school uniforms but others will have scars on their faces.” *We repeat; Islam has a terrible problem in properly viewing the souls of women as equal to men.*



PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION
AND FELLOWSHIP
TIME;
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, AT 10:30
A.M. THOSE WHO
WISH TO BRING
FOOD PLEASE
NOTE THE
SIGN-UP SHEET.

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