

**The Meyer Minute for December 3, 2001**

**Keyword: Repentance**

**Religious fanatics should take to heart a legal opinion from Supreme Court Judge Jackson in 1943.**

**"Struggles to coerce uniformity of sentiment...have been waged by many good as well as by evil men...As first and moderate methods to attain unity have failed, those bent on its accomplishment must resort to an ever-increasing severity. As governmental pressure toward unity becomes greater, so strife becomes more bitter as to whose unity it shall be...Those who begin coercive elimination of dissent soon find themselves exterminating dissenters. Compulsory unification of opinion achieves only the unanimity of the graveyard. It seems trite but necessary to say that the First Amendment to our Constitution was designed to avoid these ends by avoiding these beginnings.: (from Catharine Cookson, *Regulating Religion*, p.19)**

**Advent's a time of repentance, a time to pray for radical change...for ourselves...for others.**

**Spirit of truth, convict fanatics...convict me...to be charitable in advancing the cause of faith. Amen.**

**The Meyer Minute for December 5, 2001**

**Keyword: Children's Bibles**

**Giving a children's Bible for Christmas?**

**Follow this thought, "If you think of children as pure and innocent (that's what's left when you reject original sin)...you will want to exclude passages that might endanger their hearts." (Alan Jacobs, [A Visit to Vanity Fair](#), p. 36).**

**So it comes that publishers of children's Bibles have minimized unpleasant examples of sin, even softening Christ's agonizing death for us. "Modern Christians, it appears, don't think their young children need to know just how horrific death by crucifixion is..." (p. 39)**

**You have to wonder, is shielding them this way good preparation for the harsh realities of sin they'll meet as they grow older?**

**A children's Bible makes a nice gift, but something better would be reading the full truth to them from a real Bible. "Let the little children come unto Me." (Matthew 19:14)**

Heavenly Father, give us wisdom to teach Your children rightly. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

### **The Meyer Minute for December 7, 2001**

**Keyword: Love**

Today is the 60th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor that took 3,700 lives.

Those who served and those who died...The men and women now fighting, and sadly some are dying, in the war against terrorism...

...are offering themselves in a service of love.

Love? Yes, because the Bible sees loves as the giving of oneself for another. Jesus says, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

**A prayer for military personnel:**

"Almighty God, we commend to Your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day-by-day with Your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of Your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (The Book of Common Prayer)

### **The Meyer Minute for December 10, 2001**

**Keyword: Forgiveness**

A woman battling ovarian cancer, who had feuded with her mother for years, finally surrendered. "I'll try this for an afternoon. I'll focus on acceptance." From that moment on everything began to improve.

Cancer conqueror Greg Anderson writes, "The amazing payoff of forgiveness is that so many people get well after extending forgiveness! Lives are certainly made better and many are made longer. But it strikes me that if one is willing to forgive during the last moments of life, why not do it earlier? Like right now?"

"How often do we need to forgive? Always. Don't drag the memories of past hurts and mistakes into your present moments. Nothing from the past is important enough to allow it to pollute your present...Forgive. You'll change your life!" (Greg Anderson, 50 Essential Things to Do When The Doctor Says It's Cancer. p. 135)

Lord Jesus, help me forgive others as You have forgiven me. Amen.

### **The Meyer Minute for December 2, 2001**

**Keyword: Temple Light**

**"Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord." (Isaiah 2:5)**

**In the second century before Christ, a family called the "Maccabees" led the Jews in driving the occupying Syrians out of Israel. When that had been accomplished, an 8-day celebration was declared. There was, however, only enough consecrated oil to burn the Temple candles for one day of the celebration, not all eight. The priests lit the candles anyway and, here's the miracle Jews celebrate at Hanukkah, those candles burned for all eight days.**

**Many decades later the Christ child was brought into that Temple. Aged Simeon recognized Jesus as the true light. "My eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel." (Luke 2:30-32\_**

**Jesus, as we celebrate Your advent, let Your light fill our lives too. Amen.**

### **The Meyer Minute for December 24, 2001**

**Keyword: Memories**

**Like every kid, I wondered how Santa could get to all the homes in one night. I was especially puzzled that he always came to our house during that little hour Christmas Eve when we were in church. This guy, I thought, is really good!**

**Why couldn't my dad be so punctual? Every year we kids sat impatiently in the car with mom, waiting for him to come out and drive us to Christmas Eve church, after which we'd hurry home and open presents. Christmas Eve dad was always, always, late.**

**Finally I figured it out. This guy really is good!**

**Today's a memory making day for you and your loved ones. Nurture your traditions; let them reflect the radiance of God's love. "Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) Holy families treasure Christmas memories.**

**From my home to yours, best wishes for a blessed celebration of the Savior's birth.**

## **The Meyer Minute for December 26, 2001**

**Keyword: Companions**

**"My most memorable Christmas morning was when I found...just two oranges, some English walnuts, dried raisins, and a pair of trousers. Trying not to appear frantic or disappointed, I searched all around the tree, and attempted to control my trembling lips and to hold back tears. After a few moments, Daddy said, 'Sometimes I think old Santa might leave something...in the yard.' I looked...There, outside, with her reins tied to a tree limb, was a Shetland pony! I named her Lady, and for the next ten years she was a most wonderful companion." (Jimmy Carter, Christmas in Plains, p. 61).**

**Sometimes the best gifts are a surprise. Love of family, patriotism, faith relevant for living...Don't return them; take these companions into the New Year!**

**"We need You, O Lord Jesus, to be our dearest friend. Your love will guard and guide us to life's end." Amen. (Lutheran Book of Worship 59, 3)**