WHEN FREETHINKERS GIVE

The following is an expression of gratitude to gifts sent to a foxhole atheist by members of the NTCOF. I think this speaks volumes about the value of giving in our lives.

-Zachary Moore, Executive Director

To the North Texas Church of Freethought-

My jaw dropped when I saw the stack of care packages from you! A thousand thanks to your group of fanatic antifanatical champions of freethought, the big and bright ever-twinkling stars of Texas who have gifted me with loot aplenty!

Great stuff all around. I never expected to receive Monty Python, Bill Maher, and Weird Al in the same box. I’m surprised that it did not all form some sort of singularity of irreverence into which the collective superstitions of humanity would disappear as the discarded toilet paper of millenia of ignorant exploitation.

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NTCOF GIVING TREE

The NTCOF is taking part in a Giving Tree outreach to benefit children who are staying with their mothers in domestic abuse shelters (New Beginning Center and The Family Place).

If you have brought your gifts to the service today, please see that they are given to Outreach Director Susette Geissler or Assistant Director Catherine Hall.

Thank you for your kind support!
NOVEMBER FORUM CHATTER

The following is a sampling of the ongoing discussions held at the NTCOF forum through the past month- log on to add your two cents!

willow2009: “I’ve been fairly content to just keep to myself and not meet new people because I’ve been so hurt in the last couple of years that it’s kinda scary opening yourself up to anyone. But I can’t deny that I miss having a place to go and a support system. Sometimes, sometimes I miss it. Other times, the word “church” sends chills down my spine.”

BrandonBlair: “I saw a huge number of atheists who used [Blasphemy] day as a justification for downright obnoxious behavior, and there was little in the way of useful discourse there. Good luck opening a dialogue with one of your doubting religious acquaintances after subjecting them to that sort of treatment. I recognize the need for people to blow off steam, especially in this country, but I think this sort of pageantry ultimately stymies progress toward widespread rational thought.”

KipBond: “The fact is that most of them do not believe it because they have thought about it rationally. They believe it because it has been indoctrinated into them from a young age. I’d suggest that the first step to recovery will take a wake-up call -- not rational discourse, but an initial jolt of emotional motivation to get them to proceed to the next step: rationally examining their beliefs. That wake up call can sometimes come from someone saying something seemingly obnoxious or callous -- like: “your make-believe god is a vindictive bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser, a misogynistic, homophobic racist, an infanticidal, genocidal, phili-cidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent asshole.” (quote mostly taken from Richard Dawkins’ “God Delusion”). That’s blasphemous!! Yes, it is. That’s the point of the wake-up call.”

pastortim: “I agree that faith-belief should not be sacred in our society. It is sacred to some people but they have no right to expect that it should be sacred to me. BUT I see no point in cursing or potty-mouthing what is sacred to them either.

This subject relates to religious proselytization in that many believers feel perfectly entitled to push their faith-beliefs on others. The implicit idea is that others who don’t share their beliefs are not as good and not worthy of as much respect. THAT is a kind of blasphemy, IMHO, denying, as it does, the central principle of morality that each person is an end in themselves.”

find more at:
churchoffreethought.org/bb

NTCOF CHILD SUPPLIES: PLEASE DONATE

The “Sunday School” program here at the NTCOF is providing a unique experience for our children that combines science, historical lessons, and our shared freethinking values. But we also need our NTCOF members to participate by donating supplies from this list:

- Baby Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Dixie Cups
- Paper Plates
- Reusable Napkins/Hand Towels
- Snacks
- Paper
- Markers
- Paints/Paint Brushes
- Glue
- Safety Scissors
- Any Craft Supplies
- Science Experiment Ideas

Please direct your donations to Youth Director Amanda Jules!

DECEMBER BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP: PRO-COUNT, INC.

The December 2009 issue of the NTCOF bulletin was sponsored by Pro-Count, Inc, who will donate $40 to the NTCOF on behalf of any NTCOF member who enrolls and completes Concealed Handgun License training through this school. To sign up for the class, please visit:

www.chl-tx.com

Please contact the Executive Director if you or your business would like to sponsor a future bulletin.
DECEMBER EVENTS

All NTCOF events can be found through our website calendar, or through our Meetup.com site.

Please check these locations regularly, and RSVP through Meetup.

Social Luncheon: Today, immediately after our Service, join us for lunch and friendly discussion at Golden Corral Buffet and Grill in Grapevine, located just across from the Grapevine Mills shopping center, at 2605 E. Grapevine Mills Circle, phone (972) 874-7900.

Easy driving directions: To reach Golden Corral from the Wyndham, take the SOUTH exit from the parking lot (turn your head left as you walk out the main entrance to see it), the drive across Esters Blvd onto John W. Carpenter Freeway (114). From there, just take the first exit to the RIGHT onto International Parkway (121), then take the Grapevine Mills Parkway exit. Turn LEFT on Stars and Stripes Way, and continue on to E. Grapevine Mills Circle.

Family Group: The Family Group will also be meeting at Golden Corral with the rest of the NTCOF! There will be a separate room for the families, but everyone is free to mingle and chat with everyone else.

Board Game Night: The regular game night crew meets nearly every Friday night at the IHOP on 2310 Stemmons Trail (I-35), near Northwest Highway (Loop 12). Plan to arrive at about 7:30 PM, and stay late playing Risk, Rummikub, and other fun games!

Women’s Group: Do you miss getting to spend quality time with female friends? Want a comfortable place to chat without all those pesky men around? Come on out to the newly-formed NTCOF Women’s Group, where there will be knitting lessons, conversation, and lots of female freethinking fun! Next meeting details to be determined.

Food Critics Dinners: WILL RESUME IN JANUARY 2010!

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I was running low on Spam, and I appreciate whoever replenished my stocks. As room-temperature meats go, so goes the war. Ask anyone who has ever dined upon the Meal Ready to Eat. When dining on absurdities, man must have variety or perish. All hail the meat of mystery! All hail the delicacy of the desperate! All hail SPAM!

And I especially appreciate whoever included “On Killing.” A man must reflect, and that reflection often turns ugly. He who would seek answers for the troubles of his mind cannot trust the military’s systems for mental illness (as well-intentioned in design as they are malicious in execution) unless he wants his every thought reported back to the command. Books must be the silent man’s chaplain.

The books, the magazines the cards, the dice, the tea, the broth, the sweets... all will lighten the load and pass the time.

This 25th of December, when the powers that be in Manas will break out the projector and screen for some sappy holiday fare, I believe I will stage a repeat of my Halloween antics. “Religulous” shall make an unexpected appearance to a rather captive audience, who will find the projection booth mysteriously locked.

Take care, and please accept my thanks to your group for the outpouring of swag! Please remember that I execute foriegn policy and have nothing to do with defense of freedoms: that is and has always been the responsibility of a well-informed, politically active, and socially responsible public. Vote smart.

Stephen A. Mooney
1LT, Infantry
3rd BDE, 10th Mountain Division
United States Army

The North Texas Church of Freethought
A Rational Approach to Religion

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All Donations To The NTCOF Are $$$ TAX-DEDUCTIBLE $$$
Receipts Issued On Request

December 2009
WINTER SOLSTICE CARDS!

The North Texas Church of Freethought is proud to offer you a secular alternative for your holiday card needs this year. Our resident artist and Social Director Brad Watson contributed a beautiful oil painting for the front image, and you can now purchase these cards from our CafePress site for only $24 for a pack of 20.

www.cafepress.com/ntcof

CAMP QUEST TEXAS BENEFIT DINNER AT AL-AMIR’S, DEC 10

Penn Jillette supports Camp Quest Texas, and he thinks you should too!

Please come out to Al-Amir’s Lebanese restaurant in Addison on Thursday, December 10th from 6-9 PM, which will include dinner, bellydancing, a silent auction (including an autographed book by Penn!), and a raffle— all to benefit Camp Quest Texas! All proceeds from the auction and raffle will benefit the 2010 Camp Quest Texas!

Spaghetti Claus Supports NTCOF By Shopping At:

amazon.com

www.CampQuestTexas.org