

Christianity, Custom, Culture, and Christmas

I. Definitions: Custom: A habitual practice, the usual way of acting in given circumstances. Culture: The sum total of ways of living built up by a group of human beings and transmitted from one generation to another.

Please put one or more of these numbers beside each practice. 1. Christianity, 2. Custom, 3. Christmas, 4. Culture, 5. Personal Choice

II. Determination if ...

A. We should remove our shoes before entering church. Exodus 3:5

B. Women should cover their hair during prayer. 1 Corinthians 11:4-6 & 16

C. All of our male children should be circumcised? Genesis 17:10&11, Acts 15:1,5,28&29

D. We should observe the 7 Jewish feasts. Leviticus 23:4-44 (note a sacrifice was required for each feast. These feasts pointed forward to the sacrifice of Christ. Colossians 2:14-17

E. If it is proper to have a Christmas tree. Jeremiah 10:1-5

F. It is necessary to attend church on Sabbath. The custom of Jesus seen in Luke 4:16. Hebrews 10:25

III. Is Christianity Making an Impact on the Culture of Nepal?

A. Romans 12:2 tells us not to be conformed to this world.

B. The positive impact of Christianity in Nepal through: a) The change of greeting to "Jai Masih", b) The use of Nepali folk tunes with Christian hymns, c) The impact of Christmas, d) Christians prayers as seen as a source of healing. Christianity has a negative impact through the mistakes of some Christians.

IV. Are We Being Conformed to this World or Are We Being Transformed by Christ?

A. Jesus compares our influence in this world to salt. Matthew 5:13

B. Jesus encourages us to be lights to the world. Matthew 5: 14&15

C. Does our life have a positive or negative impact on our community?



*"Put off thy shoes from off thy feet,
for the place whereon thou standest
is holy ground."
Exodus 3:5 (KJV)*

OUR MISSION IS TO BE A CHRIST-CENTERED, SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH THAT DEMONSTRATES THE POWER OF GRACE AND INTENTIONALLY SHARES THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST'S SOON RETURN.

**DECEMBER 24, 2016
THE SABBATH DAY**

SERVICES

Adult Lesson Study "Out of the Whirlwind"

Classroom #1 Dwight Winslow

Pastor's Office: Doug Cross

Young Adults meet in the side room left of balcony.

All children meet in Classroom #5 downstairs.

Worship Hour—10:45 AM

CHURCH IN PRAISE

Song Service		Jim Ball
Call to Worship*	"I Worship You Almighty God"	
Invocation*		Pastor Charles Shultz
Opening Hymn*	"O Come All Ye Faithful"	Hymn #132

CHURCH IN GRATITUDE Adventist Community Services Doug Cross

CHURCH IN SHARING

Community Fellowship		Dwight Winslow
Children's Offering		
Children's Story		Maggi Runyan
Joys & Requests		Dwight Winslow
Prayer		
Response Song	"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"	Hymn #290

CHURCH IN WORSHIP

Scripture Reading	Matthew 5:13	Wayne Howard
Sermon	"Christmas, Custom, Culture, and Christianity"	Pastor Charles Shultz
Benediction		Pastor Charles Shultz
Closing Hymn	"What Child Is This?"	Hymn #141
Organist		Pat Ball
Pianist		Jann Biegel

*Please stand

Ping Pong Game

Every Monday and Thursday evening @ 6:30 pm
You can even come late

For the young and the old
All you need is to bring yourself
We have tables, paddles and balls



FREE

Game Night

Come one come all



We just need you but you can
Bring Anyone!

Merry Christmas

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SPECIAL UPDATES

- ♦ **Church Family Prayer Requests: Outreach Programs,** Pastor & Linda's Nepal trip, Heidi McKenna's family, Shirley Morey's family, Carol Badger & family, the Heinrichs, Jack Tefertiller, our country & the military, persecuted Christians in the world, pay off the church mortgage, unspoken requests
- ♦ **Today-Picnic in the Basement.** Please come and enjoy a meal together

I worship You, Almighty God

I worship you Almighty God
 There is none like You
 I Worship You O Prince of Peace
 That is what I want to do
 I give You praise
 For You are my righteousness
 I worship You Almighty God
 There is none like You

Jesus
 said
 Follow
 Me

NO Game Night tonight

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today	12:30 pm	Picnic in the Basement
	4:50 pm	Sunset
Sunday		Christmas Day
Monday	Noon	Soup Kitchen with Bev Rigby
	6:30 pm	Ping Pong (and Thursday)
Tuesday	8:30 am	Exercise Class (and Thursday)
Wednesday	3:00 pm	Prayer & Study Group
Friday	4:54 pm	Sunset

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS BELIEVE:

As a people we hold the Bible in supreme regard as the revealer of God's truth to guide us to salvation. Our love and devotion is rooted supremely in Christ who we worship as our Savior, Creator, Lord and King.

We believe that forgiveness, healing and eternal life are offered freely to all on the basis of what Jesus has already accomplished for us at the cross, and continues to do as He ministers on our behalf in the heavenly sanctuary above. God's mercy and grace are infinite and are received by faith, to prepare a people for Jesus' second coming.

The "New Covenant" provides not only forgiveness for sin, but also God's promise to write His law on our hearts so that our greatest joy will be to do His will. We keep His commandments, not in order to be saved, but because He has already encircled us in His saving arms. His law includes also the fourth commandment Sabbath which invites us to spend a special time of fellowship with God on the seventh day.

We feel compelled as a people to share with a perishing world these messages of God's love in the context of God's final judgment-hour message in Revelation 14. Because of our devotion to Christ we joyfully look forward to His soon return in the clouds of heaven when we shall see our Savior face to face.

Today

Sermon	Pastor Charles Shultz
Elder	Dwight Winslow
Deacon In Charge	Don Kirk
Greeters	Ernie Madden, Teri Knighten, Sonia Mosier

Picnic in the Basement

Next Week

Sermon	Tatianna Escobar
Elder	Dwight Winslow
Deacon In Charge	Don Kirk III
Greeters	Dale Hoie, Linda Merritt, Charlotte White

Picnic in the Basement

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Jesus loves you too

You may think it strange that a cow should get stuck in the mud, but I have known of cases where cows have been stuck for a day or two as they were in soft mud and were unable to get out.

Now what could Ellen do? Here was the cow and the cow was stuck. How could she get her out? She began to think. She found some nice tall grass, picked some big handfuls and reached out to where the cow could reach it. And oh, it tasted so good to Bossy! She got some more grass, and she reached out again, and Bossy could eat that. And then she got some more grass, but this time, she didn't give it to Bossy. With one hand, she took hold of Bossy's horn and she held the grass close to the cow's mouth, then she moved the grass quickly away. As she did this, she said, "Come on, Bossy!" and gave a quick pull on her horn. The cow reaching for the grass, made an extra effort and got out of the mud. And then Ellen let the cow eat the grass.

It was getting late when she got back to the house, but Bossy was with her. She had found a way to do that which needed to be done. This was a lesson that helped her all through her life. Sister White was called upon to do many hard things. It was because while she was a little girl she had learned to be faithful and to do what needed to be done that she was prepared to do larger and more difficult things later in life. We do not find that when Sister White had something difficult to do that she complained and said, "I can't do it;" No, she found a way. This is a lesson that each boy and girl must learn too. If we learn this lesson, it will help us all through life.

Next Week Story

The River Boat and the Lumber Rafts

As told by Arthur L. White

Open my eyes Lord

Open my eyes, Lord
I want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that I love Him
Open my ears, Lord
And help me to listen
Open our eyes, Lord
We want to see Jesus

I BESEECH THEE!

Give me the mind of Jesus
Full of love and full of grace
Give me the heart of Jesus
Let it shine upon my face
Give me the peace of Jesus
That I might run life's race
Give me the yoke of Jesus
That I might endure its pace.
Give me the joy of Jesus
Full of His faith to embrace.
by J.f ball

Children's Story

The Cow that Got Stuck in the Mud

As told by Arthur L. White

This is another "stick-to-it" story, but it is a story about Sister White when she was a little girl. The family name was Harmon, and the Harmon family lived in the country near Gorham, Maine. The home was on a hill. Back of the home was a valley. Through this valley there ran a little stream. This land back of the home on the hillside and across the stream was largely in woods and served as a cow pasture.

In the Harmon home, each of the children had their duties. They were taught to do their part in the home. They learned to do their work well. When Ellen was just a little girl, it was one of her tasks to go to the pasture gate in the evening and open the gate and bring the cow up to the shed where her father did the milking. Every evening when she would go down to get the cow, the cow was there, because cows have a way of knowing when it is time to be milked, and they know they will get something special to eat too.

And so each evening Ellen went down to the pasture gate, opened the gate, and brought the cow up to the shed. But one evening, as she went down to the gate, the cow wasn't there. "That's strange," she thought, "where's bossy?" So she began to call, "Come bossy, come bossy, come bossy!" Then she listened, but she didn't hear a thing. Then she called louder, "Come bossy, come bossy, come bossy!" Then she listened. There wasn't any response, and she knew that something was wrong, because Bossy was always there when it was time to be milked. Now I know some boys or girls who would have said, "Well, it's just too bad. If Bossy isn't here, there is nothing I can do about it. I can't help it." But Ellen and her sisters and brother had been taught to carry responsibilities. They had been taught to find a way to do what needed to be done.

But where was Bossy? Ellen opened the pasture gate and she started walking down through the woods towards the little stream. And she kept calling, "Come bossy, come bossy, come bossy!" And then she listened. "Come bossy, come bossy, come bossy!" And then she listened. But she didn't hear a thing. She walked on and on down through the woods on the pasture trail. She kept calling. Finally when she got down near the stream, she called, "Come bossy," and she heard just a faint "Moo!" She knew that Bossy was nearby. She kept calling and she was looking this way and that. Finally she got to the stream, and there was Bossy, standing in the stream, stuck in the mud!

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Listen and I Will Make you Fisher of Men

Open My Eyes Lord

Sometimes we are so blinded by our own pain - that we don't see God's blessings, and worse, we often miss out on opportunities God gives us. Many times we get frustrated and even angry when life doesn't work out the way we want. But the Bible says in James 1:1-4, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." It's easy to be so focused on our own problems, that we can't see what God is trying to show us. Even the disciples struggled with this. When Jesus died on the cross - even though Jesus warned them his time on earth was short - when He died, they were completely devastated! They were blinded to the truth Jesus wanted them to see. And when He was resurrected - they couldn't see that either because they were blinded by their grief! After He arose from the dead, two of the disciples walked side by side with Him and didn't know it was their beloved Savior. When Jesus opened their eyes with truth - they realized that Jesus dying on the cross wasn't the worse thing that could happen - it was the BEST - because Jesus giving His life - paid the price for sin and made it possible to have eternity with their Lord and Master. This is why it's important to spend time with God each day lingering in His presence - because when we do, He allows us to see beyond our own trials and heartache, to the beautiful plan He has for our lives. Pray each day, "Open my eyes, Lord." Text: John 14:1, Romans 12:12, Romans 8:18

Jesus Died for You!

Quit Smoking For Life!

The *Freedom From Smoking*® program can help.

1. Do you want to quit? yes no
2. Is quitting a priority for you? yes no
3. Have you tried to quit before? yes no
4. Do you think smoking is bad for your health? yes no
5. Do you have other personal reasons for wanting to stop smoking? yes no
6. Are you ready to try to quit even though it may be tough? yes no

11 am Tuesday - January 10, 2017

Cost \$25.00 for materials

**For information and registration
call 541-469-3030**



LOWER LEVEL HALL

Brookings Seventh-day Adventist Church

102 Park Ave., Brookings, Or