



The North Texas Church of Freethought BULLETIN

The Fellowship of Unbelievers

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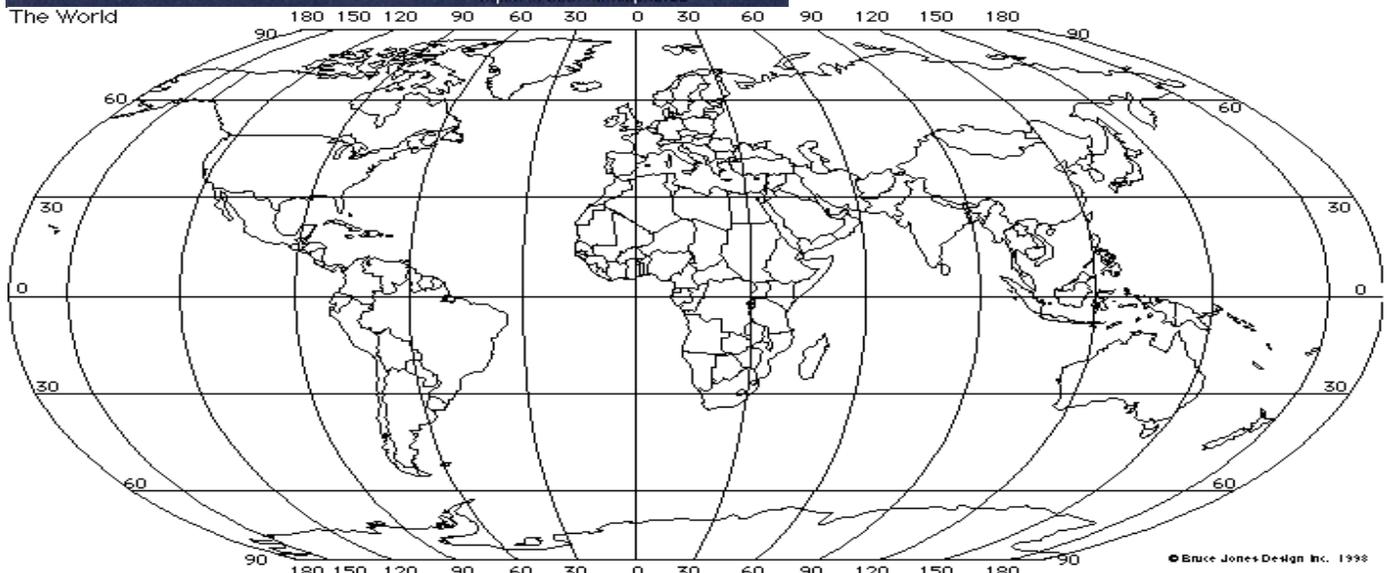
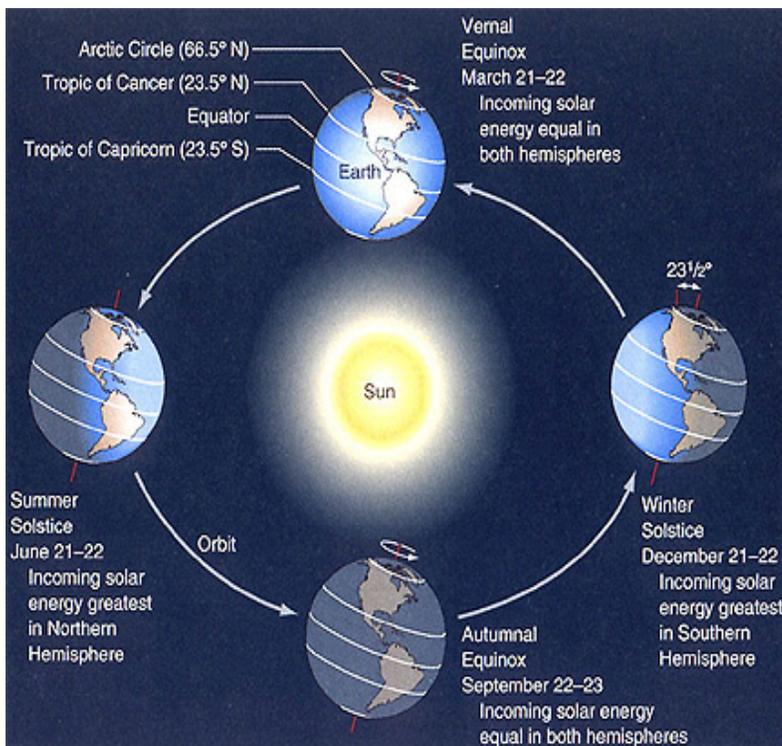
CHRISTMAS IS FOR EVERYONE

Christmas is hardly the exclusive possession of adherents of the Christian religion, however much some of them may strenuously insist that it is. The origins of the Winter Holidays – and Christmas in particular – are lost in prehistory. But thousands of years before the Current Era people built structures that were astronomically aligned with the position of the sun at the time of the Winter Solstice. Clearly, this is because our distant ancestors noticed and attached importance to the end of the progressive shortening of daylight hours and the beginning of gradually increasing daylight that occurred at this time. As we now know, this is due to the 23 ½ degree tilt of the earth’s axis in relation to the axis of the plane of the earth’s annual revolution around the sun.

Being story-tellers, early peoples invented a large variety of tales to explain what they observed, often involving the death and resurrection of a sun-deity. For what could be more natural than the worship of the life-giving sun? Even today, we love sunny days and some people even become depressed when daylight is limited. As it happens, one of the “holy grails” of science remains that of harnessing the power of nuclear fusion - the energy that powers the sun - for human uses.

It is no accident that the winter solstice rather than the summer solstice captured the attention of ancient humans and developed into all the festivals and holidays that we have today. For it is a simple consequence of the fact that most people, and certainly the earliest civilizations of humanity, were situated well to the north of the equator since that is where most of the earth’s habitable land is. (see below)

“Christmas” may seem to some an irritating linguistic win for the Christian religion. But if Christians can be content with their most important holiday - Easter - being the name of a pagan goddess, then perhaps there is little use in making a fuss over Christmas.



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"Isn't it funny that at Christmas something in you gets so lonely for - I don't know what exactly, but it's something that you don't mind so much not having at other times." (Kate L. Boshier)

Christmas is a time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it. Deficits are when adults tell the government what they want and their kids pay for it. (Richard Lamm)

I do like Christmas on the whole. In its clumsy way, it does approach Peace and Goodwill. But it is clumsier every year. (E.M. Forster)

The best Christmas trees come very close to exceeding nature. (Andy Rooney)

Were I a philosopher, I should write a philosophy of toys, showing that nothing else in life need to be taken seriously, and that Christmas Day in the company of children is one of the few occasions on which men become entirely alive. (Robert Lynd)

The Supreme Court has ruled that they cannot have a nativity scene in Washington, D.C. This wasn't for any religious reasons. They couldn't find three wise men and a virgin. (Jay Leno)

I never believed in Santa Claus because I knew no white dude would come into my neighborhood after dark. (Dick Gregory)

YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE NTCOF ARE NEEDED, APPRECIATED, AND TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!!

**COMING NEXT MONTH:
"FREETHOUGHT 2012!"
>>> January 8th, 2011 <<<
SHERATON GRAND DFW AIRPORT
SE CORNER OF 114 AND ESTERS**

NOTE THAT IN JANUARY 2012 THE NTCOF SERVICE WILL BE THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH DUE TO THE NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY

All NTCOF events can be found through our website calendar (yes, website update is in process thanks to Sarah and Rusty Nejd!) , or through our meetup page, from which you can RSVP, at: - www.meetup.com/church-of-freethought -
JOIN THE NTCOF MEETUP GROUP !!!

Social Luncheon: Today, immediately after our Service, join us for lunch and discussion at the Golden Corral Buffet and Grill in Grapevine, located just across from the Grapevine Mills Mall, at 2605 E. Grapevine Mills Circle, phone (972) 874-7900. To reach Golden Corral from the Sheraton, cross over the freeway and make a left onto John W. Carpenter Freeway (114) going west. Then take the first exit RIGHT onto International Parkway (121), then Grapevine Mills Parkway exit. Turn LEFT on Stars and Stripes Way, continuing on to E. Grapevine Mills Circle.

Freethought Salon: Get together to discuss today's service topic or other conundrums of interest to Freethinkers. Second Sunday monthly, over breakfast, at the Hilton Vineyard in Grapevine this month; see the meetup site!

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!

Secular Singles: Freethinkers have met their life-partners with whom they have begun families through the Secular Singles group. Check the meetup site for the next date, time and location!

If you don't have Christmas in your heart, you will never find it under a tree!



DFWCOR

Dallas-Fort Worth Coalition of Reason

The North Texas Church of Freethought
The Fellowship of Unbelievers

December 2011 Service Coordinator: Terry Doyle
Presenters: Terry Doyle, Ethel Moorman and Musical Accompaniment Jay Purrington

MANY THANKS to all NTCOF members, supporters/ attendees, contributors and others, including our frequent band, faithlesscompanions.com and Web Redesigners Rusty and Sarah Nejd! !!!

Welcome Coordinator Mark Barnick
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