

Talk About A “Christmas Miracle!”

There are between some two and three billion children in the world (under the age of 18). Since Santa likely does not visit those households of Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, or Jews (no doubt some other “religions” as well), his Christmas Eve workload is reduced to about 15% of the total, or some 390 million homes. At an average of about 3.5 children per household, that comes to just over 111 million homes...assuming there is at least one good child therein.

Santa has about 31 hours of Christmas to work with, due to the different times zones and the rotation of the earth. This works out to about 967.7 visits per second. That is, for each household with a good child, Santa has about $1/1000^{\text{th}}$ of a second (that’s one millisecond) per home to park the sleigh, hop out, jump down the chimney, fill the stocking(s), distribute the presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks the children have left for him, burp, get back up the chimney, jump into the sleigh, name his reindeer (by the way, can you??), shout “Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!” and get on to the next house.

Assuming that each of these 111 million stops is evenly distributed by

distance around the globe (which they are not, but we’ll use this figure for our consideration), we are talking about three quarters of a mile between houses for a total trip of over 83 million miles, not counting bathroom stops or any kind of breaks.

This means Santa’s sleigh has to travel well over 650 miles per second: more than 3,000 times the speed of sound. For comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle (a space probe) pokes along at only 27.4 miles per second. A normal reindeer can run at tops, about 15 miles per hour.

The sleigh must be amazing. If each child were to receive ONLY one present at an average weight of let us say 2 pounds, the sleigh is carrying over 500 thousand tons, not counting Santa himself. A normal reindeer can only pull about 300 pounds on land. If the flying variety of reindeer can pull 10 times that much, Santa would need 360,000 of them to move this sleigh! This means the payload, not counting the sleigh itself, would be about 54,000 tons...seven times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth ocean liner.

600,000 tons traveling at over 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance. This would heat up the reindeer about as much as a spacecraft re-entering the earth’s atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer would absorb 14.3 quintillion joules of energy per second...each! They

would burst into flames almost immediately, exposing the next pair of reindeer behind them and creating deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire team of reindeer would be vaporized with 4.26 thousandths of a second (about 4 ¼ milliseconds, .00426 seconds). This would be when Santa was between his fourth and fifth house on the trip.

Poor Santa! As a result of accelerating from a dead stop to 650 miles per second in one millisecond (.001 seconds), he would be subjected to acceleration forces of 17,000 g's (that's 17,000 times the force of gravity). A 250 pound Santa (not all that hefty) would be pinned to the back of the sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force. Such would pulverize his bones and turn him into a "bowl full of jelly." (Hmmm.....Clement C. Moore must have known something of physics when he wrote his poem!) But, year after year, he does his task and takes his tour.

Let the discerning peruser of this satirical parody comprehend the absurdity of the aforementioned statistical, unfathomable, and whimsical treatise. Let us collaborate and conspire to conceal the bone fides disposition of Santa, and maintain the veracity of these deliberations for our own contemplation. In other words...we don't want to spoil it for the kids!

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(These statistics adapted from an email sent to me by Keith Sisman.)

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

December 20, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Weekly Item Needed: Large Trash Bags for Kitchen Trash Can

Wednesday's Wisdom:

"Original sin is a false doctrine; we choose to sin, and we must choose to repent and choose life (Deuteronomy 30.19)!" Steve Anticoli

Cheryl and I hope that all who can will choose to grace our home with your presence this afternoon (2pm) at our **Holiday Open House**. Come and enjoy a cookie, cider (coffee for the more enlightened ☺) and good fellowship. Need directions? Just ask.

I don't mean to be offensive, but **there is no Christ in Christmas!** "Christmas" is of pagan origin, and adopted by Roman Catholicism in order to incorporate more "converts" into their ranks. To celebrate "Christmas" as a spiritual event is without Biblical authority, and is therefore sinful. Happily (for me at least), it has a secular, traditional aspect in our culture and is a recognized National holiday. I for myself enjoy this season of gaiety. I hope you have a nice time this next couple of weeks enjoying your family and friends.