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DEAR MR. PUBLISHER,

PARSON JONES

Dear Mr. Publisher:

A wise philosopher once said, "If Christmas be near, the New Year can't be far behind". It's the season when the wisemen went to see Jesus, and we go to see our members about money for the new year. The first group went bearing gifts, we go to get gifts.

Our collections were down this year. The deacons held a special fact-finding committee meeting to find out why the drop-off. Some thought it was because the economy is in a bind right now. Others thought bad preaching might have something to do with it. I told 'em these things might have helped push us in the hole, but the main problem was poor attendance. My brother runs a hamburger place, and he says when people don't show up to buy hamburgers he loses money. And I've noticed when we've got a small crowd at church, we get a small amount in the collection plate. The deacons finally admitted that we got a bad attendance problem. That's the horse that's pulling the poverty cart.

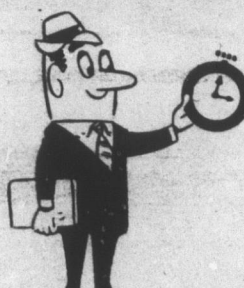
So, Mr. Publisher, we decided on a plan. In the past years we always sent out a report 4 times a year showing how much money people had give. This year we're gonna send out an attendance report 4 times a year. Instead of showing dollars and cents we're gonna show Sundays present and Sundays absent. We'll probably print up little calendars and punch holes in the absent Sundays. That way when a fella gets a card that's so holey it looks like a fish net, it may shake him up.

If there was just some way to get the government to give a tax break on church attendance we might get the 10% money everybody is reporting on their returns. Course I reckon a fellow who'd lie about his giving would lie about his attendance too.

Well, I gotta be signing off for now, and go see the doctor. I been having these awful pains in the neck. Dr. Charge-wright told me to come on over cause my workman's compensation would cover it - seeing as how it happened on the job.


See you Sunday in Church - your absence will leave a hole!

Parson Jones



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Service News

Airman First Class Frank D. Fox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fox of Route 6, Burnsville, N. C., is currently on temporary duty at Mildenhall RAF Station, England.

Airman Fox is an air operations specialist with the 38th Tactical Airlift Squadron from Forbes AFB, Kansas.

Members of the 38th, equipped with C-130 Hercules, are flying supply and airlift missions throughout Europe in support of Air Force units and NATO during their two-month stay at Mildenhall.

The airman is a 1968 graduate of East Yancey High School and attended Falls College in Atlanta, Georgia.

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