

Mrs. Johnston's Kindergarten

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Dear Santa,
I would like an Ipad, a necklace
and books.
Lya Lopez

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a
puppy, new doll and a toy
pirate.
Emily Lujan

Dear Santa,
I would like Barbies, a Teddy
Bear and books.
Jasmine Tarango

Dear Santa,
I would like a doll, an Ipad and
a Teddy bear.
Leslie Dominguez

Dear Santa,
I would like play school stuff,
Christmas books and a
playhouse.
Hannah Hernandez

Once in a while, I decide to
put aside my religious beliefs
and analyze religion from a
secular perspective. This hap-
pened the other day as I was
leaving church. I observed a
young family of five—he, per-
haps an executive, maybe an
attorney; she, also a profes-
sional; three happy, active kids.

Based on the most unbeliev-
able premise ever—that there is
an unseen God out there some-
where—this family is among
the millions of individuals who
take the time at least once a
week to worship and ask to be
better people.

For many of us, direct evi-
dence and fact are essential in
our careers and life. For those
who rely on logic, the burden
of proof comes up short. It
would be far simpler not to be-
lieve than to believe and far

easier to take the day off than to
go to a place of worship. (And
this doesn't count the hundreds
of thousands who believe and
cannot or don't go to a place of
worship.)

If, for this couple and thou-
sands of others, religion were an
ingrained tradition from their
parents and grandparents, no
one is compelling them to con-
tinue this habit. Of their own

free will, in spite of busy sched-
ules, they make the trek each
week to worship.

So, from a layman's perspec-
tive, looking at the phenomenon
from the bottom side up, lowly
man continues to want to be-
lieve despite lack of proof.
Something in our nature makes
us know that the principles of
faith—loving and caring, shar-
ing and giving, forgiving—

make us better persons. We
want to be better people; we
seek this out; we are not com-
pelled to do so. We reflect it by
our acts; imagine the actions of
man without any of these prin-
ciples. Imagine the world with-
out the actions of places of wor-
ship and loving people.

In a distant church pew sits
my highly intelligent, highly
educated doctor, who deals with
fact and evidence. He is a per-
fect example of what faith is—
choosing to believe, without the
ordinary proof we require for
everything else in life.

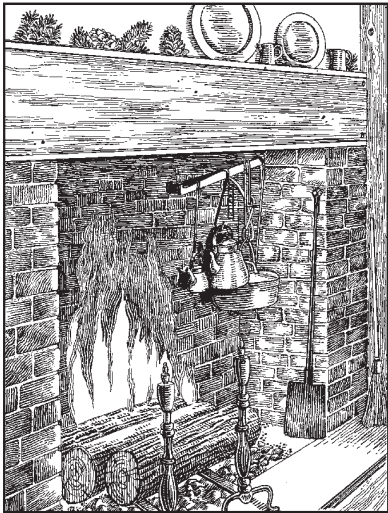
It's almost like PEOPLE
prove God. We intrinsically
want to be what He asks us to
be. But as mortals, we need
strength and we need peace.
Both are provided. That is proof
enough.

Proof, When There Is None

By Jean Murph of the Citizens' Advocate, Coppell, Texas

*If you're feeling harried, go to a
church, sit in the
sanctuary, and reflect on the
real meaning of Christmas. You'll
leave feeling more peaceful.*

—H. JACKSON BROWN



Have A Glowing Season!

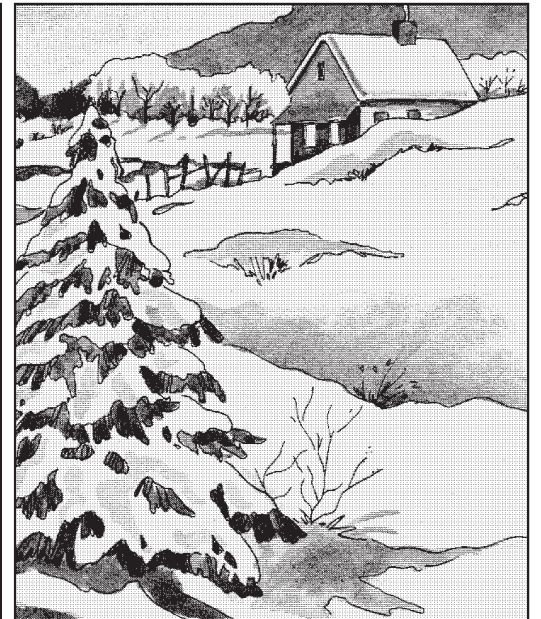
*As we throw another yule log on the fire, our
thoughts are with the many fine folk we've had the
privilege to know and serve this past year.*

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Services, Inc.**

*It's
Always
A Pleasure
To Serve
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*Customers like you
make it all
worthwhile.
Wishing you all
a very,
merry season.*

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Peace On Earth!

*May the harmony of the winter landscape bring renewed hope
for understanding and worldwide peace.
Merry Christmas and many thanks.*



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