

The Toilet Paper

Odd fact and obscure thought to read...*as you have time*

Meant to Be One

In 1942, the American consul ordered citizens home from the Persian Gulf, for fear they might get caught in the spreading conflict of World War II.

Travel was difficult, and some civilians secured passage on the troop ship *Mauritania*. Passengers included thousands of Allied soldiers, 500 German prisoners of war, and 25 civilian women and children.

The ship traveled slowly and cautiously, constantly in danger from hostile submarines patrolling the ocean depths. It was Christmas Eve and they had traveled for a full two months. They had only made it as far as the coastal waters of New Zealand, and everyone on board was homesick, anxious and frightened.

Someone came up with the idea of asking the captain for permission to sing Christmas carols for the German prisoners, who were surely as homesick and lonely as the passengers. Permission was granted.

A small choral group made its way to the quarters where the unsuspecting prisoners were held. They decided to sing "Silent Night" first, as it was written in Germany by Joseph Mohr and was equally well known by the prisoners.

Within seconds of beginning the carol, a deafening clatter

shook the floor. Hundreds of German soldiers sprang up and crowded the tiny windows in order to better see and hear the choristers. Tears streamed unashamedly down their faces. At that moment, everyone on both sides of the wall experienced the universal truth—that all people everywhere are one.

Hope and love broke down the barriers between warring nations and, for that moment at least, all were one family. We are meant to be one. And in that knowledge we find true peace

—Steve Goodier



Reflecting Ourselves

You can tell a lot about a church denomination by what kind items you find in the changing rooms for those who assist with the services.

For example, in the Lutheran Church, you will many times find a picture of Martin Luther up on the wall. In the Catholic Church, you will usually see a picture of Mary. In the Episcopal Church, you always find a full-length mirror. ☞

Saving a Fellow Church Goer

I was walking across a bridge one day, and I saw a man standing on the edge, about to jump off. I immediately ran over and said "Stop! Don't do it!"

"Why shouldn't I?" he said.

I said, "Well, there's so much to live for!"

"Like what?"

"Well ... are you religious?"

"Yes."

"Me too! Which faith?"

"Christian."

"Me too! Are you Catholic or Protestant?"

"Protestant."

"Me too! Which denomination?"

"Church of God."

"Wow! Me too! Which one?"

"Baptist Church of God."

"Me too! Are you Original Baptist Church of God, or are you Reformed Baptist Church of God?"

"Reformed Baptist Church of God."

"Me too! Are you Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1879, or Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1915?"

"Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1915!"

To which I said, "Die, heretic scum!" and pushed him off. ☞