Letters from Home

Consider sending a card or letter to a soldier, or a complete care package with products such as: Batteries; hardback and paperback books; magazines; puzzle books; CDs; DVDs; non-perishable food items such as beef jerky, dried fruit, canned chicken and tuna, ramen noodles, popcorn, cookies, chips and other snacks; socks; undershirts; personal hygiene items such as deodorant, disposable razors, soap, shampoo and toothpaste; pens and paper; phone cards and hand-held electronic games or travel-size board games.

Sgt. Jared Neil Barrier
Box 162
Roseboro, NC 28382

RCT Brandon Bergara
2nd RT BN Hotel Co. PLT 2166
36001 Midway Ave.
San Diego, CA 92140-2166

Staff Sgt. (P) Jon Boring
1192 Country Fields Ln.
Clarksville, TN 37040
Son of Odis and Bea Boring

PFC Fuller, Jonathan N.
(Address Pending)
Ft. Carson, CO
Son of James and Mary Jane Fuller (Meadow)

Garcia, Jason Anthony
DSC 561 Box 7409
FPO AP 96310-0075

Christopher Gonzales
PRG 6-1
APO, AE 09354
Son of Jose and Teresa Gonzales, father of Erik and Chris

SSGT. Junior Hadley
123 Delaware
Jacksonville, AR 72076
Son of Rick and Martina Hadley

Jones, Samantha D.
917 Silvertree Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23450
Daughter of Geneva and Guadalupe Mata Jr.

Madera, Christopher E.
1st Bn Alpha Co. Platoon 1005
39001 Midway Ave.
MCRD San Diego, CA 92140-1005

LCP1 Mata, Guadalupe III
P.O. Box 453279
San Diego, CA 92145-5727
Son of Geneva and Guadalupe Mata Jr.

Sgt. Steve McQueen
651 Granite Cliff
San Antonio, TX 78251

MSG Jose Mendez
206 Williams Circle Apt. 2041
Opelousas, LA 70570
Son of Maria Ramirez and Pedro Mendez

PFC Joseph Mitcham
75th Fires Brigade
COB Speicher
APO AE 09393

Sgt. Mulkey, Logan
6545 Phillip Dr.
Ft. Worth, TX 76114
Son of Scott and Brenda Minyard and Marlon Mulkey

Lcpl Norris, Jonathan
H&S Co.
ATT: Battalion Maintenance
Camp Pendleton CA 72055
Son of Christie Cottrell

Sgt. Marvin D. Powell
1505 N. Walnut
Lumberton, NC 28358
Son of Lanna and Kenny Powell

Toby Roach
Superintendent of Shipping and Receiving in Munitians Depot
Hill Airforce Base
1522 N. 300E
Layton, UT 84041

LCPL Rogotzke, Joshua K.
P.O. Box 454643
San Diego, CA 92145
Son of Dan Rogotzke and Debbie Jackson

PFC Seaton, Justin
B Btry TF 2/82 FA
FOB Diamondback
APOAOE 09334
Son of Nolan and Lisa Seaton

Snyder, Timothy, SrA
332 ELRS/LGRA
APO, AE 09315-9997
Son of Larry and Brenda Snyder

Sgt. James Titus
1-68AR BN
Unit No. 51502
APO AE 09336-1502
Son of Bill and Beverly Titus

TSST Jerry L. Torrez
PSC 3 Box 8015
APO AP 96266
Son of Elia and Nicanor Torrez, Jr.

Valentin Mata, Leonardo
BI Battery 4319 AFAR CTF
FOB Naray APO AE 09354

Readers who have family members in the military are encouraged to include their relative's name and address in this listing. To add a soldier, please call 637-4535 or email josie@brownfieldonline.com.

Economists forecast moderate growth

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Business economists believe the country will see modest growth in 2013 with strength coming from a further rebound in housing which will help offset weakness in business investment.

In its latest survey of top forecasters, the National Association for Business Economics says it is looking for the economy to grow in 2013 by 2.1 percent after 2.2 percent growth in 2012. That would continue the same tepid growth the country has seen since the Great Recession ended in mid-2009.

Growth at that pace is not strong enough to make a significant improvement in unemployment. The NABE economists believe unemployment will average 7.7 percent for all of next year, right at the level it reached in November.

The NABE panel is looking for GDP growth at an annual rate of 1.8 percent in the first quarter followed by rates of 2.4 percent in the April-June quarter, 2.6 percent in the third quarter and 3 percent in the fourth quarter next year.

Nayantara Hensel, head of the NABE panel and a business professor at the National Defense University in Washington, said part of the optimism that growth will be improving is a belief that the government will come to a resolution of the fiscal cliff. That's the name being given the sharp increases in taxes and spending cuts that will hit in January if Congress and the Obama administration do not reach a budget deal.

"The panelists believe that once there is greater clarity on budget and tax issues, you will see less uncertainty on the part of businesses and consumers," she said.

Among the other predictions in the latest NABE survey:

—Employers will add an average of 165,000 jobs per month next year, a slight improvement from the 150,000 monthly job average so far this year.

—Inflation will remain modest with the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge rising just 1.8 percent. That is below the Fed's 2 percent target. Oil prices are expected to average $93.20 per barrel in December 2013, only a slight increase from $86.70 currently.

—Longer-term interest rates will rise slightly with a 10-year Treasury note at 2.25 percent at the end of next year, up from 1.70 percent currently. The Federal Reserve is expected to keep short-term rates unchanged at a record low near zero for all of next year.

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Challis Baptist Church
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Brownfield, Texas

BAPTIST - Southern
Faith Chapel Baptist
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Brownfield, Texas

First Baptist Church
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Immanuel Baptist Church
North B & Felt Street
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Templo Bautista Betel
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United in Christ New Vision
210 W. Reppto,
Brownfield, Texas

WHAT JESUS MIGHT SAY TO SANTA

By Daphne Delay

I grew up in a home where Santa was welcomed at Christmas. And even when my own children were young, we had a tradition of Santa gifts under the tree on Christmas morning. But in the Christian world, this is quite the debate.

One thing I can assure you is this, it's up to each individual to live their convictions. I had once observed how confused a young five-year-old boy became when he was told Santa was evil. Everywhere he turned, Santa was in the stores, on commercials, and stories were told of him at school. And to the little boy, Santa looked good, not bad.

When I became a Christian as an adult, that memory shaped how I would deal with Santa with my own children. To them, it was an extra gift under the tree in the tradition of a man named St. Nick who had a giving nature like God asks of all of us. But most importantly, if you asked any of my young children what Christmas was about, they would all tell you Jesus.

So what does Jesus think of Santa? What might He possibly say to him?

1. Thank you for keeping the Spirit of Christmas alive.

Whether we, as Christians, like it or not, much of Christmas is commercialized. But it's still called Christ-mas, not Santa-mas. So despite how many homes recognize Jesus as the reason or not, His name is spoken and He is lifted in song at school events, malls, and in the streets by carolers. You won't find this in February, March, July, or any other month of the year.

Paul said it best: "What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice" (Philippians 1:18).

2. Thank you for teaching people to give.

Christmas is about giving--whether it's out of obligation and tradition, or from the heart. God is also about giving. "For God so loved the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son..." (John 3:16). And there's something about being unselfish and spending our time and money on others that breaks the back of the devil. He hates it. But I believe God smiles.

Robert Louis Stevenson once said, "You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving." This is why the power of giving gifts this time of year is so Christ-like. God loved, and He gave. His nature rubs off on every person who does the same. And in the tradition of the wise men, we give to others in honor of the One who gave Himself.

And lastly, I think Jesus may tell Santa:

3. As much as you can, keep it about Me.

Christians get so mad at the commercialism of Christmas and Santa, but forget that we're not called to celebrate Christ only once a year. It's always--every day--about Christ (for Christians, anyway). Santa simply represents a man who gave to the poor in need, without asking anything in return, and did it cheerfully.

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). It's a stretch I know, but does this scripture indicate maybe God loves Santa because he gives so cheerfully?

Keeping Christ in Christmas is the responsibility of every Christian, not just Santa. So whether we're giving or singing, our focus should always be on the love of God and the glory of His Son--no matter what path gets it done.

God doesn't want His glory given to any man or tradition. But I don't think Santa is the one stealing it. People give glory where they want. So blame the non-Christian marketing firms of all the companies around the world if you want, but Santa is a reminder of giving, and a way to keep Christ spoken of everywhere.

JESUS IS LORD! Merry Christmas!

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