

## ***Moment before Christmas — Another Rabbi Thought***

I picked up the Beit Am Jewish Community newsletter...  
Rabbi Phil Bressler's column jumped out at me.

*"Why the Rabbi Likes Nativity Scenes"...*  
we should know it's going to be a story...  
and we're supposed to ask...  
*"Why DOES the Rabbi like nativity scenes?"*

Then we should know that  
it's probably not about Nativity Scenes...  
but we should be looking for some deeper meaning.

My eye goes to his confession about  
...*"my annual Jewish encounter with Christmas"*...  
...my Immediate *"Me too!"*

Jews aren't the only ones that find Christmas a struggle...  
It's not an easy time for pastors...  
seems like a grief time for so many...  
not to mention the out-of-hand commercialism.

The Rabbi opens up the reality of the Christian monopoly...  
from Courthouse lawns to the heart of the White House...  
complaints many Christians say *"Me too."*

He leaves it for us to think of white supremacy and racism...  
increasing antisemitism...still...and again...  
with a subtle note that Christians are the only religion  
to get a national holiday with days off.

In the end the Rabbi likes Nativity Scenes...in their place...  
*inside* churches..like inside his next door Mormon Church...  
with it's large collection of Nativity scenes...  
where he says it's OK to *"look around"*...  
and getting to know his neighbors better.

### **THREE THINGS FOR TODAY**

**FIRST** --- Today is first day of WINTER SOLSTICE celebrated before memory  
Today is for lighting the 4<sup>th</sup> CHRISTIAN ADVENT candle  
Today is the first day of JEWISH HANAKKUH and lighting the first candle.

**SECOND** --- is JUBILATE DEO... Corvallis Repertory Singers Christmas concert.  
Steven Zielke has replaced the traditional "MESSIAH" with  
JUBILATE DEO in seven languages...including Hebrew.  
I celebrate the diversity.

**THIRD** --- a small note in Rabbo Phil's December newsletter ---  
*"As is our long-time tradition, Beit Am has volunteered to staff  
THE MEN'S COLD WEATHER SHELTER on the five days  
surrounding Christmas."*

I'll not forget that the Jewish community  
will be watching over the Corvallis Men's Cold Weather shelter  
while Christians are celebrating the birth of a Jewish baby!

***For the Moment...Art Morgan, December 22, 2019***