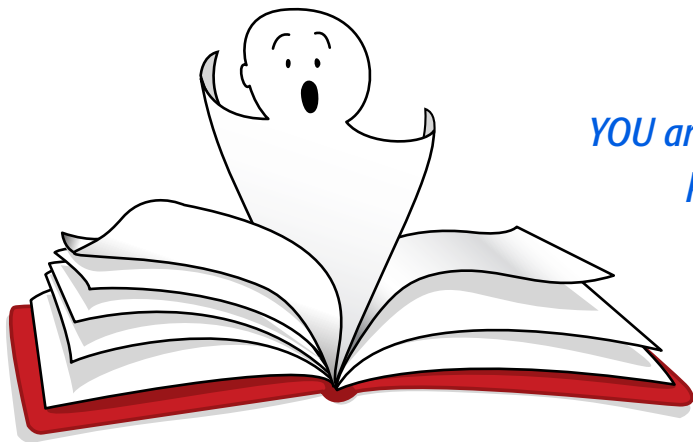


KidsPrint

ARE OTHERS READING YOU?



*YOU are our epistle written in our hearts,
known and read by all men.*

(2 Corinthians 3:2, NKJV)

February 4th is Thank Your Mail Carrier Day.

Hmm ... when you can text instantly, why even use the mail ... and a mail carrier?

Sending a message wasn't always so easy, however. At one time, ships carried the mail AROUND the U.S. so messages could get from one end of the country to the other. Now THAT took awhile — like months! Some mail DID go by stagecoach, but even those letters took weeks and weeks.

Then the Civil War began and people needed to get the news out quickly ... and so three men came up with a brilliant idea.

"Hmm," they said to one another, "we could deliver mail by horseback between Missouri and California. We could set up stations every 10 miles (16 km) and keep horses at those stations. Then we could hire young teen boys to ride the horses. They could exchange horses at each station, and we could exchange riders every 75-100 miles (121-161 km)."

"But we would need honest teens," one man thought aloud. "So let's make them take an oath. An oath like this: *I agree not to use profane language, not to get drunk, not to gamble, not to treat animals cruelly and not to do anything else that is incompatible with the conduct of a gentleman ...*"

"Besides the mail," the men agreed, "the rider can carry water, a horn to alert the next station of his arrival, a Bible and a revolver."

They put their plan into action and within two months, the Pony Express was up and running. Mail was now delivered from Missouri to California in 10 days.

WAIT! WHAT DOES THE PONY EXPRESS HAVE TO DO WITH YOU?

Well, not so much the Pony Express — but the whole letter thing DOES have to do with YOU. Did you know the Bible says you (a Christian) are a letter from the Lord Jesus Christ written to others? Your friends are "reading" you to see what being a Christian is all about.

YOU ARE SORT OF AN INSTANT MESSAGE. One mean comment to the kid with special needs, one moment of disrespectful back-talk to your mom, one test where you copy the answers from your friend — these are all messages you're sending to those around you ... messages that say nothing about your love for Christ.

But maybe you're sending **good** instant messages. You're **kind** to the new kid. You are **thankful** for creation as you fish off the dock. You **give up** an afternoon of playing computer games to take your little brother to the park.

THE WAY WE ACT SENDS AN INSTANT MESSAGE TO OTHERS.

Think about it. How long does it take for someone to get even one good message of Christ through the "letter" of your life? Is it months and months like a shipboard message? Maybe a little quicker like the Pony Express?

Or is it an instant message?

What's so great about your state? This month, the clubbers at **WASILLA BIBLE CHURCH IN WASILLA, ALASKA**, tell us about their state.

SHOW THE ROUTE OF THE PONY EXPRESS.
(You can check the Internet for help.)



- Snow — Kate (3rd grade)
- Beautiful mountains — Jaden (3rd grade)
- The chocolate factory (they have the world's largest chocolate fountain!) — Andie (4th grade)
- Snow boarding — Dylan (6th grade)
- Ice skating — Emily (4th grade)
- All the wildlife (like moose and bear!) — Kailee (6th grade)
- I love Alaska because it does not have any icky bugs. — Jewel (6th grade)
- Going hunting and fishing — Orion (6th grade)
- It's the biggest state in the U.S.A. — Jason (6th grade)
- That my family and church are here. — Jasmine (3rd grade)
- The nature God has created — Sarah (5th grade)
- I get to go to Awana and see friends. — Raina (5th grade)

DID YOU KNOW?

The **SMALLEST POST OFFICE** is in Ochopee, Florida (61.3 square feet (5.7 square km) — which is about the size of a car.)

The U.S. **OLDEST POST OFFICE** in the same building is in Hinsdale, New Hampshire — it's been there since 1816.

The "your-postal-truck-has-four-legs" post office is in Arizona. **MULES CARRY MAIL DOWN** to the bottom of the Grand Canyon to reach the Havasupai Indians.

The U.S. post office **ON HIGHEST GROUND** is in Leadville, Colorado, at 10,150 feet (3,094 m) above sea level.

The U.S. post office in the **HOTTEST CLIMATE** is in Death Valley, California.

The **WHERE-ARE-YOU-REALY** U.S. post office is on the border of Tennessee and Virginia. The post office has two zip codes for towns in two different states.

The **HELLO-WHAT-COUNTRY-ARE-YOU-IN** U.S. post office is in Point Roberts, Washington. If you want to get there by car, you have to drive through British Columbia, Canada.



We asked the kids at **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** in **BRANFORD, FLORIDA**, for their favorite riddles. (Thanks, Andrew and Cash) Here's what they said.

WHAT PET LIES AROUND THE HOUSE ALL DAY?
A carpet.

WHAT LIES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN AND TWITCHES?
A nervous wreck.

WHAT DO YOU CALL A CRAZY BAKER?
A dough nut.

HOW DID THE CRAB GET TO THE OCEAN?
By shellicopter.



WHAT DID THE CANDLE SAY TO THE LAMP?
"I'm going out for the night."

WHY DO GEESE MAKE LOUSY DRIVERS?
All they do is honk.

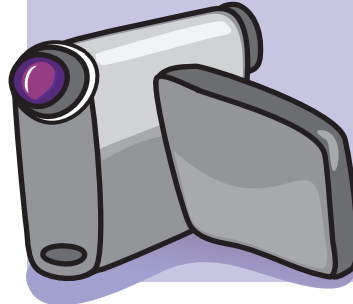


WHICH BUILDING HAS THE MOST STORIES?
The library.



HERE'S A FUN IDEA -

Do you have a video camera? Pretend you're on a TV show. Learn your verse (you could even use a few props) and then have a parent, sibling or friend record you taping for your show.



CAN YOU FIND THE NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS OF THE BIBLE IN THIS WORD SEARCH?

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| H | S | E | K | L | L | T | I | E | R | J | E | V | A | O |
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ROMANS PETER JUDE
 THESSALONIANS PHILEMON LUKE
 TIMOTHY PHILIPPIANS MARK
 TITUS REVELATION MATTHEW
 GALATIANS HEBREWS JAMES
 COLOSSIANS CORINTHIANS JOHN
 ACTS EPHESIANS