

ETHICIAN NEWS NETWORK

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CHAPEL OF THE NATIVITY OPEN 24/7

For Immediate Release

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Waterwood, Texas

Surrounded by ancient oaks and towering pines, the 19th century log Chapel of the Nativity welcomes visitors from around the world, especially during the holiday season.

Inside the chapel are three antique church pews where visitors may sit to enjoy the beauty of the Italian nativity figures, brought to America one by one over a period of several years. At night the scene is lit and as the chapel has no door, it is a tradition of some to drive by the chapel each evening throughout the year to catch a glimpse of the peaceful and serene scene inside.

The chapel and its ten acres of grounds which hosts a Texas Parks and Wildlife Trail leading to a beautiful waterfall, is open 24 hours a day throughout the year, for prayer and meditation to people of all faith traditions. It is said that those who enter the chapel are overcome by a sense of peace and tranquility and that miraculous cures have occurred there.

One of the tenets of The Universal Ethician Church, sponsor of the chapel, is that every day should be celebrated as Jesus' birthday by Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike. Ethician Church leader, Bishop George Russell, believes that world peace is attainable if only people of all faiths would respect the spiritual beliefs of others. Such was the case in Spain in the middle ages when "Convivencia" reigned and the three faiths lived together in peace and harmony.

Russell, opines that most Christians are unaware that Muhammad revered Jesus and that the Holy Koran has numerous passages reflective of that fact. In addition, many Christians do not stop to think that in reality Jesus was not a Christian, but that Jesus was Jewish.

Last Christmas, groups of children visited the chapel and sang to baby Jesus lying in his manger surrounded by sheep, camels, donkeys, the Virgin Mary, Joseph and the three Wisemen. Bishop Russell hopes that groups of children will gather at the chapel each evening between now and Epiphany on January 6th to pay homage to the Christchild.

Outside the chapel hangs a huge bell that graced First Baptist Church in Huntsville in the 1890's. By pulling on the clapper it is possible to ring the bell which has an extremely beautiful tone. The bell is formally rung for both funerals and weddings that take place in the chapel from time to time.

The Chapel of the Nativity is located in San Jacinto County, Texas at the intersection of Waterwood Parkway and Farm to Market Road 980 near the shores of Lake Livingston. Adjacent to the chapel grounds, one may visit the Ethician Family Cemetery, America's first "green" family cemetery as well as several wildlife refuges and sanctuaries. The cemetery is graced with over three miles of trails that are open for the peaceful enjoyment of visitors.

George H. Russell, an outspoken opponent of the death penalty, is a resident of Huntsville, Texas, known worldwide as "The City of Death."

He is founder of The Patriot Network, and author of its 35+ web sites located at www.patriotnetwork.org, as well as founder of The Universal Ethician Church, an interfaith ministry with a worldwide following via the church's 275+ web sites located at www.salvationnetwork.org.

Russell, 60, is an educational video producer, environmental activist, historic preservation specialist, photographer, art and antique collector, philanthropist, American patriot and ethician.

Additional biographical information may be found in *Who's Who in America*, through Internet searches, and in other publications. Images of Mr. Russell suitable for downloading for publication may be found at www.salvationnetwork.org.