



The 2022 QUIRKY CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM BARRY AND VANESSA CHANT

Volume 5, Number 32



If you have received our Quirky Christmas letters in the past, you will now be quivering with joyful anticipation. (Or you may be quivering for other reasons. Fear, alarm, depression... Oh well. You don't have to read it.) Of course, if you have *not* seen one of our Quirky Christmas letters before, your quivering is yet to come.

Naturally, this year's is nothing like last year's. Or the one before that. Except that it's still quirky. Before reading any further, check Proverbs 22:3. If you continue reading, don't say you weren't

warned. And in case you don't make it to the end: have a blessed and inspiring Christmas.

(Note: Quirky letters from recent years can be viewed on our website: BarryChant.com » [Christmas](#))

ANNUAL EOY EXAMINATION

Hey, boys and girls, before you can open your Christmas presents, you must answer the simple questions below. Now, don't forget the rules, will you?

- You must write on only one side of the paper/screen at a time.
- All answers must be written in triplicate, signed and witnessed by a justice of the peace.
- This is an open book exam so open one now.
- Questions 1-31 are compulsory.
- Bonus marks are awarded for all correct answers written in Hindustani.
- Remember – when you complete the paper, your name will automatically be listed to draw a winning ticket either for an all-expenses-paid romantic cruise to the Barrier Reef between Christmas Day and Boxing Day or for a prize of \$1,234,567.89.

1. What is your name?

- Bathsheba
- Xi Jinping
- John Smith
- Helen of Troy
- Do you want my PIN as well?

2. What is Vanessa's name?

- It's on the tip of my tongue
- How should I know?
- Can I have a clue?

3. Barry and Vanessa have twelve grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Explain this.

4. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- There are seven grandsons
- There are five granddaughters
- Three of the great-grandchildren have African fathers
- There are three more granddaughters than grandsons

5. Which of the following is NOT true about Christmas?

- 'Christmas' literally means 'festival of Christ'
- The name 'Jesus' is another form of the name 'Joshua' which means 'Rescuer'.
- Wise men worshiped Jesus. They still do.
- Humanly, Jesus was born in Bethlehem; spiritually, he can be born in our hearts today
- The message of Christmas is keeping the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule

6. After three years of living neighbourless in their new house in Mt Barker, Vanessa and Barry now have:

- A doorbell that works so well it goes off even when nobody presses it
- Two wonderful new neighbours who also play croquet
- A coffee shop in their front garden
- A new electronic piano and the same old faithful car

7. This year Barry was the guest speaker at the _____ annual conference. Which are the missing words?

- Redeemer Baptist School
- Dubai Fashion Society
- Failed Seminary Students
- Green Left Woke
- Octogenarian Worship Leaders

8. Which of these is NOT true of the Conference mentioned in question?

- It was the ninth time Barry had spoken at a Redeemer conference (Clue!)
- He delivered eleven one-hour sessions on 1 Corinthians
- Some people asked questions because what he said was questionable
- Everyone received a set of notes containing 18, 928 words
- At each session there was a small-group dramatic presentation.

9. Which of the following is Vanessa's favourite tea shop? Choose only one.

- T2
- T2
- T2

10. Which variety of tea cannot be found in Vanessa's tea cupboard?

- Gorgeous Geisha
- Red Green and Dreamy
- Apple Crumble
- Camomile
- Adelaide Breakfast
- Rooibos
- Olive Oil and Chilli blended with Rosehip and Jalapenos.

- 11. Two years ago, Barry gave up playing tennis. Which of the following is correct?**
- It was three weeks before Glen, Barry's doubles partner, noticed he was missing
 - Nick Kyrgios took Barry's place, much to Glen's disappointment, because it suddenly became much harder to win
 - Barry has not been beaten by anyone since then
- 12. This Christmas, the front of the Chant house is illuminated by all of the following. Select EITHER the one you like best OR one containing the letter 'q'.**
- A brightly-lit manger scene
 - A brilliant flashing star
 - A Christmas tree with so many decorations it can hardly stand
 - A string of lights that still work after 40 years
 - The joy in Vanessa's face when she celebrates a quirky Christmas
- 13. Is this statement true or false?**
- True
 - False
- 14. In which of the following places did Barry NOT speak in 2022?**
- Bayside church, Victor Harbor
 - The Kangaroo Island Autocephalous Orthodox Ekklesia
 - The Coast and Vines Church, Willunga
 - Hills Family CRC Church, Nairne
 - The Austral-Asian Christian Church, Tusmore
- 15. In 25 words or less, compare and contrast Barry's sleeping habits.**
- 16. Vanessa is now 85 years old. How old was she at this time last year?**
- 75
 - 86
 - 21
 - 31, 046 days including leap years.
- 17. Why aren't the following plants from the Chant garden all in the zoo?**
- Pigface
 - Kangaroo Paw
 - Maidenhair
 - Dandelion
 - Staghorn
- 18. Did you know that for eight weeks straight from October to December, Barry lectured on Church History at Life Church in Adelaide?**
- Yes, I did
 - No, I didn't
- 19. Which of the following is correct?**
- One
 - Two
 - Three
- 20. In 5000 words, or more, or less, show how Vanessa's favourite Counselling model (Solution-focused Brief Therapy) can be blended with her methodology of baking her unequalled delicious to-die-for apple cake garnished with parsnip. Include an annotated bibliography.**

21. Vanessa's atrial fibrillation has now been effectively managed for many years, which is fantastic. Atrial fibrillation is—

- Telling lies for the thrill of it
- Weaving plant fibres
- An acceleration and disruption of the heartbeat
- Fear of entering an atrium

22. Put the following in order of importance:

- Old friends who welcomed Vanessa and Barry back to South Australia as if they never left
- New friends they have made in the last three years
- Gifts from strangers of beautiful plants for their garden
- Mt Barker's congenial country town environment
- The cool, bracing nights of the Adelaide Hills
- Solar panels that have made it possible to still afford electricity

23. How are you going?

- Not bad, thanks. How are you?

24. What has happened to Barry and Vanessa's family?

- You ought to know. Why ask me?
- Do you want to include spice of children and grandchildren? (Mouses = mice, so spouses...)
- There are four in England, two in PNG, two in Queensland, seven in Victoria, sixteen in SA. So what?

25. Compare and contrast Barry's preaching with the philosophy of Dr Vladimir Putin. You should listen to all Barry's lectures and seminars for the last ten years and draw on at least five personal interviews with Dr Putin before writing your answer.

26. Do you know the answer to this question?

- Yes
- No

27. How would you describe Vanessa's garden?

- The Garden of Eden
- The reason for Adelaide's regular water shortages
- The Kokoda Trail
- How can I describe the indescribable?

28. What can't you find on Barry's website?

- Sermons and theological papers
- Short stories and skit scripts
- Bible Studies for home groups on the Minor Prophets
- Video presenting nine keys to unlocking the book of Revelation
- Vanessa's DMin thesis
- The answer to the scholastic question of whether God is so powerful that he can create a stone so heavy that he himself can't lift it.

29. This year at the CRC churches National Conference, Barry and Vanessa were awarded a beautiful crystal plaque for which of the following?

- Not being included among the speakers at the conference
- Still being married
- Completing 60 years of ministry in the CRC
- Promoting the use of contemporary Christian rock music

30. Barry has recently prepared daily devotional Bible Plans for the YouVersion Bible app. Which of the following is NOT true?

- To date YouVersion Bible products have been downloaded on over 500 million devices.
- Nearly 50,000 people have completed one or more of Barry's Bible Plans
- Barry's topics have included When We Step Out God Steps In, See the Invisible: Do the Impossible and The Uniqueness of Christ
- The most popular topic was Why Doesn't God Do Something?
- Barry is paid \$500 per word for each Bible Plan
- He begins one Plan by playing the hymn Amazing Grace on the keyboard while he talks

31. Which of these Bible verses do you think best summarises the meaning of Christmas? Why? Share your answer with someone else

- For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9)
- He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:11-12)
- For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him (John 3:16-17).

How to claim your prize-winning ticket

If you think you are the person with the most correct answers to the examination, you may now draw your winning ticket *either* for an all-expenses-paid romantic cruise to the Barrier Reef between Christmas Day and Boxing Day *or* for a prize of \$1,234,567.89. So grab a pen or pencil and start drawing.

**We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.
May 2023 be a year of love, joy and peace as you walk in the steps of Jesus.**



HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE

When Jesus came initially, divine but human, too,
our destiny was radically upended and renewed.
His name divides the panoply of passing centuries,
but still his power is best displayed in those who bow their knees.
No manger for the Christ this year – your heart's his royal throne;
he comes as Saviour, Lord and King and loves you as his own.
Don't edge him to the sidelines where discarded wrappings lie
and empty plates are strewn with turkey bones and cold mince pie.
Invite him to his rightful place, where stars and angels meet,
and worship and adore him as you fall down at his feet.

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