

The Wittenberg Times

1526-1550



All the news that's fit to print with some editorializing by Martin Luther
Editor: Hank Bitten

1533 August 29 - Pizarro Executes the Inca Emperor

Atahualpa was in the coastal city of Cajamarca celebrating his victory in a three-year civil war against his brother Huascar. He is the 13th emperor in this civilization of more than 300 years. The Incan civilization includes more than 12 million people.

The Spanish arrived by ship with 200 soldiers. Francisco Pizarro invited Atahualpa and his family to a dinner in his honor in Cajamarca. At the dinner, Pizarro presented Atahualpa with the *Holy Bible* and ordered him to convert to Christianity and accept the sovereignty of Emperor Charles V. When Atahualpa threw the *Holy Bible* on the ground, Pizarro ordered his army to seize the Incan emperor. He has been held in captivity since November 16, 1532.

Atahualpa negotiated for his release by filling a room with 24 tons of gold treasures. Francisco Pizarro's brother, Hernando, reportedly intervened requesting the release of Atahualpa as a result of his cooperation and payment of this generous ransom. Most of the gold was melted from Incan art more than 200 years old.

Pizarro feared that the Atahualpa's three generals were planning to attack his small force and gave the order to burn the Incan emperor at the stake. Upon Atahualpa's agreement to convert to Christianity and be baptized, the execution order was changed to death by strangulation.

Martin Luther was shocked at the news of this brutal and misguided decision. He commented that God's law forbids killing and there are too many deaths of Christian martyrs. In Europe we have seen too many deaths in the siege of Vienna, Peasant's Revolt, and the sack of Rome. These forms of extreme violence are the works of Satan and sin. He gave thanks for the baptism of Atahualpa.

The Wittenberg Times

1526-1550



All the news that's fit to print with some editorializing by Martin Luther
Editor: Hank Bitten

1533 September 7 - Anne Boleyn Gives Birth to Elizabeth

Anne Boleyn gave birth at three o'clock in the afternoon to a baby girl at Greenwich Palace, also the place where her father, King Henry VIII, was born.. Although details of the birth have not been announced, eyewitnesses said that she has her father's red hair and her mother's dark eyes. Anne had prayers for a healthy baby said daily at mass for the past week.

The baby was named Elizabeth after her paternal grandmother, Elizabeth of York, and her maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Howard. After the birth the previously announced celebratory joust was cancelled. The unexplained reason for the cancellation is likely the birth of a princess instead of a prince.

The choir in Westminster sang the *Te Deum* on the news of the royal birth and an announcement was made in the church that Elizabeth was a legitimate child of King Henry VIII. Anne was crowned Queen Consort of England on June 1. Plans are already being made for a lavish christening on September 10 at the Church of the Observant Friars. This is also the church where King Henry VIII was christened.

Public reaction continues to be vocal regarding the king's treatment of Queen Catherine and reports of his infidelity with a mistress during the confinement of Anne during her pregnancy.

Note: Greenwich Palace was demolished and was located on the site of the Old Royal Navy College on the Thames River in Greenwich. Visit the website to see the buildings designed by Christopher Wren, who built the buildings for King Charles II after the Puritan Revolution in England. His design was said to rival Versailles Palace outside of Paris. <http://www.ornc.org/visit/getting-here/opening-times> .