## WHEN IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE CHRISTMAS



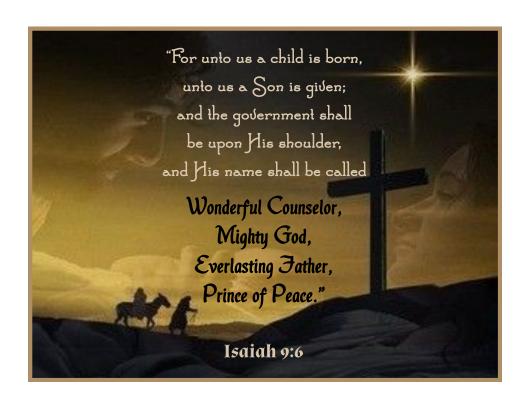
Part 2b: The Christmas "Unpeace"

We long for peace. Peace on earth, and peace in our hearts. This is what the original participants in the Christmas story were waiting and hoping for. A powerful way to appreciate having a Savior is to imagine what it would be like not to have one. Imagine that your pain and suffering have no meaning. Your life is simply ruled by fate - and you are just unlucky. Wrongs will never be made right, truth is relative, and hope for a better world is just so much dreaming. Your silent suffering and hidden pain have no divine audience; they are yours to bear alone. There exists, quite simply, no hope b e y o n d t h i s But we do have reason for rejoicing. A Savior was born to us, and our suffering touches His merciful and gracious heart. He was not only moved by our suffering; He came to join us in it. He lowered Himself to suffer what we suffer, to feel what we feel, to cry with us, hunger with us, thirst with us, and live with us. The Almighty God made Himself vulnerable to all the pain of human life. One of my greatest joys is in knowing that there is a God and that He is righteous and loving. That God loves me never ceases to amaze me. So my hope can shine through any pain, confusion, and suffering that comes my way, because I know my Savior cares for me. My hope cannot be quenched, because I know my God loves me e v e n through suffering. Christmas reminds us that we can put our hope in a sure thing - the love of God - demonstrated so beautifully on that wonderful day when He came forth into our world as a baby. Because of our despair, hopelessness, and helplessness He left His throne in heaven. This is the "good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). This is the Christmas we can all celebrate, with or without family, friends, or familiarity. Christmas goes beyond trees, decorations, songs, and presents to speak to our true condition.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BELEN

Pastor David Guerrero . Pastor Ernest Sanchez

December 20, 2020



#### **Welcome to Church!**

If you are a first time visitor, please fill out a "Connect Card" and visit our Connection Desk. We would love an opportunity to get to know you better and encourage you in your spiritual walk, as well as answer any questions! Contact Information for our Pastoral and Office Staff is provided on our website at www.fbcbelen.net, or you may call us at 864-8621.

### Activities for the Week

Sunday - December 20<sup>th</sup>
Spanish Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Young Adults @ the Sanchez'
home - 7:00 p.m.

Monday - December 21st

Tuesday - December 22<sup>nd</sup>

Wednesday - December 23<sup>rd</sup>
Church Office Closed
Rooted Youth Christmas Party
6:00 p.m.

Thursday - December 24<sup>th</sup>

Church Office Closed

Christmas Eve Service - 5:00 p.m.

Friday - December 25<sup>th</sup>

Church Office Closed

Merry Christmas!

Saturday - December 26th

Deacons of the Week: Art Fender John Fender

Safety Team - December 27th:
Jaye Gardner
Deck Goodman
Jorge Acosta

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Collection dates:

December 6<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Please be in prayer:

- \* International Missions
- The children who will receive Operation Christmas Child boxes

The very purpose of (hrist's coming into the world was that He might offer up His life as a sacrifice for the sins of men.

He came to die.

This is the heart of (hristmas.

- Billy Graham

Baby Church: The P - 5 classroom is open to all parents/ grandparents with babies.

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Sermon Notes and Children's Bulletins are available at the Connection Center Desk.

#### **Church Office Hours**

Monday: 1-4:30 pm . Tuesday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm . Wednesday - Friday: Closed



In Celebration of the Christmas Holiday...

The Church Office will be closed Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> through Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

# Give the Gift of Words...

There is still time to send a personalized Christmas

Message to all of our Church Family

If you would like your message of love, hope or encouragement to your Church Family to appear on our website, please submit it to the Church Office by

Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Email:** info@fbcbelen.net **Text:** 859-0622/**Call:** 864-8621

Thank You!

# Together at the Table

Fall Food Drive 2020 looked very different from previous food drives. This year instead of asking for specific items from each association, we requested monetary and gift card donations. As expected, you have responded! We have been blessed with a large number of donations. We can restock our commissary shelves and buy fresh fruit and vegetables all year long.

Thank you for your generous giving and support of NM Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries.