

WHEN IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE CHRISTMAS

By Dan Schaeffer

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 l i f e . 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 t h r o u g h s u f f e r i n g . 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 20th

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 22nd

Wednesday - December 23rd

Church Office Closed

Rooted Youth Christmas Party
6:00 p.m.

Thursday - December 24th

Church Office Closed

Christmas Eve Service - 5:00 p.m.

Friday - December 25th

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 6th - 27th.

Please be in prayer:

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

The very purpose of Christ'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 Christmas.

- Billy Graham

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



**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 23rd through Monday, January 4th

*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 22nd.
Thank You!

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

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.**