



Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

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The people were being heavily taxed and faced every prospect of a sharp increase to cover expanding military expenses and the opulent lifestyle of Caesar. The threat of world domination by a cruel, ungodly, power-intoxicated gang was ever just below the threshold of consciousness. Wars were continuing on different fronts, taking the lives of young men and innocent citizens. Crime was out of hand, and there were problems with the local prostitutes who, in the name of religion, practiced their trade in the local temples, spreading their diseases among the populace. Moral deterioration had corrupted the upper levels of society and was moving rapidly into the broad base of the state. The politicians could not be trusted. Most of them were in it for what they could get and were corrupted by power and getting richer. Bribes and scandals were rampant, and the promise of peace propaganda was heard everywhere, in the midst of preparations for more war. Inflation was high, making a living was getting harder, it was difficult to secure a good job, inflation was getting out of control, and there seemed to be little hope in sight.

The religious temples were filled with hypocrites; many were preaching a get-rich quick prosperity gospel while the rulers were covering the landscape with their statues and images, invoking a demand to be worshipped as gods. Intense nationalistic feelings were clashing openly with new and sinister forms of imperialism. People were taking to the streets in demonstrations while the local army of law enforcement put down such demonstrations. Conformity was the spirit of the age, for it was more expedient to be politically correct. Government programs such as welfare, national health care, subsistence, and help for unwed mothers were being used to increase lavishness by keeping the population from rising up and throwing out the leaders. Interest rates were spiraling upward in the midst of a weak economy. External religious observance was considered a political asset.

More and more, the politicians were trying to pit people against each other to keep the spot-light off themselves. They created tax loop holes that would foster class envy and hatred. It was near to impossible to have your own home, and if you had it, you were always being threatened with losing it. The idea of being able to retire in your old age and not have to work for a living was an impossibility, and you faced a life of constantly working until death. An abnormal emphasis was placed upon sports and athletic competitions. The crowd's thirst for blood grew and grew to see more and more gladiators maim, kill, and dismember their opponents in the arenas and Coliseum. The people partied hard and demanded more and more gruesome encounters between man and beast to see who could prevail and spill another's blood. Social life centered on the banquets, getting high, alcohol, and poolside barbecues. Racial tension was at the breaking point.

In such a time as this, amid such a people under the oppression of the Roman Empire, a child was born — his parents had to sign up with the local county recorder for a fresh round of taxation and were soon to become political exiles. The child was called, among other things, **"The Prince of Peace."** When he had grown up and had entered into His ministry, He said, ***"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you...Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."***

I find it intriguing that our Lord entered a world that was so similar to our world today. In fact, His world was worse by far than the world we live in today. Their leaders were greedy, self-centered, and raising taxes to increase their lavish life style. Human nature hasn't changed much. We have a tendency to think that our world and our problems and issues are the worst. Yet the world into which Jesus was born was far more brutal and oppressive. It was into that world that Jesus entered to give hope and to offer a better way: to provide forgiveness for sins and even the gift to become a child of God and to be part of His eternal family.

This Christmas season, make it a point to focus on Him, the blessings He has brought into your life, and what your life would be like if He wasn't part of it. I liked what my pastor said one Sunday, "My worst day with Jesus is better than my best day without Him." Let this Christmas be one where you don't focus on all the issues in our world that would rob you of your joy, but instead focus on **The Prince of Peace** who came to bring personal peace in a dark, dark world.

Christmas Blessings, *Chaplain Tim*

2016 Activity Report	
as of November 15	
Critical Responses	40
Briefings	102
Walk-A-Longs	71
Counseling	112
Official Functions	61
Weddings	1
Funeral/Memorials	11

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Chief Chaplain

