

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Merry Christmas!

December 2023

Christmas Light

Darkness replaced by light is a recurring theme describing the arrival of the Messiah.

"The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them...For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace..." ^{NAS} Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

"In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them..." ^{NAU} Luke 2:8-9

"He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"
^{NLT} Luke 2:32

Children of God journey from this dark world into His Kingdom of Light.

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son..." ^{ESV} Colossians 1:13

"for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light..." ^{NAS} Ephesians 5:8

Jesus is the Light of rescue for the lost, comfort for the hurting, wholeness for the broken, and escape for the captive. He is the Light of joy, the Light of revelation, and the Light of salvation. Jesus' birth signals an end of night and the beginning of morning light.

"...Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."" ^{NAS} John 8:12

Jesus tells His followers that they are light in the darkness. They reflect His light.

"You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." ^{ESV} Matthew 5:14-16

Chaplains have the privilege of serving in a ministry of Presence, a ministry that carries God's Light, taking His warming Presence to people where the unwelcome shades of death and grief have come. As first responders bring protection, rescue, and medical help; God brings Light, peace, and comfort through the 9-1-1 chaplains.

On a cold February winter day, 38 years ago, as my husband Doug and I (Debbie) were standing at our 4 year old son's gravesite on the day he was being laid to rest, a gentleman, Chaplain Landis Epp, stood next to us, bringing God's presence and warmth. He put his hand on my shoulder and it felt like it was the hand of God, bringing me a peace that I didn't understand at the time, but now in retrospect, realized he was God's servant, being there for us on behalf of God. I'm forever grateful to him for being there on one of our most difficult days.

God Himself is the very first responder when His servants encounter dark, difficult, and deadly situations in this broken world.

"Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." ^{NAU} Isaiah 41:10

"Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me." ^{NAU} Micah 7:8

During this Christmas season, be encouraged that Jesus the Messiah, the Light of the world, has come and is now manifested through His servants. Through Jesus' sacrificial death, he offers forgiveness, hope and light to anyone willing to trust Him as Lord and receive His gift of salvation.

May your hearts and homes be filled with joy in the Light of His Presence.

Debbie Zitt, Chaplain

*We at CWC really do thank you for your faithful support. Your prayers and donations have kept us going for so many years now. We are continually seeing doors open in our community and don't take that responsibility lightly. Continue to pray for us as we serve the community and first responders. We want to be His light in dark places! **Thank you, and Merry Christmas!!***

County-Wide Chaplaincy is a non-profit ministry

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Or you can go straight to it with the following web address:

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