

It was bitter cold on the battlefields of Flanders in Belgium, where Germans filled one trench and the British and French filled the others. The European War, which would eventually become World War I, had been brutal, and this particular standoff had left men on both sides battered, exhausted, and demoralized. But on Christmas day, 1914, several German soldiers fashioned Christmas trees out of fallen branches, decorated them with candles and small pieces of equipment, and placed them just outside the trenches in no-man's land. At first, the British and French took shots at the trees, but all firing ceased when they heard a clear, strong German voice singing, "Stille nacht, heilige nacht..." The language was unfamiliar, but the tune was unmistakable. Soon, British and French joined, "Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright!"

Oh, how the soldiers had longed for a silent night! With the promise shouted across the battlefield, "You no shoot, we no shoot," the men ventured into no-man's land, wishing their enemies a merry Christmas. Men who had been shooting at each other just hours before put down their weapons, buried each others' dead, exchanged gifts, shared a meal, and even played a soccer match.

This event nearly ended the war, with the spontaneous, unofficial truce lasting in many areas until almost New Year's Day. But the officers of high command, determined to continue the bloodshed, threatened the transformed soldiers, "Shoot, or we will...and not at the enemy!" Sadly, the killing eventually resumed.

Is there ever a greater need for the gospel of peace than in the cold, lonely, bloody trenches of life? In the midst of describing a Christian's armor and weapons in spiritual warfare, Paul tells us to shod our feet with "the preparation of the gospel of *peace*" (Eph. 6:15). What role does *peace* play in war? Ask any soldier...the prospect of *peace* gives *hope*! Therefore, we must always be ready to run quickly to spread a message of hope and peace to those entrenched in life's battles. Our shoes are not defenses (running away) but *weapons*, used to counterattack Satan's strategy of hopelessness.

Our Savior said, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me, you may have *peace*. In the world, you have tribulation, but take courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33) Hear these words through the ears of a family of five having to choose between buying groceries or paying the heating bill, or a father receiving news that his son is dead because he was driving drunk, or a teenager coming home from school to find that her dad has left her family. These people need medics to treat their battle wounds. They need the gospel of peace. Who will run to them? Will you?

Even in war, the gospel of peace can turn enemies into comrades, battlefields into soccer fields, and the endless rapport of artillery into silent nights.

O ye who read this truthful rhyme from Flanders, kneel and say:

"God speed the time when every day shall be as Christmas day." (Frederick Niven)



December 25, 2011

Assembly Times

Sunday Class	9:00 A.M.	Assembly
	10:15 A.M.	LIFE Groups
	6:00 P.M.	Wednesday
	7:00 P.M.	

102 N. Garden Ridge—Lewisville 75067

972-221-3561

Website: www.gardenridge.org



Struggling with hurts, habits or hang-ups?

Ready for solutions?

Come to Celebrate Recovery

Wednesday Time: From 7 to 8

Room: 222

Come and join us .

Family News

Garden Ridge Church of Christ

Pray For...

Jim Williams: Broken shoulder
 Brian Jones: healing from shoulder surgery
 Carmen Biggs: Dad's cancer has possibly returned
 Katherine Screeton: in hospital
 LouNell Bouchelle: Surgery possibility
 Keith Helms: Chemo
 Zach Cortez: Healing & in hospital
 Wayne Farley: cancer treatment
 Surita Hatton: Continued treatment and healing
 Linda Townsley's brother—bladder cancer
 Marriages
 People facing lay offs...families out of work

Upcoming Events....

Jan 4: New Wednesday night classes
 Jan 8: Baby Shower for Cofer grandson
 Feb 10-12: Ladies Retreat at Sky Ranch
 March 3: LCS Auction
 April 28 & 29: 50th Anniversary of GR

Sign up for Ladies Winter Retreat starts
 January 8th



Sky Ranch, February 10-12

According to Him...

His Divine Power has given us everything we need for life

2 Peter 1:3

New Christmas Programs



WINTER CALENDAR CHANGES!

No Huddles/Velocity

There will be no Huddles/Velocity on Wednesday, December 28 due to Christmas/New Years break. They will resume on January 4.

No Sunday Morning Class

There will be no Sunday morning class on Christmas day. There will be service at 10:15 in the auditorium. There WILL be class on New Year's Day.

JANUARY 20

-21

"Twelve"



Winterfest is a youth rally weekend at the convention center in Arlington, usually with over 1,000 middle and high school students.

This year's theme is "Twelve." Students will learn about spiritual disciplines and will be inspired to take responsibility in the Kingdom of God.

For more info about Winterfest go to:

www.winterfest.org

Winterfest is Friday evening and all day Saturday, January 20-21. The cost is \$35 (add \$13 if you want a shirt).

To go, give your money to Trane or Josh no later than Sunday, January 8th

Reaching Out.

Sharing Jesus.

Changing Lives.