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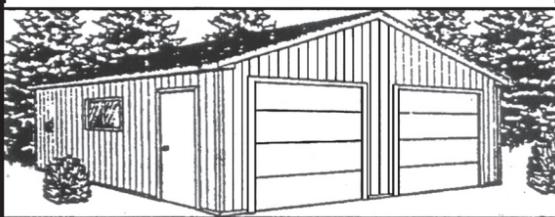
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## Christian Perspective

### Peace On Earth Good Will to Men

Reverend William Randall

Chaplain Muskegon Rescue Mission

"Peace on earth good will to men," as spoken by the angels on the night of Jesus' birth is a nice Christmas thought. It gives feelings of hope, but yet when you look around it sounds like a contradiction. The words of a familiar Christmas carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, express my thoughts, "There is no peace on earth I said, for hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth good will to men."

Our nation is being torn apart by hate. Martin Luther King's dream has been left in the dust; racism is at an all-time high. Our nation is also obsessed with sexual immorality. I remember when objections were voiced against the explicit sex-education that was offered in our schools. The school boards just laughed at us because they were in power. Now those children are adults and we are reaping the harvest of that decision. Sadly, churches just look the other way and say, "We have to go along with it, we don't want to be legalistic." Yet God's laws never change. It is time for Christians to repent and cry out for God's mercy and healing of our land. Leaders in all levels of community involvement need to call for respect of authority. Concerned citizens need to be aware of the deceitful intentions of those controlling the news media. Their support of anarchy and total disrespect for law and order is divisive and is undermining the very foundations of our Nation. America needs to be One Nation Under God.

Longfellow wrote, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," during the Civil War. His son Charley ran away from home at age seventeen to join President Lincoln's army. On November 27 Charley was shot in Virginia. Longfellow went to Washington and brought his son, who was barely alive, back to Cambridge, Massachusetts. While nursing him back to health on Christmas Day December 25, 1863 Henry wrote this plaintive carol against the backdrop of war. Two stanzas are omitted from most hymnals; they speak of cannons thundering in the south and of hatred tearing apart the hearth-stones of a continent.

Jesus said, "You shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, see that ye be not troubled: for all of these things must come to pass." Matthew 24:6. Today we face Islamic terrorism, North Korea and Iran's nuclear capabilities and hatred toward America and toward Israel. A sobering fact is that Russian military forces have replaced the Syrian regime's military presence in Southern Syria. Russia intends to maintain a military presence near Israel's northern border. One can see the ground being laid for aggression foretold in Ezekiel Chapter 38. Praise God, the chapter tells of the utter defeat of the forces from the north, which would be Russia, Iran, Libya, etc.

We can conclude with Longfellow's positive line, "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep, the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth goodwill to men."

In these troubling times there is a promise of inner peace, spiritual peace to all who trust in Jesus as their Savior. The ultimate peace on earth will be realized when Jesus comes in His earthly kingdom. A personal acceptance of Jesus will grant to each believer a peace that the world could never impart. We can and should pray that His Kingdom shall come, and His will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Enjoy His peace this Christmas!

## Are Christian parents interested?

The First Congregational Church of Fruitport is interested in sponsoring either or both, **AMERICAN HERITAGE** girls group and **TRAIL LIFE USA** boys group. The troops are similar to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts except they come from a Christian standpoint.

Are there people who would like to have their kids be part of a group like these, and are there people who would like to be a helper or to be in a leadership role in either a boys group or a girls group? If there are, please call 231-865-6370.

## A 21th Letter to America

America and the World has gotten more and more anti-God, the Word of God, His Laws and Commandments, and His People.

Ignorance and disobedience of God's Laws abounds.

Mankind is putting God's abundant love to the test. Man can't even follow His command to "love your neighbor (which means everybody)." Some examples are North Korea, Iran, and the Muslim world. Iran wants nukes so they can kill all Israelites and Americans. North Korea wants many nukes so they can wipeout American cities and the millions of humans there, plus other nations, which in the past have been historical enemies.

Mohammad, the self-proclaimed prophet was right in seeking the Living God of his forefather Abraham, but his choice to start the Islam Religion, was wrong, and is a disaster.

He was wrong, because, thousands of years earlier, God had already decided the path His Word was to be passed to His Chosen people and the World. It was not to be through Abraham's first born, Ishmael, son of Hagar, the Egyptian, Sarah's maid. It was through his second son Isaac, and Isaac's twin son Jacob, who's name God changed to Israel. God made covenants with all three; Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel.

It was to Israel and his seed that God gave the Holy Land, to own forever.

Islam has been disastrous to the world and Islam followers. They have murdered over 200 million people in their misguided belief that their God tells them to kill everybody who does not believe in Allah. Their cruel inhumanity is still displayed daily. Missing, is God's love.

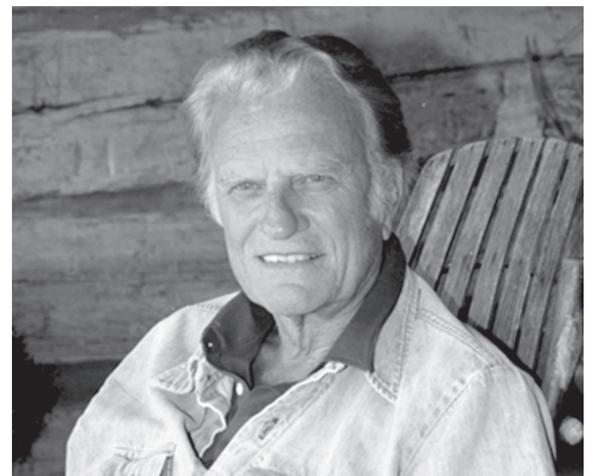
At first Mohammad said, Islam, the Jewish, and Christians, were following the same God. He called the others, "The People of the Book" (meaning the Word of God). Unfortunately, Islam failed to read and learn God's Word.

If they had done so, they would have found God's salvation plan for Mankind was already clearly stated in the Old and New Testaments. And that God had paid "in full" for Man's sins, by the shedding of Jesus' (Divine) blood on a rugged cross. Jesus Christ, the Word of God, made flesh by God Almighty, who called Him His only begotten son.

**SEEK GOD'S ONLY WAY!**

Manuel Ybarra, Jr. 17472 CR 3765, Coalgate, Ok 74538 Phone # (580)-428-3242

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## Billy Graham turns 99 years old, entering his 100th year

On Nov. 7, Billy Graham turned 99 years old. Guests from around the nation came to celebrate him at the Billy Graham Library, signing his birthday banner and eating his favorite type of cake: lemon cake with lard icing.

As Rev. Graham enters his 100th year, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association plans to honor him with a yearlong observation by highlighting significant moments of his life and ministry.

"My father always wants the focus to be on the Lord Jesus Christ, and not on him; and so we will point to the amazing ways God has worked in lives around the world, through the ministry of Billy Graham," said Rev. Graham's son, Franklin Graham.

To see special content throughout the year and to share your memories of Billy Graham, visit [www.billygraham.org](http://www.billygraham.org).