

Briefing Document: A Puppets' Christmas Message: “No God, No Peace-
Know God, Know Peace”

Executive Summary

This document synthesizes the core themes from the "A Puppets' Christmas Message" event, presented by NewLifeBenson on December 21, 2025. The presentation integrates a puppet-led retelling of the Nativity story with an in-depth sermon focused on the concept of spiritual peace. The central argument posits that true, inner peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of God, achievable only through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the "Prince of Peace."

The sermon, delivered by a speaker named "Ranger Bob," identifies sin as the fundamental barrier separating humanity from God and, consequently, from peace. The resolution to this problem is presented as salvation—a free gift from God received through faith in Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection. The message strongly emphasizes the necessity of trusting God completely and abandoning reliance on one's own understanding, a principle supported by personal testimony and scriptural promises. The event culminates in a direct call to action, inviting attendees to accept Jesus as their savior or to rededicate their lives to this principle of absolute trust.

Part I: The Christmas Narrative - A Puppet Presentation

The event's first half utilized a puppet show to recount the biblical story of Jesus's birth from the perspective of the shepherds.

- **Prophecy and Personal Struggle:** The narrative began with the puppets discussing the Messianic prophecy from *Isaiah* 9:6. This biblical hope was contrasted with their personal lack of peace, which they attributed to the daily stresses of their work and a government-mandated census.
- **The Angelic Annunciation:** The puppets recounted the shepherds' experience of an angel's sudden appearance, which initially caused great fear. The angel's message, however, was one of reassurance and joy: *"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*
- **The Heavenly Proclamation of Peace:** The narrative highlighted that the angel was joined by a "multitude of the heavenly host" who praised God, proclaiming, *"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"* This established the direct link between the Savior's birth and the availability of peace on Earth.

- **The Shepherds' Witness:** Following the angels' departure, the shepherds resolved to go to Bethlehem to see the event the Lord had made known to them. They found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus lying in a manger, just as the angel had described. After seeing the child, they shared what they had been told, and all who heard it marveled. The puppets concluded their story by stating they returned to their flock "glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen."

Part II: Ranger Bob's Sermon - "Knowing God, Knowing Peace"

The second half of the event featured a sermon by "Ranger Bob" that explored the nature of peace, the obstacles to achieving it, and the definitive solution offered through Christianity.

The Central Problem: The Absence of True Peace

Ranger Bob began by acknowledging the difficulty of finding peace amid the stresses of the Christmas season, including financial pressures and social obligations. He then offered a theological definition to frame the discussion:

"Peace is not the absence of conflict... Peace is not the absence of stress, not the absence of problems... it's the presence of God."

The Barrier to Peace: Sin

The sermon identified sin as the primary obstacle preventing individuals from experiencing this God-given peace.

- **Universal Condition:** Sin is a universal human condition that falls short of God's standard, as stated in *Romans 3:23*: "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"

- **Spiritual Separation:** Sin creates a separation between individuals and God. This was supported by two passages from Isaiah:

- *Isaiah 64:6*: "*But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags.*"

- *Isaiah 59:2*: "*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.*"

- **Consequences of Separation:** This separation has temporal and eternal consequences. For a believer, unaddressed sin can negatively affect their relationship with God and diminish their peace. For an unbeliever, this separation leads to eternal separation from God in hell.

The Path to Peace: Justification Through Christ¹

The solution to the problem of sin and the only path to true peace is faith in Jesus Christ, who is identified by the title from Isaiah as the "Prince of Peace."

- **Peace with God:** The sermon clarifies that peace is achieved through reconciliation with God, made possible by Jesus. This is based on *Romans 5:1*: "*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

- **The Gospel Message:** This justification is rooted in the foundational events of Christian belief:

- **Christ's Atoning Death:** Christ died for humanity's sins while they were still sinners (*Romans 5:8, 1 Peter 3:18*).

- **Christ's Resurrection:** Christ was buried and rose again on the third day, securing victory over death (*1 Corinthians 15:3-4*).

The Requirement of Faith: Trust Over Understanding

A recurring theme was the necessity of complete trust in God over self-reliance.

- **Core Principle:** This concept was anchored in *Proverbs 3:5-6*: "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*"

- **Personal Testimony:** Ranger Bob shared his personal struggle against a mindset of self-sufficiency ("pull yourself up by your bootstraps") and the ongoing process of learning to trust God instead of his own reasoning.

- **Peace in Tribulation:** This trust does not eliminate life's storms but provides peace within them. Ranger Bob testified to experiencing God's peace and faithfulness following the death of his wife by leaning on scriptural promises, including:

- *Romans 8:28*: "*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*"

- *Jeremiah 29:11*: "*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*"

Part III: The Call to Action - The Gift of Salvation

The sermon concluded by presenting salvation as a gift and extending an invitation for the audience to receive it.

- **Salvation as a Free Gift:** Using the analogy of Christmas presents, Ranger Bob explained that salvation cannot be earned or purchased. It is a gift of God's grace, received through

faith, as outlined in *Ephesians 2:8-9*: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

- **The Invitation:** The audience was presented with a clear path to accepting this gift:

1. **Admit** to being a sinner.
2. **Repent** and believe the gospel (*Mark 1:15*).
3. **Confess** with the mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in the heart that God raised Him from the dead (*Romans 10:9*).
4. **Call** on the name of the Lord to be saved (*Romans 10:13*).

- **The Result of Salvation:** A primary benefit of accepting Christ is becoming a child of God, as stated in *John 1:12*: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

- **The Concluding Prayer:** The event culminated in Ranger Bob leading the audience in a guided prayer. The prayer was offered as an opportunity for individuals to either accept Jesus as their savior for the first time or to rededicate their lives to the principle of trusting God with all their heart.

Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Emmanuel ¹	<i>ih-man-yoo-el</i>	A Hebrew name that is transliterated into Greek. It means "God with us" and is used in the Bible as a prophetic name for the Messiah (Jesus).
Christ ¹	<i>krayst</i>	From the Greek word <i>Christos</i> , meaning "the anointed one." It is a title for Jesus, signifying His role as the prophesied Messiah or Savior.