

# PEACE

by Doreen Decore  
Drumheller, Alta.

“May the Lord give strength to His people. May the Lord bless His people with peace” (Psalm 29:11).

In our busy and high stress world we are constantly living on the edge. We worry and fret over things to be completed, or that have been done incorrectly. Some of these are trivial when we stop to look at them, but, nevertheless, they sometimes cause panic. At times they may cause us to become physically ill.



As we begin the Advent season there seems to be a great deal of time spent on the material things of Christmas. Some shop for hours for just the right gift for that special friend or loved one. The Christmas dinner has to have the table decorated just so. Our dinner must have the traditional family food and the latest recipe from the magazine. Our homes must have the newest decorations both inside and out. Everything has to be just perfect. In doing all these things we stress ourselves to the limit and when Christmas Day finally comes we can be too tired to enjoy it.

It is much more peaceful to sit by the fireplace in a rocking chair reading your favourite book. Even better is to go for a walk when the snowflakes are gently coming down. I remember watching the television program, *Little House on the Prairie*. After

their day of working they always seemed to have time to sit by the fire. Pa would be playing music. Ma would be darning socks and the children would be knitting. All seemed to be at peace.

But even seeking peace and calm at home will not make us any more ready for what is to come. However you get ready for Christmas, focus on the true meaning tends to take second place. But what can be more important than waiting for the birth of Jesus? Mary and Joseph were journeying to Bethlehem so Joseph could pay his taxes. It was not a peaceful journey. It was not peaceful when they arrived in Bethlehem. However, the innkeeper gave them room in his stable. There in a stable Mary gave birth to Jesus and laid Him to rest in a manger. It was a peaceful place for the new baby and His parents with only the animals present. But even that peace would not last.

For true peace—lasting peace—would only come through the Cross. It is not peace as the world seeks it, but peace as the Father demands it; peace through a perfect sacrifice and the payment of blood; peace through a holy life, death and resurrection. This is the gift of Christmas wrapped up in swaddling cloths and lying in that manger.

And it is a peace God wants to see interrupt your busy and hectic lives. Can you imagine being the lowly shepherds in the field who were peacefully keeping watch over their sheep, when suddenly the angels appeared announcing the birth of Jesus? Their peace was broken, but with gladness, as they journeyed to Bethlehem. Their lives got busier telling everyone they met of the Good News they had seen and heard. But they were okay with that, for God had given them true peace. No matter how busy you are this Advent season, remember that peace is yours today!

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, be with us as we prepare for our Saviour's birth. Help us focus on the true meaning of Christmas and not get caught up in the worldly things around us that will soon disappear. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Prepared by the Christian Growth  
Committee

© 2011 LWML-Canada