

## **Christmas break-through**

Luke's Gospel presents God's message to us as a promise of "Peace on earth" Luke 2.14. But then Luke goes on to talk of "distress of nations, with perplexity" Luke 21.25.

Is this a contradiction? Peace...Distress. Can these two apparently opposed statements be explained? Yes.

First, there is peace on earth now amongst those who believe in the Prince of Peace, "the Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" Luke 2.11, whom God sent into the world.

This is God's break-through. But, second, not everyone is a believer. So at this Christmas time, right now, two conditions are present in our world – (1) people enjoying God's peace in their hearts. (2) At the same time, distress among the nations because so many people are leaving God out of their lives.

Even in Australia, many are in distress and perplexed. They too need God's message – "on earth peace, good will toward men" Luke 2.14.

Third, how can we be a blessing to these people? What can prompt them to reach out to God, and find the peace that only He can bring to their troubled hearts.

Let us pray that the true Christmas message might break through to many of them.

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### **GOOD NEWS IN BRIEF**

Christ's best advertisement? Is it seeing how He blesses the lives of believers?

**Ken Packer**