

Christmas Day 2017 Prayer Watch

To the Church behind the walls in Indiana:

Know that you are not forgotten! You are valued, needed and prayed for. May Christmas Day of 2017 fill you with perfect peace and great joy that can only be found in Jesus. The Christmas season can bring to light precious memories from the past or remind us of pain from the past and present. There are some, or perhaps many, who feel deep loneliness and pain during the Christmas season, whether in prison or walking the streets.

What was that first Christmas like? For Joseph and Mary the trip to Bethlehem would have been about 80 miles. A grueling journey through a mountainous landscape, especially for a pregnant woman. Mary and Joseph were completely separated from all their family and supporting friends. Did they feel rejected when they were told there was no room for them at the inn? How did they feel when they laid their little baby in a manger, a feeding trough for animals? This all points to a lonely birth and dark, dirty surroundings. What about the shepherds? They were regarded as social outcasts and had bad reputations. Shepherds and thieves were thought to be one and the same. They were filthy and smelled like sheep. The shepherds were considered losers, rejects, outcasts. They were like vagrants that moved about the country. They were also considered con men whose word was not trusted in a court of law. Shepherds at the time of Jesus were at the bottom of society's list, barely above lepers. So isn't it just like God to reveal the birth of His son to lowly shepherds on a remote hillside. God did not choose the educated, the shakers and movers, or the religious leaders of that time. He chose the shepherds.

Please read Luke 2:8-20 and imagine you are one of these shepherds. It's night and you are watching sheep. All of the sudden an angel appears and the night sky lights up with God's glory. You might be on your face in fear. Then this angel says to you, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of the great joy. Jesus Christ the Savior is born this day, you will find a Baby in swaddling cloths lying in a manger." And suddenly there appears with the angel an army of the troops of heaven praising God. Then the angels went away from them into heaven. The shepherds did not say, "Man, this is one crazy dream. I do not know if I believe all of this crazy stuff." No, they did not doubt, they believed. The shepherds did not waste a second. With haste they searched for Jesus and found the Baby lying in a manger. And when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. After all the things they had heard and seen, they returned glorifying and praising God. So my friends in prison, that night more than 2,000 years ago, God chose these gypsy like shepherds to be the first, outside of Joseph and Mary, to hear the Good News! That same God is looking down into your prison right now and on Christmas Day 2017. He wants to reveal His son Jesus to you just like He did to those shepherds on that first Christmas Day. Here's the vision, here is the call: A Christmas Day prayer watch of Indiana prisoners.

100's of Indiana prisoners repenting of their sins, humbly seeking God and agreeing in prayer on the following prayer points. He will hear! Please read Matthew 18:19

You can make a powerful impact for God's Kingdom on Christmas Day by praying. I joyfully look forward to joining with you in prayer on Christmas Day and I trust there will be others on the streets praying with you as well.

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Prayer Points

- Joy and peace would rain down on Indiana prisons
- Those in Indiana prisons would know and believe and experience Jesus' presence in their camp and know that He is with them
- Prisoners would understand and believe and ask God to use them just as He did with the shepherds on that night more than 2,000 years ago
- By the power of many Indiana prisoners agreeing in prayer on Christmas Day that the name of Jesus would become famous and that His fame would spread
- Pray any additional points that the Holy Spirit guides you to

God bless!!