

"Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you."

(John 14:28)



If you have a Christmas dream, what would it be?

John Lennon (a founding member of Beatles)

mused, "Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one."

Mother Teresa said, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

Peace is such a precious commodity that the world is short of – Theatres of international conflict and tension span the whole world. Nobody can gainsay that World War III will not arrive by accident or design.

This brings me to a heartwarming story that is on the Internet about a war during Christmas. To be precise, it was World War I:



"Five months into the first World War, troops along the Western front took a Christmas Eve break from fighting to sing carols to one another across the battlefield. The following morning, German soldiers emerged from the trenches

and began to approach Allied troops while calling out "Merry Christmas" in English. Luckily, it wasn't a trick; dozens of British fighters came out to greet them and shake hands, some even exchanging cigarettes as gifts. Later dubbed the Christmas Truce of 1914, it was one of the last examples of wartime chivalry."

We are familiar with the Christmas message of peace and goodwill to all men.

I am a good dreamer, and I feel that it is good to be able to dream good dreams to alleviate the stresses of reading the incessant bad news about the potentialities of flare-ups from the stupidity of sabre-rattlers on the world stage.

I think I had a good dream that the spirit of Christmas would wield its magic whereby John Lennon's imagination which I share would become reality.

The Christmas Truce of 1914 is worth telling to militarists and jingoists. There is no waiting for WWII; acts of peace and goodwill would forestall a no-win calamity of mutual annihilation.

These are wise words from John Hendrix: "When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace."

If I have no chance of telling my dream to the big players in whose hand world peace rests, I may just satisfy with telling the dream of peace to smaller players like you and me whose meeting stations (workplaces, neighbourhoods, etc.) are also places where amity and freedom from strife remain as precious gems hard to grasp.

This is time that we receive Christmas wishes and New Year greetings galore:

- "As you celebrate the miracle of this special season may your heart be filled with joy and peace."
- "May the glorious message of peace and love fill you with joy during this wonderful season."
- "During this Christmas season may you enjoy the message of hope, love, and peace on earth."
- "With greetings of peace and prosperity, I'm wishing the very best for you during this special time."
- "As you celebrate the glory of this miraculous season, may your home be filled with love, peace, and joy. May these blessings follow you throughout the New Year."

On Dec 23, 1959, Pope John XXIII said, "From World War II right up to the present time, what a variety of utterances, what an abuse of this sacred word: peace, peace." (Jer. 6:14)

Note that “the present time” *referred* to by the Pope was 1959. As you read this now, it is 2013. Do you realise that the lament of the Pope has not diminished in validity?

The Pope added:

“We pay homage to the good will of the many guides and proclaimers of peace in the world: statesmen, experienced diplomats and influential writers.

But human efforts in the matter of universal peace-making are still far from the point where heaven and earth meet.

The fact is that true peace cannot come save from God. It has only one name: the peace of Christ. It has one aspect, that impressed on it by Christ who, as if to anticipate the counterfeits of man, emphasized: ‘Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you’ (John 14:28).”

Not just statesmen, experienced diplomats and influential writers, but also ordinary people like you and me, ought to pay attention to the fact that the source of peace can only be Jesus Christ. The world can have real peace only if it does not shut out the Holy Light. (John 8:12)

If the world is deaf to the real message of Christmas peace and goodwill to all men, we can still receive this peace and spirit of goodwill in our soul when we believe in Christ and have Him in our heart.



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