



# *The Prince of Peace*

**A** particularly busy and challenging time in my ministry had forced Wanda and I, Tyrone, Marigold and Jesse to arrive late at Wanda's parents' for Christmas. A late departure from St. John's, coupled with snow-covered and slippery road conditions, brought further frustration. Arriving in Corner Brook, I unpacked our gifts and luggage. Weary to the bone, I retired for the evening.

On Christmas Eve, the whole family attended the church service. As I sat in the pew, I gave a deep sigh of relief and willed myself to relax. The children's choir warmed my heart and the carol singing soothed my spirit, the lyrics reminding me once again of the greatest gift of all...Jesus.

We exited the church into a winter wonderland; a fresh blanket of white, fluffy snow had fallen while we worshiped. Returning to Wanda's parents, I assisted her with wrapping last-minute gifts. Her father and I had a cup of tea and a slice of Mrs. Vincent's homemade bread and partridgeberry jam. Jesse joined us in the mug-up. Looking out the window upon the city of Corner Brook, I marveled at the beauty of the night. Jesse and I bundled up in our parkas, snow-boots, caps and mitts, and went for a walk in the seniors' neighbourhood.

The light snow formed a snow angel's paradise. Jesse and I lay in the snow and made snow angels. The night was quiet,

the stars were shining and thick steam billowed from the stack of the pulp and paper mill. As I immersed myself in the sweet stillness, the spirit of the beloved carol, "Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright," enveloped my soul. There was no room in my heart for anything but contentment and thanksgiving.

Looking at Jesse, who was still making snow angels, I became poignantly conscious again that Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace. As I lay in the snow with my grandson, the worries of life and work were behind me and I breathed in the gift of peace, allowing it to carry me. God wrapped me in His blanket of peace in a way that only He can.

My prayer for each of you this Christmas is that you will seek out those moments of stillness, not only during Christmas but also in the year to come. In the midst of busyness, work, family and life's responsibilities, may you breathe in Christ's peace and allow it to carry you through your days. And, please do it with your family.

On behalf of the staff of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland and Labrador, Religious Book & Bible House and Good Tidings Press, I wish you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous new year. 🌍

*—Pastor Clarence Buckle, General Secretary-Treasurer*