



Christmas: From the Cradle to the Cross

December, 2015

Dear Prince Families:

The school's hallways are eerily void of the sounds of children who breathe life and energy into our daily routine as we pursue our goal of providing the best college preparatory education possible with the resources you have invested. These brief, somewhat solemn moments in the life of a school afford the opportunity for genuine reflection on the real story of Christmas. How blessed we are to live in a nation that allows us to freely honor the Christ born two millennia ago in a small Judean village, a baby sent by God for one purpose - to save us.

Parenting often finds us in various stages of "controlled chaos" with the best schedule and carpooling plan occasionally thwarted by the elusive, rouge book bag, musical instrument, P.E. uniform, or piece of athletic equipment that mysteriously, and to your student's horrid discovery, "vanishes" as your car pulls onto the school's grounds. This is the same item later found by the garage door upon



“God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the Church, your family, and our school provide factual absolutes about the story of Christmas to the young and impressionable minds temporarily entrusted to our care, and a safe harbor in a society replete with confusing messages about ‘Christmas culture.’”

your return home. As we struggle in this increasingly chaotic world, the baby born in Bethlehem patiently sits at the right hand of the Father serving as our advocate.

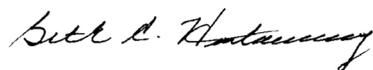
Jesus, the Christ, is the Prince of Peace in a world with terror, the Mighty Counselor for families in crisis, and the Resurrection and the Life for the seekers and the lost around us. In Matthew 5:15 the Bible states, “He calls us to light up the world with good works, so that in doing so we draw people to glorify God.” As the salt and light in a world growing increasingly darker, Christmas presents an opportune time for us to demonstrate Christ’s love by acting out our faith in our local communities. In today’s politically correct society, demonstrating His love may be as simple as wishing someone a “Merry Christmas” that can serve as a catalyst for an honest and fact filled discussion about Christ’s journey from the cradle to cross.

The Christmas story, prophetically foretold right down to the city some seven or eight centuries before Christ’s birth, highlights the difference between the real meaning of Christmas and the secular “culture of Christmas” driven by the insatiable consumer-driven appetites of our capitalistic-centric society. As believers we rejoice in the truth, knowledge, and comfort that Christmas represents the greatest rescue mission the world

has ever known. That the story of our Savior, who descended from the presence of angels to the filth of a stable, whose life from swaddling clothes to the folded garments in an empty tomb, was all unfolded for us through His unconditional love. God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the Church, your family, and our school provide factual absolutes about the story of Christmas to the young and impressionable minds temporarily entrusted to our care, and a safe harbor in a society replete with confusing messages about “Christmas culture.” Thank you for your continued partnership in Christian education as we lay the foundation for tomorrow’s leaders for Christ.

Last Friday morning during our faculty and staff devotions, we prayed that the Christmas story would not be limited to the cradle but include the cross as we remain thankful to worship a living God and that “He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9: 6-7). Christmas through the lens of young people is a magical time filled with excitement, thanksgiving, and hope; Merry Christmas Prince Avenue families.

With warm regards and in His service,



Col Seth Hathaway

Head of School