

9
SEPTEMBER
64 DAYS

...one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, 'No more of this!' And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

Luke 22:49-51 (NIV)

WHEN FIGHTING STOPS

The work of the Religious Affairs Branch of the British Element of the Control Commission Germany between 1945 and 1950, helped to involve the German and British churches in the establishment of a society where human dignity was to be respected. Its work helped the German churches to recognise that they had something to offer to the new state. Its work helped the British churches understand that the light of Christ's love had never been fully extinguished during the dreadful years of the Nazi era. It helped both to understand that change was needed to achieve reconciliation.

The man of war may raise the sword during conflict but once it is over there is a new task. The disciples could not have healed the High Priest's severed ear, but Jesus could and did. In doing so he gave an example for all those who would follow him. We need to recognise that the need to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and give freedom to prisoners of war, has a particular urgency in the aftermath of conflict.



PRAYER

O God, when we have destroyed infrastructure to win a war so that others are hungry and homeless, help us to move swiftly to ensure that the vulnerable do not continue to suffer once the fighting has finished, that we may become peacemakers, for we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

ACTION

In any current conflict think what is the first thing that will need to be done once the fighting stops and then consider how that might be achieved.

Rev Dr Peter Howson is a Methodist Minister who served for 25 years as an army chaplain who is Secretary of the Society for Army Historical research and writer of books on army chaplaincy.

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SEPTEMBER
70 DAYS

I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.
John 14:27 (NLT)

Kathryn Morgan is a Baptist minister and Company Secretary of the Christian Enquiry Agency which runs www.christianity.org.uk.

A MAN OF PEACE ?

As a young Christian, this promise from Jesus of inner peace became precious. Recently married, living in a new area, teaching in secondary school, was not conducive to such peace. But this gift was transformational. My inner life changed from 'jagged black and white' into a blend of beautiful colours. Since then this 'inner peace' has served me well. When I have lost it, it has been time to take stock of my life and sort out some issues. If big decisions have been required, the peace or

lack of it has guided me. Faced with scary new challenges, this verse has set me on a calmer path, reminding me that I never face the future alone. What a gift!

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Thank you that into a turbulent world you sent Jesus, the Prince of Peace, through whom we may have peace with you. Grant again today to your servant the gift of peace in mind and heart, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen

4
SEPTEMBER
69 DAYS

This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you.
John 15:12-13 (MSG)

Richard Longfoot is Chaplain of Peterborough United Football Club.

LOVE AND HOPE

The flow of love from God the Father, through his Son is as the life giving sap flowing through the vine in Jesus' parable. The same love flows through us, in the power of the Holy Spirit, bringing the possibility of the fruit of hope and peace in those we meet. For Jesus it showed itself in sacrificial commitment. We give thanks for those who have made sacrificial commitments for us over the years and hope and pray that we may be channels of the same love today. May a needy and

desperate world know the same depth of healing love.

PRAYER

God of Peace, may the world know more of your love. May we all learn to show sacrificial love to those who we meet each day. God of Love, may the healing fruits of your Holy Spirit bring peace to your world. God of Hope, please use us as fruitful channels of your love today. Amen

5

SEPTEMBER
68 DAYS

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

Vicky Roberts

served as an officer in the British Army for 25 years in the UK, continental Europe, Africa and USA.

PEACE PRESENCE

As a parent, I often think of peace as the absence of noise, and as a soldier, the absence of fighting. But as a Christian I have come to realise that peace isn't the absence of anything, rather the presence. It comes from a strong inner trust or hope that things will turn out OK; that we need not fear or be anxious. Whilst 'Don't worry' is easier said than done, God has made it simple for anyone to be filled with peace: trust in him, pray and ask with a thankful heart. I cannot think of anyone

better qualified to handle my problems (or yours) or anyone more worthy of our trust, than the creator of heaven and earth.

PRAYER

Lord God, thank you that you offer each of us your peace, which surpasses all understanding. I am sorry for the times when I have not trusted you. I place my worries, and leave them, at the cross, and receive your peace. In the power of your Holy Spirit, Amen

6

SEPTEMBER
67 DAYS

Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake... Jesus... got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, 'What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!'

Matthew 8:21-27 (NIV)

Fred Drummond

oversees of the work of the Evangelical Alliance in Scotland, and serves on the UK EA leadership team.

JESUS CALMER OF STORMS

'What kind of man is this?' He is the one whom winds and waves obey. Jesus, the one with power to calm every storm. He is the one to calm storms of nature, storms within us and storms between us. Jesus, the *shalom* of God, who brings peace and wholeness into our damaged and fragmented lives.

Lord have mercy upon us and bring peace and make us peacemakers.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, bringer of peace, hope, and reconciliation. We pray for those of us facing storms in our lives - may you calm them in your victorious love. We pray for the war torn places of our world that you would pour out words that bring healing and restoration. Through your death and resurrection we have peace. Through your risen life we have hope. In Jesus name. Amen

7

SEPTEMBER
66 DAYS

'If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.' This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness.

Revelation 13:10 (NIV)

Edward Royle

is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of York and President of the Wesley Historical Society

WAR AND HUMAN CHOICES

The student of international relations may be tempted to search through history for the causes of past wars and then form the impression that at some point war became inevitable. In fact nothing is inevitable. Only the One who stands outside time and space can see the whole picture. We merely impose patterns on events and forget that events are shaped by what humankind chooses to do or not do. Wars break out when we lose faith in our ability to create our own futures; we convince

ourselves that diplomacy has failed and that war is the only way to prevent war; and so we have wars and we absolve ourselves of blame by saying that they had become inevitable.

PRAYER

Lord teach us to have faith in your strength, and give us the courage to continue the struggle for peace and right relations at all times, especially when all seems lost. We believe you have already won for us the victory.

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SEPTEMBER
65 DAYS

Now may God, the inspiration and fountain of hope, fill you to overflowing with uncontainable joy and perfect peace as you trust in him.

Romans 15:13 (TPT)

Sue Sinclair

has led Community Watchmen Ministries (CWM) since 2002 and is the author of *Extravagant Fire* and *Extravagant Adventures*.

OVERFLOWING JOY

During World War I posters declared, 'Your King and country need you, enlist now!' We honour those who responded, going to war and sacrificing their lives in the hope that we would live in peace. Sadly that peace did not last long as World War II followed soon after. Jesus came as the Prince of Peace and said, 'I leave the gift of peace with you—my peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but my perfect peace.' When we choose to walk with Jesus, his peace and hope are there for

us exactly when we need it. He empowers us to live our lives today full of hope, uncontainable joy and perfect peace sometimes despite our circumstances.

PRAYER

Father God, help us to walk with Jesus that we may be filled to overflowing with your hope, uncontainable joy and perfect peace trusting you, no matter our circumstances. Like Jesus let us be vessels of blessing and peace to all those we meet. Amen