



# **PRAYER FORCE**

The WAR is DECIDED in the HEAVENS

## **Prayer Focus**

December 26, 2022 – January 1, 2023

### **Good Tidings of Great Joy**

“The angel said to [the shepherds], ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people’” (Luke 2:10 NKJV).

The first people recorded to have heard about the birth of Jesus were some shepherds who were “keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:8). Based on their profession, they were not in the top rung of society. In fact, they were probably of humble birth, poor, and not well-educated. When the angel appeared to them, the shepherds were hard at work watching over their sheep. And yet, these are the people God chose to first hear the greatest announcement ever made to humankind.

The world typically does not pick lowly people for anything special, but the story of the shepherds reminds us that God is willing to choose what the world regards as foolish “to shame the wise” (1 Cor. 1:27 NIV). Jesus’s own mission statement reiterates this. At the outset of His public ministry, He went to the synagogue at Nazareth on the Sabbath, as was His custom, and read these words from the prophet Isaiah:

*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted...* (Luke 4:18 NKJV)

In this final week of 2022, let’s remember people in a lowly condition, including those who have been ignored, despised, abused, and even trafficked. Let’s pray that they will believe the good news of great joy, whether hearing it for the first time or the hundredth. Let’s also pray that every follower of Christ will receive His grace to close this year and begin the new with rejoicing.

Please take a few moments to proclaim the words of [this carol](#) over ALL PEOPLE. Christmas Day may be over, but the good news is forever!

-Sharon Arpana Edwards