

Let the Walls Fall Down Through the Eyes of Christ

By Valorie Cole, Indiana ABWM President

Greetings! As we enter this time of Advent, Ephesians 2:14 can lead us through the Christmas Season. It is one of our theme scriptures for, "Let the Walls Fall Down".

"For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us." -Ephesians 2:14 (NKJV)

In Ephesians 2, Paul is talking about the Jews and the Gentiles. He is referring to the structure of the Jewish temple. At that time, Gentiles were separated from Jews by a wall that stood between what was called the Court of the Gentiles and the Court of Jewish Women. But Christ has come and torn down the dividing wall with the power of the cross. We are to be one in Christ:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, and there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." - Galatians 3:28 (NKJV)

There would be no cross for us if there were no virgin birth. Christ came to earth as a baby knowing He was born to die for our mistakes and sins. But with our sin, we have built up walls for decades of hostility toward others. Our society is not healthy in the way we should love one another. Jesus tore every wall down by being born and dying on the cross for us. But we put some of those walls back up.

Of course, we don't need to visit Israel to see the ruins of the temple walls. Though not as formal, walls exist in North America and around the world—and they put up a really strong resistance to creating the true Christian community that Jesus had worked toward.

This theme tugs at my heart. I want a peaceful world. I know I am only one person. But, as the song says, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." Who is standing outside your circle today? God wants **you** to tear down dividing walls and share the love of Jesus with those people.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." - Luke 2:13-14 (NKJV)

MERRY CHRISTMAS