**Daily Prayer & Encouragement Saturday 19th December**

Luke 2 v 15-20

When the angels had left them and gone in to Heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “lets go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which The Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary & Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

If ever there is any danger of me loosing the true meaning of Christmas in the December rush, I only have to glance down at our ancient manger scene at home, assembled and proudly placed in it’s familiar spot. Being ancient it often needs small repairs made to it. I am aware that all the characters involved were never quite so close together under the one stable roof at one time. But when I look at the scene I visualise a group of the most fortunate people. To have been there! To have been able to witness these things, as they unfolded right before you, to your friends & relatives and everyone you met, how exciting! Often, especially in December, times are busy, and we need to get away from the rush for a while. As things close in, we must find time to make those “little repairs” and recapture the real meaning of Christmas. As we visualise the manger scene we can imagine ourselves there, kneeling down. Better still, to imagine relatives and friends, who have yet to make their own decision, kneeling there too.

*Prayer*

*Father we pray, show us where ‘repairs’ need to be made. Help us witness the truth of Your coming in our lives, for the salvation of our loved ones, and for Your glory. Amen.*

Song: We Bow Down

<https://youtu.be/4_IsNTkFShI>

Andrew Jones

