



And she *brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn*” Luke 2 v1-7

Let us notice the manner in which Jesus was born. He was not born under the roof of His mother’s house, but in a strange place and at an inn. He was not laid in a prepared cradle. He was laid in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. We see here the Grace and condescension of Christ. Had he come to save mankind with Royal majesty surrounded by His Father’s angels, it would have been an act of undeserved mercy. To become poor as the very poorest of mankind and lowly as the very lost, this is a ‘love’ that passes knowledge. It is unspeakable, and unsearchable – Amazing Love. Never let us forget the humility of Jesus for us. Through His life of suffering, as well as His death. He has obtained eternal redemption for us.

All through His Life He was poor for us, from His birth until His death – and through this poverty we were made rich. *Corinthians 8 v9*

God often accomplishes his purpose in unexpected ways. Maybe that is why he chose to have Jesus born in a stable rather than a palace, why he chose tiny Bethlehem rather than the city of Jerusalem and why the news of Jesus’ birth went first to shepherds rather than to kings. God may have done all this to show that life’s greatest gift – salvation through Jesus is available to all. It may also show that the lowly and humble might have a better chance of receiving that message, living by it and even leading by it.

Accept life’s greatest gift this Christmas, and it will be a very special Christmas!

I enjoyed my trip to Wesley House in Dublin for the World Federation Gathering on Saturday 21st October 2023. A long day but lovely to gather with ladies across Ireland and parts of England.

Saturday 23rd March 2024 is a date for your diary as we hope to have Pam Rhodes from Songs of Praise. Venue and times will be announced shortly. Watch this space and the website for full details. This is an event for everyone, mums, dad, grandmas, granddads and all the family. A night not to be missed.

May I wish all MWI ladies a happy and Blessed Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Much Love, *Olive*