

"Cast all your cares on him for he cares for you. Be sober. Be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, goes around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of the brotherhood throughout the world. And after we have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called us to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish and strengthen us."

We realise this is a time of year when we are encouraged by the world to party and buy each other presents. Yet for so many, even right where we are living, this is a most difficult and lonely time. So for those of us who know the truth of the above passage of scripture, let us do more than just spare a thought for those who do not know this reality for themselves.

Let us remember that God's whole purpose in the birth of Jesus was **CALVARY**, not just Bethlehem. Let us seek his face, asking him to give us opportunities to share the only really GOOD NEWS there is in this very dark world. And that GOOD NEWS is that the love of our God is continually reaching out to mankind, making the offer of wiping away our past, and giving a new start to all who will acknowledge their need of Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.