**Daily Encouragement - Saturday 12 December**

**Isaiah 9 v 6-7  A child is born**

For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on his shoulders.
 And he will be called
 Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

When I was expecting my first child I didn’t know whether I was going to have a boy or a girl and my relatives took great delight in speculating the gender, based on the shape or size of my ‘bump’.

However, thousands of years ago, over a period of 500 years, before scans were invented, 40 different people gave 345 prophecies predicting something quite extraordinary was going to take place; that an unborn baby would be born a boy, the birthplace was named, the time of birth, the baby’s name, the life they would live, how they would die and their resurrection.

The major theme of the Old Testament was that ‘someone was coming’. That ‘someone’ of course was The Messiah. Our greatest need was not for world peace, a cure for diseases or to feed the poor, although all were vitally important, our greatest need was for a Saviour to come to save us from our sins and rescue us from a lost eternity, to bring us from darkness into light. Jesus, THE HOPE OF THE WORLD would be born.

One of the most challenging things we found as a couple, was agreeing on our baby’s names, not just the first name but the second name as well! Not so in the case of this baby boy. It was prophesied he would have many names, each one being quite outstanding in its own right.

When my daughter was born, my family admired her, then I invited a few work colleagues around and they admired her also, and gave her some cuddly toys and Mothercare vouchers, and lots of cuddles, but in the case of Jesus, his visitors came from foreign lands, and had travelled a vast distance. The Shepherds immediately left the fields where they were working and the wise men brought **precious gold**, fit for a king (as well as frankincense and myrrh). The wise men **fell to their feet** and **worshipped** Jesus as soon as they came into his presence.

What are we going to give to Jesus our Saviour and King? How will we come into His presence today?

***Prayer: Thank you Father God that you sent your precious son Jesus to be born as a humble baby, to live a life of obedience and purity and to die on the cross for my sins. I give you everything that I have today; I even hold out my life to you in open hands asking you to bless all that I have and all I am. I lay down anything that separates me from your love and your presence; let my life glorify Jesus, the Name that is above every other Name! Amen.***

**VIDEO : GNI Dance Company What a beautiful Name**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgBhqUuGPi4>

Ruth Cuthbert