



APC Advent Devotional – December 24th, 2020

Christmas Eve

“Let’s Go to Bethlehem”

Today’s Scripture: Luke 2:8-15 (NIV)

Across my years of ministry in international churches and global mission, I have encountered numerous people whose lives were a daily struggle for survival: people picking through garbage in an urban dump site, looking for recyclable materials, to scratch out a living; homeless people who sleep outside train stations in Tokyo; indigenous people stigmatized by wealthier, ethnic majorities; teenaged girls exploited by human traffickers; bright, ambitious people, immersed in poverty, who have no “start-up capital” for a micro-business. The ancient shepherds who were watching their flocks outside Bethlehem fit into that same category.

Naturally, the angels startle the shepherds and generate an initial reaction of fear. But, as they listen to a message of good news from God, the shepherds’ response to the angels’ invitation to go and see the newborn Savior is “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened.” With raw faith, they trust in God’s message and take action.

Each of us has a “Bethlehem” to which God calls us. Our Bethlehems may be a **place** or a new **attitude** or a new **ministry** or a new way to be faithful to Christ in our unfolding future. So, let’s listen for God’s call, and then, like the shepherds, say with deep trust in our hearts, “Let’s go to Bethlehem,” as we worship and honor Jesus Christ throughout the coming new year.

By Pastor Barry