

| THINK |

DO YOU HAVE ROOM?

By Andrea Putting



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Imagine this....

In the still of the night, there is a knock on the door. "I found you on the AirBNB app. By any chance do you have room?"

"Sorry," I say. "Our rooms are taken."

"Do you know of anywhere else?" says the young man.

I think to myself, "Well you should have booked, you've got the app!" but I say, "well there is a festival on in the Yarra Valley you know, you're going to find it hard to get anything for miles.

"We are desperate. My wife is 9 months pregnant and just needs to rest for the night. We've been travelling all day and we just can't find anywhere and well, our car has conked out"

My mind starts to jump around, where can I put this young couple with a baby on the way. "Well, if you really are in a pickle, you can bunk out the back with the cockatoo. He likes visitors. He sleeps up on the top perch, so you'll be right, just don't sleep under it."

Such a strange look I get. "If that's the only place, then I guess, that's where we'll stay."

OK this is a bit of a preposterous version of the story of the birth of Jesus, but it made me think. Of course, I wouldn't send someone out to stay in Fella's house with him, after all he does bite, and he would want to entertain you all night and properly wake the whole neighbourhood. In these circumstances surely, I would be willing to give up my own bed to a woman who was that close to birth. (And my house isn't listed on AirBNB)

The Christmas period is busy, really busy. There is that mad rush to get projects completed and jobs finalised before the end of the year. There are parties,

functions and Chocolate and Coffee Day for Religious Harmony to organise and attend. Christmas presents to buy, cards to send out, decorations to put up, the list goes on. We hardly have time to catch our breath.

In the midst of all of this hustle and bustle, do we make room for the Christ child to be born in us? To come alive in our lives, in our homes? Or do we relegate Christ out to the cocky's aviary. "Go out there and if I've got a few minutes to spare, I'll come out and see how you are going."

This life, this precious life of Christ is calling out to be born again in you this Christmas season. Will you make room? Will you open your home and your heart, to allow Christ to live through you in your everyday and every moment?

As we rush through this advent season, make it your priority to welcome in the babe and let it grow in you.

Blessings for a wonderous Christmas and New Year.