

PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING



January 1, 2014 - Vol. 7

Happy New Year!

You will hear this being repeated over and over again, but, as we extend this greeting or accept this greeting, we should say this with confidence, and claim it – A Happy New Year! I believe that words give meaning to life. Begin the New Year claiming positive things for yourself and proclaiming it for others. Say with confidence, “this year I am going to live the abundant life in Christ that he promised me.” God has a plan and purpose for our lives. We could make all the plans that we want to, make all the New Year resolutions that we most likely won’t keep, but know one thing is sure, and that is God’s planned purpose for us in the New Year. He said his plans are to prosper us; that he has good things in store for us, but everything has a price. If we make it our aim this year to put God first in everything, to seek him out at every turn, to commune with him every day, then you could be sure that he will prosper you, and that he will work your purpose out, but you must allow him to. This year will be your year of new beginnings. It’s not to say that you will not have your share of troubles, but know that your troubles many times are profitable for you. For 2014, grow in God’s grace and live the abundant life.

2013 is behind us, but how are we looking forward to 2014?

The past year may have had its challenges. You may have been through a lot more than others, but by God’s grace, you are still here. In December we celebrated the season of Advent and Christmas. We went through a period of expectation of the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a period of repentance, we reflected on all that God has done for us, what he went through for us, and the free gift of salvation which he gave to us. But, are you free as a result of all this, are you still undecided about the way forward? You should not be, but go forward in the strength of the Lord, trusting him for everything, depending on him to show you the way of salvation and light, and if you accept these things you will be able to embrace the New Year, you will handle everything with prayer, you will step out in faith and not fear. So, is 2013 behind you or are you dragging it with you into 2014? Leave 2013 where it belongs in the past, and embrace 2014 with faith.

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A year of new beginnings—2014

We have closed out another year and started a new one, but will it be a year of new beginnings? My brothers and sisters in Christ, it's time for reflection. Looking back, are you still in the same place you were a year ago? Where do we go from here? We will go forward in the strength of the Lord, not looking back with regrets, but looking forward with expectation, and a new sense of purpose. Things may not have worked out the way you wanted them to over the past year, but know that you are not a failure because of this, you are more than a conqueror, because for all that you have been through, you are still faithful, and trusting in God's grace. My brothers and sisters in Christ, put God first in all things and be confident of this very thing, that God's grace is sufficient for you. No matter what you will face allow God to go before you, he promised to fight all of your battles, but if you go before him, you will be without protection, and a year from now, you will find yourself in the same place. Will you trust God? I urge you to let go and let God fight all of your battles, allow him to go before you and prepare the way in 2014.



God's grace is sufficient for you in 2014.

Auld Lang Syne – Should we forget old acquaintances?

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, and days of auld lang syne? We traditionally sing this song to celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of midnight. But, when I really listen to the fist line, should auld acquaintances be forgotten and never brought to mind – I am sure that there are many acquaintances we would love to forget, or many things that we were not proud of that we would like to never have to be reminded of. But, let us look at these things in a positive way and use them to shape us into better persons for the New Year. If there were people who made life difficult for you, forgive them, and learn to pray for them in good ways, if there were decisions that you made that caused you to lose your way, learn from them and talk about them so that you could be free. But on the other hand there were most likely acquaintances, friends, and loved ones that we lost in 2013. Should we remember them? Yes! Should we forget them? No! For whatever the reason for the loss, whether it was a death, relational or job separation, it could not have all been bad, the separation was the hardest part, now you need something to hold on to, something to see you through. Hold on to God's unchanging hand, and he will lead you where you should go in 2014.



Ring in the new and keep the old, only if it's beneficial to you.

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I could make a difference in 2014. I will allow others to see Christ in me.

One song writers says it so well, "It only takes a spark to get the fire going, and soon all those around, can warm up it its glowing, that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, it's fresh like spring, you'll want to sing, you'll want to pass it on. What have you to pass on? We all have something that we could share, something that we could do to make a difference in the lives of others. But, are we willing? We must not allow fear, doubt, and insecurity to prevent us from stepping out, to make the first

move, for God moves willing feet. Whichever gift God has given to you, be sure to use it to be a blessing to someone else, and in turn, your blessing will be multiplied, for others will want to pass it on. This year, I intend to get the fire going so that others could warm up to its glowing, so that others could experience God's love and will want to pass it on. Will you ignite a spark that will get the fire glowing too? How many will be warmed by it? Will you allow others to see Christ in you in 2014?



My light will be the first you'll see.

2 013 has been, 2014 has things unseen.

Will you trust God for the things you hope for? Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. I am sure that there were many things you were expecting to accomplish in 2013 that are still left undone. You may be feeling like you were a failure, but know that your plans did not fail, you are not a failure, God just did not bring it to pass in your time. God is the only one who truly knows what we really need, he also knows when we need them, but we need to understand this, and to trust him to give us what we need, when we need them. So, this year, instead of planning your way, allow God to show you the way, learn to put all of your decisions, needs, and choices, before him and wait for the answers. We cannot expect to do the same things the same way and get different results. The plans you made previously did not include God, you were depending on your own strength, you forgot that God is the giver of all good things, and that he is an on-time God, so learn to wait patiently on him and all that you did not accomplish in 2013, have no fear, if you trust in God he will not only bring to pass all that you desired in 2013, but he will multiply them in 2014. Will you trust God for all you needs, or will you go forth in your own strength?



Go forth in the strength of the Lord.

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Songs have a way of lifting me up when I am feeling down. Here is one of my favorites as our featured adult song:

"Auld Lang Syne"

Written by: ROBERT BURNS 1788

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind ?
Should old acquaintance be forgot, and old lang syne ?

For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne.
And surely you'll buy your pint cup and surely I'll buy mine !
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne.

We two have run about the slopes, and picked the daisies fine,
but we've wandered many a weary foot, since auld lang syne.
We two have paddled in the stream, from morning sun till dine,
but seas between us broad have roared, since auld lang syne.

And there's a hand my trusty friend ! And give me a hand o' thine,
and we'll do some good-will , for auld lang syne.
For that thou canst never once reflect, on old lang syne.



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM THE DESK OF JEWELLYN GREER

What I have accomplished so far, is nothing compared to what God has in store for me.

I have trusted in my own strength and it has failed me, now I will trust in God who will never fail me.

Today, I will lift someone up, because, yesterday I too was lifted up.

Never be too quick to judge, but be swift to listen and console.

Your disappointment was nothing but your blessing in disguise, you just need to understand it.

No matter what you have been through take it to Jesus he will fix it for you.

Your yesterday will be nothing but a distant dream when you behold the brightness of God's blessings today.



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Our spotlight is on you. The people who in darkness dwelt have seen a great light. Have you?

Jesus, the light of the world is come. Are you still walking in darkness, or have you seen the great light? Many of us have walked in darkness for a very long time, but, thanks be to God for sending his Son Jesus the light of the world. Because of this great light, we are now children of light, and therefore should always strive to walk in the light. I would love to encourage you to put on the armor of light, let others be led by your light. We are reminded in Scripture, that no one lights a lamp and puts in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. Are you a child of the light who

still hides the light under a bowl? How many people are able to see by your light? My brothers and sister in Christ, your light may be the only light someone else walking in the dark may be able to see. We should not be timid Christians who are afraid to let their light shine before others, so that they too may see the good works of God; let us take heed then, that the light which is in us be not darkness, for if this light within us is dark, others will be misled by it, many will stumble as a result of it, and will not profit from it. Therefore, go shine your light for the world to see. Be a beacon to help lead others to Christ.



I will shine my light for others to see.

Children's Corner: What did I get for Christmas?

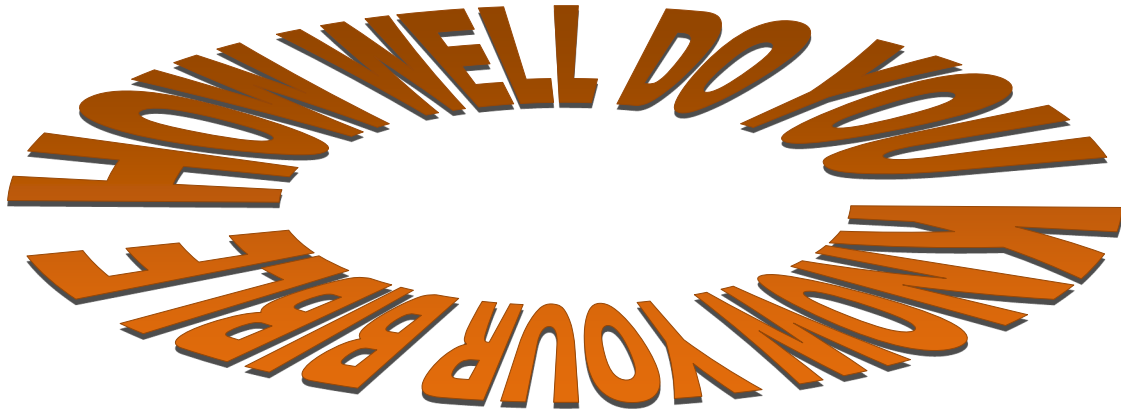
Christmas was different for me in many ways. Instead of focusing on the gifts I wanted, I turned my focus to the gifts the less fortunate needed. So while other kids were writing letters to Santa, I was writing letters to my mom and dad, aunts and uncles, and my god-parents. My letters were not asking for gifts for myself, but gifts for homeless children in the community. I received more gifts than I was expecting and I was reminded of how more blessed it is to give than to receive. I felt so good to be able to put my wants aside and

focus on the needs of others. I think I will make this an annual fundraising event. I will also ask my friends to join me in sharing with the less fortunate. Now, I need a name for this fund-raiser. What is a good name? I think I will name this fundraiser—Gifts of Love. I will also not wait until Christmas to begin collecting gifts, I will begin this today, for homeless children are not only in need at Christmas time but all through the year. Now, what did I get for Christmas? Satisfaction, Joy in knowing that somewhere, some one else was happy.



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Match the correct answers to the questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
How long did the sun stand still for Joshua?	Dove
What was Gideon's first test of faith?	His life
Jesus was mad that people were doing this in the temple. What were they doing?	490
This was the first bird Noah let out of the ark. Which bird was this?	Pharaoh
How many times must we forgive others who sin against us?	olive
Who bought Joseph from the Ishmaelite's?	The fleece
Which leaf did the dove bring back to the ark in her beak?	One day
He who guards his lips guards this?	Selling



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Childhood songs that we have learned have been passed on for generations. Let's keep it going. If you have a song that you would like to share, email it. Here is one of my favorites as our featured children's song:

PASS IT ON

Written by *Kurt Kaiser- 1972*

It only takes a spark, to get a fire going, and soon all those around, can warm up it it's glowing. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, it's fresh like spring, you'll want to sing, you'll want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is Spring, when all the trees are budding. The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, it's fresh like spring, you'll want to sing, you'll want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friend this happiness that I've found, you can depend on hi,m It matters not where your bound. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, it's fresh like spring, you'll want to sing, you'll want to pass it on.

I'll shout it from the mountain tops I want the world to know The Lord of Life has come to me
I want to pass it on.



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