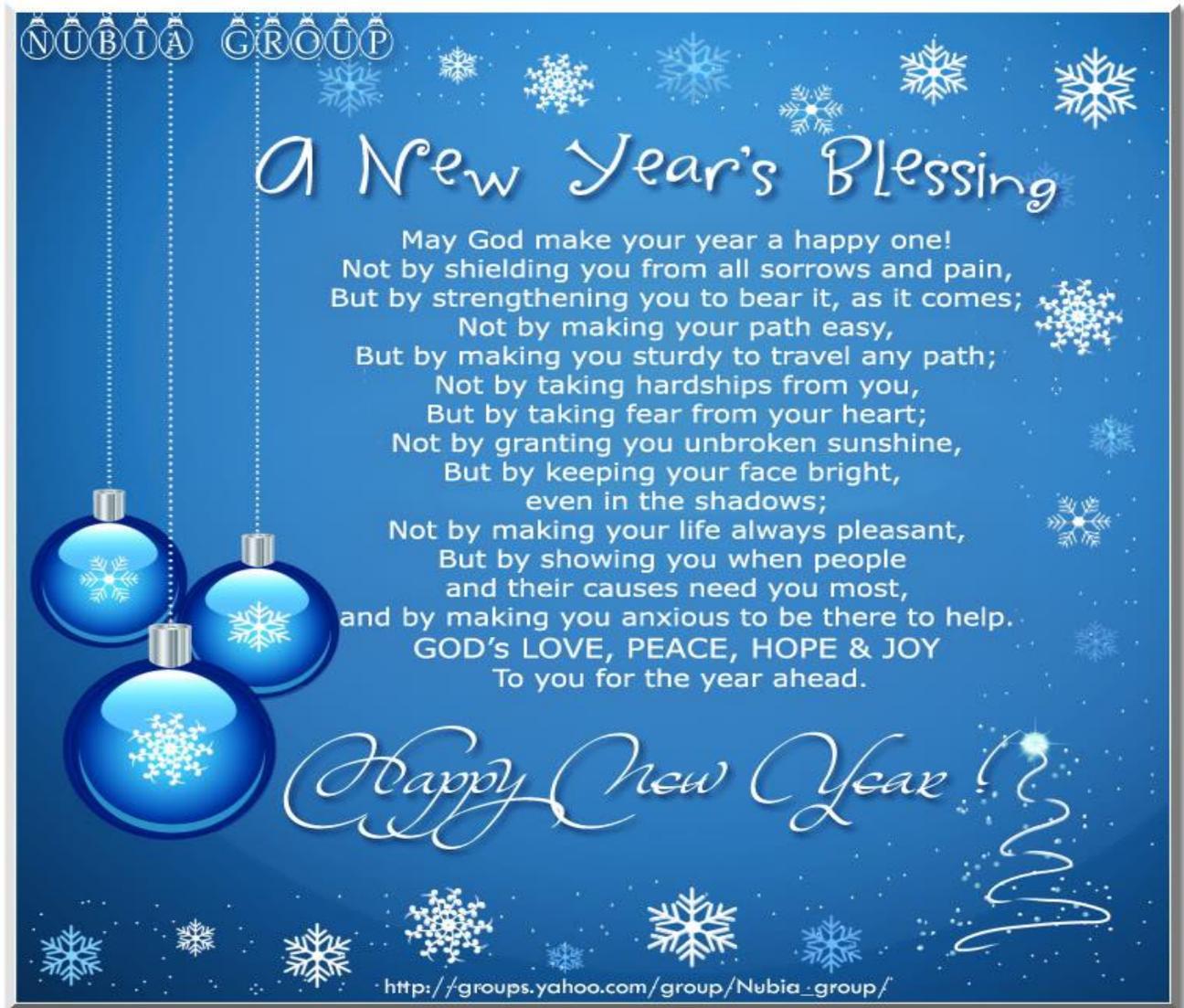


The Parish Light

The Parish of the Northern Lights Newsletter for January 2017



I Am One

I am only one, but I am one;

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do,

And what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will.



“I wasn’t always as religious as I am now. For years I thought the Ten Commandments were a doo-wop group from the 1950’s!”

A New Year’s Prayer for Those Growing Older

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody’s affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all – but thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind from recital of endless details – give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains.

They are increasing and the love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others, but help me to endure them with patience.

Teach me to be reasonably sweet. I won’t want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. Give me the grace to tell them so.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P.U.S.H.

A man was sleeping one night in his cabin. When suddenly his room was filled with light and God appeared. The Lord told the man that he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might.

So, this the man did, day after day.

For many years he toiled from sun up to sundown, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all his might. Each night he returned to his cabin sore and tired out, feeling that his day had been spent in vain

Since the man was showing discouragement, the Adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind, "You have been pushing on that rock for a long time and it hasn't moved."

Thus, he gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man.

Satan said "Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time, just giving minimum effort and that will be good enough."

That's what the weary man decided to do, but decided to make it a matter of prayer and take his troubled thoughts to the Lord. "Lord", he said, "I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded passionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve me and you accepted, I told you to push against the rock with all your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push.

And now you come to me with all your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is it really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinewy and brown, your hands are callused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition, you have grown much and your abilities far surpass that which you used to have. True, you have not moved the rock, but your calling was to be obedient, and to push and to exercise your faith and to trust in My wisdom. And that is what you have done. Now I, my friend, will move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what he wants, but actually what God wants is simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moved mountains, but know that it is still God that moves the mountains.

When somethings seems to go wrong – just P.U.S.H. !

When the job gets your down – just P.U.S.H. !

When people don't react the way you think they should – just P.U.S.H. !

When your money is "gone" and the bills are due – just P.U.S.H. !

When people don't understand you – just P.U.S.H. !

P= Pray

U= until

S = Something

H = Happens

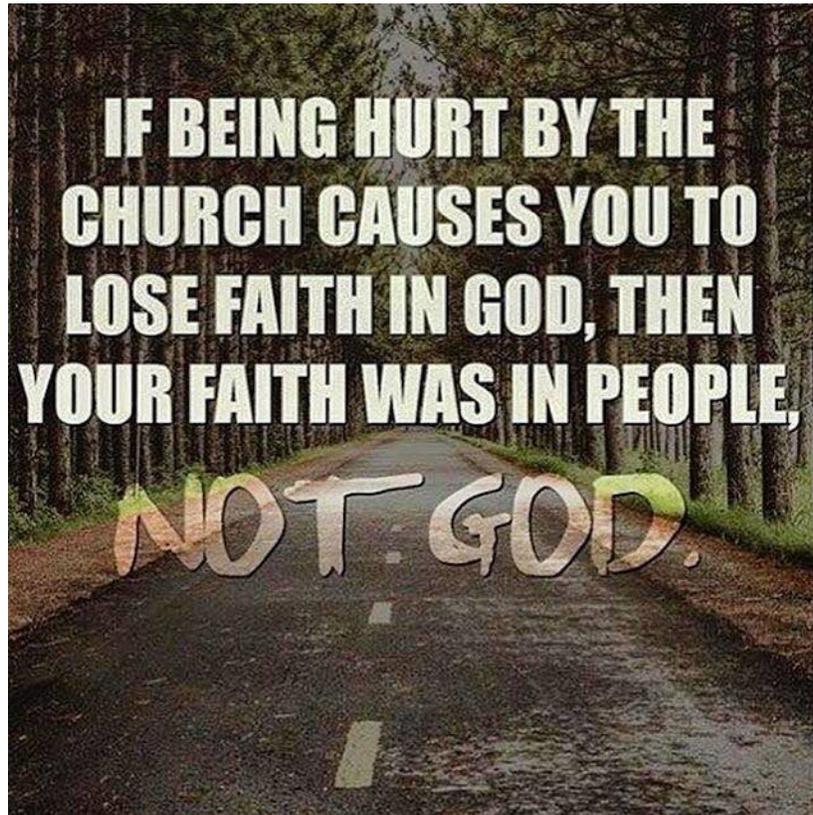
Because of You...

I can *Smile* in my Storms
I can *Pray* in my Persecution
I can be *Gracious* in my Grief
I can *Dance* in my Depression

I can *Praise* in my Prison
I can *Sing* in my Sickness
I can *Clap* while I bear my Cross
I can *Worship* in my Weakness

Because of You, O God, who
strengthens me, I can do **All** things.





I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here all petitions to God said in prayer are received."

I looked around this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally, at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section," my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed.

"How is it that there is no work going on here?" I asked.

“So sad,” the angel sighed. “After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments.”

“How does one acknowledge God’s blessings?” I asked,

“Simple,” the angel answered. Just say, “Thank you, Lord.”

“What blessings should they acknowledge?” I asked.

“If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on you back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world’s wealthy, and if you own your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world that has this opportunity.

“If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day.

If you have never experienced the fear of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 700 million people in the world.”

“If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world.”

“If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you are unique to all those in doubt and despair

“Ok,” I said. “What now? How can I start?”

The Angel said, “If you are reading this, you just received double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Have a good day, count your blessings, and Thank God!





ANNUAL MEETING

Annual General Meetings:

- St Thomas, Perryvale January 7th, 2017 at 11:00 am
St Andrew's Zion, Colinton January 8th directly after church
Christ Church, Wandering River January 13th, 2017 at 11:00 am
St Paul's, Boyle January 15th, directly after church

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, ST PAUL'S BOYLE (5TH Sunday)

January 29th..... directly after church service Pot luck to follow

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Parish Council will meet on Jan 14th at 2:00 pm in St Paul's, Boyle
- January 5th and 19th – Coffeetime and Fellowship at St Andrew's Zion, Colinton



If you have any prayer requests that you wish to have published in our monthly newsletter, please contact Jan Overacker (780-675-3083) or leroyjan96@gmail.com .