

ONE OF GOD'S glorious gifts to mankind is to bestow upon him the dawn of a new year. *New opportunities and challenges are before him*, a chance to try again, to make another endeavour to successfully accomplish the ambitions which were perhaps cast aside with discouragement the year past.

Life is full of beginnings. As one stands at the gate and with doubtful hand draws aside the curtain and peers into the unknown, he begins today by taking his first step across the threshold of the New Year. ***It is already a beautiful year because it is another year of our Lord.***

Gazing at the far horizons and half wondering what the coming months will bring, pause but a moment to reflect over the old volume of three hundred and sixty-five days just ended. The pages may have been marred by mistakes and torn by intentions, but a few more miles have been covered on the upward climb, pressing toward the mark.

*Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come,
'Twas grace that brought us safe thus far,
And grace will lead us Home.*

It has not been our own achievement. ***Great has been our Father's faithfulness; new every morning have been His mercies***

It is part of our nature to want to live in the yesterdays of life, in *'the days that come not back again'*. We would rather relive the strife's, the bad habits, the heartaches, and stumbling steps than face the uncertain. With tenacity the past does cling, and, like barnacles, would hinder us from pushing out from the shore and launching into the deep.

Standing at the parting of the ways, there is a choice to make, some road to take, we must consider which. How is it that we intend to live? Will it be repetitions of the past?

"I do not see my way; I do not care to; but I know that He sees His way and that I see Him". Shining destinies are ahead! We must keep our eyes upon Jesus as we now face the Dawn.



Trinity Methodist Church

LINDEN, JOHANNESBURG



Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the night.

18 January 2015

Some scriptures to reflect on as we go into 2015:

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." (Proverbs 19:21)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15 NIV)

No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: *Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven. (Phil 3:13-14 NLT)*

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV)

Because of the Lord's great love *we are not consumed*, for His compassions never fail. *They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.* I say to myself, *'the Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him.'* (Lam 3:22-24 NIV)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight (Prov: 3:5-6 NIV)

Go with Christ this year and journey in joy

Pastoral Care wishes all the Trinity Congregation, and the readers of Link, a Blessed & Bountiful 2015 filled with God's peace and love. As you pray for those in need on the Link each week may God in turn bless you richly

In next week's Link we will start a new chronic list, but will retain the Cancer list. If you feel anyone should be re-instated to that list please phone the Pastoral Care Office 011 782 0367, if no answer please leave a message. This applies for anyone you feel is in need of prayer.

Remember: **If we do not know we are unable to care.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

DUDLEY HUDSON Praise God, having finished his treatment Dudley's tumour is getting smaller and doc says it will possibly be gone by the end of the month.

ELLIE WINKLEMAN is still in trauma ICU at Sunninghill, no news as to when she will be out. A big thank you to all those who have visited her over the past few weeks.

RENEE BARNES is still staying with her family, she went to see doc on Thursday but is feeling very tired and washed out.

JOHN WESSELS AND FAMILY our thoughts and prayers are with them in the loss of Moira, John's mother, who passed away on 28th December 2014. We pray they have returned refreshed from their holiday.

JOHN SHEARER was in hospital at the beginning of the year suffering with gall stone problems, he had an op to remove gall bladder and is now at home on the mend.

GEORGE JOANNOU (Venetia's husband) was admitted to hospital, very sick, with a urinary tract infection, he is now at home.

LAURIE & CAROL DRAKE suffered a break-in in their home just before Christmas. Pray peace into their lives.

WARWICK BURTON- DURHAM (wife Gillian) had op on his ankle, on Wednesday, to remove old plates and broken screws and had new screws replaced, he hoped to be home on Friday.

JOY VD KLIS is happy to report, and give God Praise, that her cea count is now 8.

DENESE PIETERSE we were sad to find out this week that Denese had been in hospital for 6 weeks after having a spleen op. She informed us that she nearly died twice and now the pain she is left with supersedes her back pain.

MARY BAYNE had a knee replacement on Monday, is doing well and hoped to be home on Friday.

RALPH RATZEBURG (Kate's granddad) is not well and is suffering with water on his lungs.

CRAIG HART had a neck op last year now he is suffering with a recurring problem. He had MRI on Monday and saw neurosurgeon on Tuesday who has put him on strong medication, hoping his vertebrae will re-align again, if not another op will be needed.

THEMBILE (Londeka's mum) has been experiencing painful problems with back, now going for acupuncture.

NORMA HART is to have a cataract op tomorrow (Monday 19th) and another on the following Monday.

AUDREY SMOUS asks for prayers that an opportunity for employment will come her way this year.

KATHY has worked in SA as a nurse for many many years after moving from Zimbabwe. When renewing her registration, as a nurse, this year was accused of falsifying her papers, was thrown in prison for the night and was denied access to husband or lawyer, she is now on bail awaiting trial. Pray God's intervention.

BRUNO BELSECK (Nicky's father) was hospitalised with a suspected heart attack on Wednesday to undergo tests. Report on Thursday says he is doing well.

BONGANI HLOPHE sadly passed away 2 weeks ago. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Joyce and his children, Thando & Wanda.

MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION who are experiencing difficulties and doubt in their lives, that they may not forsake the care of the Trinity Church family.

CANCER LIST: *Gordon Bennett, David Edwards (UK), Anton Marais (Sydney), Lee Barnes, Nola Dodds, Tracy Hoy (UK), Hilda Louter, Val Warren, Dudley Middleton, Marguerite, Peter, Myrren (18), Diane Turner, Maureen Lupton, Martin vd Merwe (Karin Blackburn's dad), Joy vd Klis, Jean Clarence, Daniela Andrade (7), Russell Jones, Ursula Ryder, Lesley Steyn, Doh Carneson, Louise Shaw (Texas), Brian K, John Sandison, Cindy Saunders, Marina van de Ruit, Brian Tromp, Chloe Thomas, Elizabeth Innes, Greg Cleeve-Edwards, Joanna (Maurice's niece), Joy (Sam's sister), Gilbert Hughes, John Clarke, Dudley Hudson, Keith Bunce (UK - wife Liz), Bill Coulle, Rev Hans Visser, Colleen, Gordene, Lizelle Slabbert*

CHRONIC LIST: *Denese Pieterse (back & spleen), Dave (Guillain Barre Syndrome), Elaine Vermaak (osteoporosis), Moira Smith (hiatus hernia), Maureen Dewberry (heart problems), Alison (spinal problems), Illia & Graham (UK), Diana Viljoen's Mom (stroke), Colleen Hunter (brain op), Christiaan Vermeulen (heart surgery), Deon (facial surgery), Susanne (stroke), Duncan Edwards (rare disease), Noelle Marshall (leukemia & eye problems), Louise Combrink (nervous breakdown), Heather Seymour (emphysema), Nic Swart (stroke), Nic Breytenbach (MDS Leukaemia), Elwyn Dyer (hip op), Bradley Manson (Kidney disease, dialysis), Reef's grandparents, Eve & Brian Humphreys, Coral Fisher (foot problems), Jules (auto immune disease), Lesley (broken wrists), Louis Brugman (heart & hip problems), Linda Hann (needs employment), John, Elaine Vermaak's nephew (heart problems, loss of job), Dennis Meintjies (Sheila Marley's brother - intestinal op), Rebecca Owens (fungal infection), Rhys Thomas (heart), William Marrs (elbow op), Mari Thomasset (Leg op), Helene Segal (fractured arm), Harold (Maurice's dad - tired & frail), Bella (prem baby), Terry (broken leg), Pam Jenkins (blood pressure problems), Hans (thinning retina), Audrey Newberry (broken wrists), Len & Gail de Klerk, Delene Muller (broken knee cap), Annabelle-Jane (5 - insecure), Sylvia Maphisa (TB & eye problems), Cynthia Ross (spinal probs), Elsabé Vorster (back probs), Sonette Macgregor (myasthenia gravis), Willa (severe back problems), Carl Marais (foot amputation), Devon (serious bone infection in his arm).*