

Merry Christmas to all and may the new year bring hope and peace to you and your families. As it usually does, the journey this year has taken a few detours. Nonetheless we are so thankful for every one of you and your support of what Racing with Jesus Ministries does in the name of our Lord and Savior.

As I have shared we have had some untimely departures and some celebrated additions to our team. Each one ordained by God and in His timing. That can be challenging for us to comprehend.

We can get things out of order, put a priority on something and then realize there were other things that needed attention first. That happens when we take our focus off God. Often we think we know the direction He is leading, instead of waiting for Him to guide us.

Therein lies the challenge, getting things in the right order. I received a wonderful confirmation of this the other day. Someone contacted me and asked to be involved with the ministry. I have had on my mind for some time to try and get him involved but it needs to be God's timing not ours.

During the year there are many significant dates, birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, etc. Some we anticipate with excitement, some not so much. For Christians, Christmas marks the beginning of the life of Christ.

*Isaiah 9-6; For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah helps us understand the character of our Savior; wonderful, mighty, everlasting, giver of peace. It also helps us understand the priority he should have in our lives; God, Father, Prince, and Counselor. Isaiah told of the Savior yet to come. On the night of Jesus' birth, the angels proclaimed his arrival. All in God's perfect timing. The shepherds responded and announced his presence to the world. This child, Emmanuel, God with us, God's love for us, is here.

John 1:14; 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

We look ahead with anticipation of God's plan for us as individuals and as a ministry. We are confident He has plans for us because he already indicated that through this new contact of interest in joining His work. We can look ahead because we know you are standing with us, supporting us, lifting us up, as we follow God. My hope is that we each start the new year with a focus on the things of God, beginning with a renewed relationship with Christ our Savior. God's blessings to each of you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rev. Don and the entire RWJM Team