



A New Year Arrives

by Jackie Abbott

Are you ready for the New Year? Just what does it take to “get ready for a New Year”? Oh sure, there is that custom of “Making resolutions for the New Year”. But that's probably a lost cause very soon. I know. I gave up that venture a long time ago. Never worked for me.

Of course, things won't work if you don't put your efforts, your mind and your heart in them. Maybe those weren't the things that God had in mind for me. Mmmmmm, maybe I should give that some consideration.

I read just recently this expression: “Get out of the ‘past lane’ and live today.” Now that sounds like a very good idea, maybe even a challenge. Maybe on that last day of December we should forget and forgive those past failures and hurts.

Change the rewind into a restart. Take away the frown and put on a smile.

For the rewind, I will continue with my early morning devotional time. It's a wonderful way to start my day. For the restart, I will try to remember that morning lesson when I walk out the door and face another day. Too often an event or comment will cause me to forget the smile and here comes an ugly frown.

De-clutter your closet with the memories of “shoulda done that” or “wish I hadn't done that”.

It's unbelievable that we think we are so important that we have to do so much or have so much. Not only do I need to clean out closets and cabinets, I need to clean out the secret attitudes of “superiority” or “victim” that I sometimes harbor. Too good or too pitiful... no way. That's not what God intended.

Our precious Lord made each of us unique. Only one of a kind. Different talents, different weaknesses....but all are blessings planned by our Heavenly Father.

Here's my plan for the New Year: Stop and write down 5 blessings of the day. Surprisingly it's an easy task. For today:

1. Woke up in my own home, warm and cozy.
2. Food in my tummy.
3. Beautiful sunrise.
4. Safe trip to work.
5. An evening of fun with my girlfriends.

You know what, that's a short list....I didn't mention the beautiful weather, the beauty of the clouds in the sky... it's an endless list.

Thankfully, I have a God who forgives and forgets my shortcomings... but gives me another day to worship and serve Him until He is ready to take me home.

Happy New Year!!