A New Year:

Our joys and our sorrows, our smiles and our tears,
All kinds of blessings He gives through the years...
We recognize fully some lessons we've learned,
Some great complications we've met at some turns.
The pages are filled so last year may be read.
But wonderful truth...we have nothing to dread.
Our Father, the Shepherd, has carried us through

And says to our hearts, "I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW."

(le)

Coming to God, through Jesus Christ, is the reason for our peace and stability, joy and contentment, rest and quietness in our troubled world. It is also our foundation for a personal life of sharing and leading others to Christ, into His Kingdom. Walking with Him can give a spring to our steps and music in our hearts for the new year, 2024.

I have always been struck by Mary's response when the angel 'visited' her with the message of conception. She responded: "I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as you have said." Holy compliance. (Then the angel left her.)

Recently I read again about William Booth in the 1880's. The story is he went for a walk in London's East End. When he returned, he said to his wife, "Catherine, I seemed to hear a voice sounding in my ears, 'Where can you go and find such heathen as these and where is there so great a need for your labors?' I have found my destiny." And so began the mission into the slums...now in more than 100 countries. We know it as the Salvation Army. In an interview this is what he said with tearful eyes, "There have been men with greater brains or opportunities than I, but I made up my mind that God would have all of William Booth there was." Some years later, one of his daughters remarked that he never took it back. (That was the secret of their ministry.)

<u>SO, FOR 2024:</u> (MY PERSONAL DEDICATION TO GOD FOLLOWS FOR THE NEW YEAR. I share it with you, thinking perhaps we can do this together...our signing dates may be different, but not our holy intention. He owns our hearts and directs our minds. Holy compliance.)

What does God, who knows the end from the beginning, who controls our world toward His destined end, and initiated His New World Order with Jesus, the King, WHAT DOES HE WANT FOR ME? WHAT DOES HE WANT FOR US?

- 1. For me to hear His personal calling
- 2. To give me His view, His outlook, His mind
- 3. To ask of me a new dedication of my life
- 4. To have me enter His House of Prayer, His personal life of abiding and settling and joining Him and His intercessors, so He can teach me what it means to Watch & Pray

- 5. To watch at His gates for His daily assignments
- 6. To know that even as He calls, He equips
- 7. To fully believe He never leaves or forsakes His people
- 8. To be ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus
- 9. To meet Him in the air and begin life with a visible King.
- 10.To follow Christ! No turning back!

PRAYER:

Father, I bow at Your feet in full surrender to You as God of the world, Father of all created human beings, Lord and King of the Kingdom You are now building. I bow as Your subject and Your servant. Create in me a clean heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit. May Your Holy Spirit create in me His fruit, His gifts, His works. I dedicate myself to You, for the new year, soon to begin. May I live for Your purposes, rather than my own. May I leave the things of this world for the worldlings, and take hold of those Eternal things You are wanting to give us for the building of Your Kingdom. Help me with my selfishness and pride and everything ugly to You; deliver me from evil and move me totally into that abiding life with You so my prayers are formed and heard and answered by You. May 2024 be the most satisfactory year I've ever walked with You, to You. Regardless of circumstances around me, give me Your peace that I may share it with others who have no peace. Help me to see You at work, to hear Your voice, and to bring others to see You. I dedicate my being to You, Father, without any reservation. I determine to 'never take it back."

