

New Year's Program

As submitted to Cedar Springs of Inspiration

Old English Blessing

*God bless Thy year! Thy coming in, Thy going out,
Thy rest, Thy travelling about,
The rough, the smooth, the bright, the drear,
God bless Thy year.*

Song: SASB 916/TB 237, *Father, Let Me Dedicate This New Year To Thee!*

Poem: A New Year Has Begun!

*As we meet at the beginning of a New Year
yet untried,
We can trust God's loving guidance, as new
mercies open wide.
NEW CREATION He has promised, unto all a
new name gives,
Who accept His great salvation, and through
Him a new way lives.*

*He will grant us greater blessing, a new song
put in our hearts;
And our spirits will be quickened by the joy
which He imparts.
Oh what peace and great rejoicing shall be
ours as we obey,
For we know that He shall lead us into realms
of endless day!*

Song: SASB 566/TB 299
Simply Trusting Every day

Prayer Chorus

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know, He holds the future
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*



Prayer

Prepare index cards with a clock graphic with the following sayings: Distribute to several ladies to read as a time of Scriptural reflection.

- Take time to be friendly! Proverbs 18:24
- Take time to give! 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Take time to read! Revelations 1:3
- Take time to laugh! Proverbs 17:22
- Take time to pray! James 4:2

Others could have the following sayings:

- More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.
- Prayer means power — power to live above the cares and frustrations of contemporary life.
- The Bible should have first claim on our time and then other good literature should be read!

As the old saying goes, take time to think.

- Some people sit and think; some just sit!
- Right thinking means right living

- Sow a thought; reap an act; sow an act reap a habit, sow a habit reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny.
- A big soul is an unselfish soul. This speaks of time, love as well as other gifts.
- A good sense of humour is a great asset. If it is sanity you are after, there is nothing like laughter!

Game: Day Search

DDMAREYA	Day dream
KAAEWYD	Day wake
TRESEYYAD	Yesterday
YLHDIOA	Holiday
AAYYDN	Any day
HDTBIYAR	Birthday
YSAODEM	Someday
EDMYATI	Daytime
YDTOA	Today
RUOBALYDA	Labour Day

Poem: Questioning

I asked the New Year: "What am I to do the whole year through?"

The answer came: "BE TRUE"

I asked again: "And what am I to say to those who pass my way?"

"The kindest words."

Game: What's New?

A Province of Canada — *Newfoundland or New Brunswick*

A part of the Bible — *New Testament*

Prints current events — *Newspaper*

Just married — *Newly Weds*

A city in the U.S.A — *New York*

A country 'down-under' — *New Zealand*

Someone coming for the first time to an event — *Newcomer*

A person who gossips — *News monger*

A large Shaggy Dog — *Newfoundland dog*

Song: SASB 919/TB 502 or 495

O Saviour Now To Thee We Raise

Poem

*I do not know, I cannot see what God's kind hands prepare for me,
Nor can my glance pierce through the haze,
which covers all my future ways;
But yet I know that o'er it all rules He who notes the sparrow's fall.*

I know the Hand that hath me fed and through the years my feet has led!

I know the everlasting arm, that hath upheld and kept from harm.

I TRUST Him as my God and Guide and know that He will still provide!

So at the opening of the year, I banish care and doubt and fear

And, clasping His kind hand, essay to walk with God, from day to day.

Trusting Him who has me fed, walking with Him who has me led!

Farewell Old Year, with goodness crowned, a hand divine hath set thy bound

Welcome the New Year, which shall bring fresh blessings from my God and King

The old will leave without a tear, the new we hail without a fear!

Discussion

Following the reading of this poem ask if anyone would like to share their joys, even doubts or fears experienced during the year past and their hopes for the New Year.

Close with this blessing:

I said to the man, who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown"

And He replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God!

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"