



JEROME'S JOTTINGS



NEW BEGINNINGS

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth.”

These words are very familiar to all Christians (and not a few non-Christians too). They are the opening words of the Bible and they are a powerful declaration of belief. These words are the start of an incredible story of faith, seeking to understand the world and the human condition. In the beginning, there was God and He was the unmoved mover, the designer, the commencement of everything that is, He was there before the beginning and He will be after the end.

At the beginning of the year and, hopefully, the changing of the seasons, there is always the temptation to succumb to the suggestion of making a New Year's resolution. The thing is, that new beginnings are what God specialises in. He is the God, not just of one beginning (and if you blow it, tough luck), but we are told that His mercies are “new every morning – great is His faithfulness”.

Perhaps the answer to the question of, “What new beginning can I make”, lies not so much in trying to do something new, but making the best of what we have. The story is told of a lighthouse keeper on a rocky stretch of coastline, who received a new supply of oil each month to keep the light burning. Being close to the shore he had lots of guests. A woman from the village needed some oil to keep her family warm; a farmer requested some for his tractor; a mechanic wanted some to lubricate a wheel. All the requests seemed legitimate, so the lighthouse keeper tried to please everybody. Before the month was over, his oil was gone and the beacon went out. As a result several ships were wrecked and lives were lost. When the authorities investigated, the man was very repentant. But to his excuses and pleading their reply was, 'You were given oil for one purpose - to keep the light burning.'

New beginnings have the advantage of allowing the person or organisation to reflect upon what are the most important things in life, to seek to fulfil these things and to be wise in how one's resources are used. The question then becomes not, 'Will my calendar be full,' but 'Who will fill it,' and 'What will it be filled with?'

May the Lord help you in recalibrating your spiritual compass for the year ahead and, in doing so, may you let your light shine.

Jerome



Christmas Tree Prayers

Our Christmas tree was decorated again this year with our prayers. By the way, I'd like to let you know that the bad weather this Christmas was an answer to prayer, as somebody had prayed for there to be snow at Christmas! The prayer card was unsigned and is currently undergoing fingerprint analysis!!!! It is amazing when God answers our prayers!

Many other prayers have also been answered, and some are still awaiting God's replies, but throughout the magazine you will find a selection. Just look out for the tree and the praying hands.

Please join with the writers in prayer as you read them.

Tracey

“Heavenly father, please be with your church all over the world this Christmas and help us to be your family. Help us to show your love to others so they can learn to love you too.”

