



MU Australia
Part of the World Wide Mothers' Union

EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends,

In High School I came across a definition that I still remember all these years later: *'the optimist thinks we live in the best of all possible worlds, the pessimist is afraid he's right'*. Well I am definitely an optimist, so I approach most days wondering what good things will surprise me today, and there are usually some 'good surprises' during a day, even if the bad ones outweigh them at times. That is even more pronounced when the New Year arrives with its promises of 'fresh starts' and 'new beginnings'.

We know that our calendar is just a way of helping us arrange our lives, and there is no actual difference between the night that takes us from the 31st December to the 1st January and any other night, but that little ray of hope seems particularly to shine at this time of year.

Jeremiah expressed a similar idea, but with much better grounds than just wish fulfilment. In Lamentations 3:21-23 he said:

'Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.'

Whatever the time of year, God is compassionate to us. We deserve God's judgement, but he gives us his love, faithfully, day after day, morning by morning. He provides us with a genuine 'fresh start' and 'new beginning' when we come to him and confess our sins, because his forgiveness is total and complete. A friend of mine put it this way: when I come to God and say 'I'm sorry Lord, I've done it again', he says 'Done what again?'

John gives us a challenge in 1 John 4:10-11

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

What are we doing this year to show out our love for one another?

I ended last year by sending you a bookmark with thoughts about Christmas. I'm beginning this year with another bookmark, containing the Bible verses I've quoted in this letter, but I want to also give you the website which I used to make these January bookmarks.

It's called Gospel River Christian Gallery, www.share.gospelriver.com/bookmarks/English/ and it has literally hundreds of bookmarks already prepared with Bible verses on them. It also has background only bookmarks which you can use to put your own verses on, and that's what I did for the ones I've attached. Or you can request them to create a bookmark using a particular verse, and they will do it and usually list it on their site within a week. And best of all it's free; they do this as a Christian ministry, and just ask you to keep their website listing on the bottom of the bookmarks when you print them. It's quite discreet, as you can see from the ones I've attached.

Happy bookmarking!

Grace and peace,

Wendy Mayer

MU Australia Education Officer
education@mu.org.au