

Warm greetings to you in the NAME of our BLESSED LORD JESUS CHRIST. In this New Year of 2005, it is my prayer that during these challenging days, that it is WELL WITH YOUR SOUL. We must spend more time in PRAYER & PRAISE, PRESSING ON for HIS GLORY, resisting the wicked currents & godless tides of our day. JESUS must be the ANCHOR for any storms of life. Only HE can calm those storms.

Speaking of storms, we had record rain storms here in Sunny California. My heart went out to the multitudes of homeless people. Yes, January had storms, but also brought in a harvest of over 250 souls in 21 services. There was a period of 14 services in 9 days that went extremely well as the HOLY SPIRIT (John 6:44) drew those in who were sinking in overwhelming times of hopelessness & adversity. I look forward with a sense of URGENCY this year when I preach CHRIST CRUCIFIED. Last year was a year of heartache for those who went back to prison, or drugs & alcohol or gangbanging. Some died from drug overdose, 3 were murdered & others were hit with aids, cancer, hepatitis, & T.B. The war in the supernatural is raging. Our dear MESSIAH, JESUS says the SPIRIT of the LORD GOD is upon ME---to HEAL the brokenhearted---to comfort ALL who mourn---to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of JOY for mourning, the garment of PRAISE for the spirit of heaviness, that they may be called trees of righteousness ñ the planting of the LORD that HE may be GLORIFIED. (Isa. 61:1-3). GOD not only heals hurts & brokenness from pain, HE brings fruitfulness in it ALL!

Last month I did not get a chance to pay homage to my dear friend, Steve Klipa, whom I knew since childhood. We called each other Srpski brat, which means Serbian brother. He was a godly man of love, integrity & a servant of the Lord. I spent time with Steve & his wife while in Pittsburgh in October. Every believer can rejoice that we will be reunited with our loved ones in GLORY. Steve went home to a higher calling.

The services this month were packed as many sought shelter from the weather. All three missions downtown & in Long Beach had scores of people with colds & flu. Along with all the services in the Skid Row Missions, I ministered at the International Missionary Outreach, Jacob's Well, Chino Women's Prison, which is always a blessing, & a guest on a

cable T.V. show for Rabbi Andrew. He sure loves his ìJeshuaî. Also one of my favorite places to minister is Donovan Penitentiary, where Iíve been going for 15 years, preaching in all 3 yards. There are many lifers that Iíve known for years walking a walk with JESUS. P.T.L.!!!

As a brand new year begins, it is time to begin thinking about how we will spend the next one. There are unlimited possibilities before us in 2005. What do you see this year? Some will chart goals for the year or reevaluate their schedules, hopefully spending more time with the LORD & in the WORD. Others will vow to renew commitments or put old habits to rest. But then there are those who look in the other direction, as the years that have passed, with thoughts of loss & regret. Isaiah 43:18, 19 is a most important scripture. Too many look back over their shoulder & think, ìif only I had done things differently.î If, If, If! What about you. If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently? As you consider that question & how you might go forward in a new direction (Ps. 32:8), I want you to know that whenever you make changes in your life that lead you toward God, you have ALL the help of heaven on your side. GOD gives you a genuinely new beginning when you become born again. (II Cor. 5:17). GOD created you to have a relationship with HIM, an INTIMATE relationship, where HE can express HIS LOVE, GOODNESS, MERCY & KINDNESS towards you. But until you TRUST the LORD JESUS CHRIST as your PERSONAL SAVIOR, or rededicate your life to HIM, you will NOT experience that blessing . JESUS gives you a NEW beginning!!! At some point, every believer must decide that this new beginning isnít just for a day, but for a LIFETIME. After your initial commitment to follow CHRIST, you must decide to OBEY HIM DAILY. In response to your OBEDIENCE, (I Sam. 15:22) HE will pour into your lap a good measure, pressed down, shaken together & running over (Luke 6:38).

The ultimate surrender of your life to GOD is the wisest decision you can make (James 1:5). I told all those in the services this month that the time to make that decision is today, (II Cor. 6:2) because tomorrow is NOT promised. (Prov. 27:1). What about you as you read this??? These newsletters are passed around & now is YOUR TIME. There were also some 3 dozen that I prayed with to FORGIVE THEMSELVES & not spend their lives looking over their shoulder, pining over the past. In this New Year, resolve to put away any regret. PRAY to be the person GOD wants you to be & you will chart a course to navigate victoriously. There is VICTORY in JESUS.

Until next month, may GOD BLESS you & to you who sent LOVE offerings, a 100-fold return.

In His Majesty's Service,

Mel Novak