



24/7



A Newsletter for the Christian Home

FACING the Future

For some people, the turn of the calendar gives immediate hope.

It is true that for many people and for many organizations, they are glad to see 2008 in the rearview mirror. It was a year that will be long remembered for economic downturns, natural disasters, mortgage defaults, and so much more. Many people lost jobs, lost homes, and perhaps even lost hope during the calendar year 2008.

It is now 2009, and just the change in the number can give a spring in the step for families, for organizations and individuals who desire to see a better future. A new administration will take office in our government in mid-January, and for some that will bring a sense of positive anticipation. We often like the month of January for the very reason that it seems like a new start, a chance for a fresh beginning, a chance for hope to be renewed.

But, where is real hope found?

Does it simply lie in the observance of another turn of the calendar, the marking of another complete circle of the sun by planet earth? Not so! Hope for the future is found in the One who is the creator of the future, the One who changes not in the midst of great change and turmoil.

Our loving God offers in His Word, a simple way to face the future:

PLANS

In Jeremiah 29:11-14, our loving God offers the assurance to His people that He has something in mind for them, that they have a hope and a future, in spite of the terrible turmoil they had recently experienced in exile. Many of us

may feel like we are in financial exile as families, that the hope for a better future for our kids has been dashed. Our hope is not in things we want from this world but in the plans that God has prepared for us.

PRESENCE

In Joshua 1:5-7, God gives a promise to the new leader of His people, Joshua, as He says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." We can claim that same promise today, no matter what turbulence faces our families. God also tells Joshua, "Be strong and courageous . . ." We can also be uplifted by those same words as we face the future knowing God is with us no matter what!

PURPOSE

Through the pen of St. Paul in Romans 8:28, we are again reminded that God works for us—not against us—in our daily lives. He has long-range purposes for our lives that go way beyond the day-to-day issues that presently concern us. While God doesn't cause the bad things in our life and won't use them to hurt us in anyway, He will find a way over the course of His timing to bring about good, and to bless us.

Well, there you have it: a simple, three-fold process for facing the future. Far better than just the turn of a calendar—it is a turn of a page or two in God's Word, something and someone, we can surely count on to help us face the future.



Dr. Steve Christopher

Vol. 3 No. 5 ■ January 2009

A publication of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, District and Congregational Services—Family Ministry © 2008