

New Year 2010

Lynne Baab

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(The following comes not directly from Lynne, but from a few notes that I took myself during her talk, mainly from contributions made by different people, and the questions that Lynne left with us to think about at the end. Something for us all to ponder coming into a new year... -Judith)

Lynne started by sharing 3 different scriptures and then asking for comment from people.

1st Scripture: Ps 105:4-5

“Keep your eyes open for God, watch for his works; be alert for signs of his presence. Remember the world of wonders he has made.”

Comments on this passage:

- We can reflect back each evening on where God was in it
- Be God-focused, not focused on self – ‘watch for HIS works’
- Resolve to look for what God’s doing, resolve to “watch”
- Look for beauty everywhere, pay attention
- This verse opens up possibilities beyond what we might think of
- It’s an invitation to enjoy life, an invitation that counteracts the busyness, the inward-lookingness of life today
- Be thankful and grateful, in fact, ‘paying attention’ leads to thankfulness, because if we don’t pay attention, we are unlikely to be thankful.

2nd Scripture: Isaiah 43:19

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Comments on this passage:

- This verse makes desert places constructive and fruitful
- Just because we can’t see, it doesn’t mean that God isn’t doing something – FAITH
- How God moves in us may be surprising!
- God who journeyed with me last year will continue to journey with me this year.
- Growth occurs in the valley, not on the mountaintop. You will see the streams in the desert and the wasteland
- The streams might only be tiny, you have got to look for them!
- It’s all about God doing it, we just have to see it, be aware.

3rd Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

Comments on this passage:

- This is what God does, causing a transformation to happen in our lives. The question we can ask as we come into a new year, is this: Am I cooperating with the work of the Spirit in my life, or am I resisting it?

Lynne concluded by giving us three questions to think about, and 10 minutes to write down our thoughts on them. At the end of that, we had the opportunity to share one of these thoughts with a neighbour if we wanted.

Questions:

1. Look back at 2009. Where was God at work in your life?
2. What new thing do you hope and pray that God will do in 2010?
3. In what new way or ways could you cooperate with God’s Spirit as you are being transformed into Christ’s image?