

As we wrap up another year, I am reminded of a holiday tradition I learned years ago in Uganda.

During the days leading up to the new year following Christmas celebrations and time with family, many believers gather for prayer and worship. The new year is celebrated by gathering together with other believers and praying, singing, worshipping God, and being challenged to press into faithfulness in the coming year. I have always thought this was an awesome idea.



Rather than a big party with all the glitz and noise of ringing in the new year, a celebration of this sort allows for time of reflection, calling out to God, and

seeking His will for our lives in the coming days. This tradition is a great reminder of a daily practice we all should be actively pursuing. Yes, at the close of the year and looking forward to a new year of possibilities is a good time to pause and focus our attention of these things. Yet, as Christ-followers we should be walking daily in these practices to remain connected to our Father and focused on His will for our lives.

In the last few days of the year, take time to pause and reflect on what all the Lord has done in your world this year. There are many days He carried you through tough circumstances. There have been great times of celebration and joy. We all have also experienced times this year where we were sad or full of grief. All of our experiences were under the sovereignty of our Heavenly Father. And

most importantly, all of our future days are as well! Take time to reflect and remember His

faithfulness.

During these days, take time to sing and worship the Father.
Celebrate the incredible incarnation of the Son of God. Rejoice



over the entrance into our world of the Prince of Peace and the Everlasting Father. Rest in the arrival of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Take time to thank God for offering to us the opportunity for forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. Immanuel, God with us, has altered all of history and we, as the Body of Christ, have the privilege of celebrating His personal impact in our hearts and minds!

Also, take time to be challenged this season. Read a book, listen to a new podcast, sit and have conversations with fellow Christ-followers to be stretched, pushed and challenged. Ask the Lord to help you press in deeper to your faith journey with Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you new truths from His Word and expand your understanding of His ways. Seek to be pushed beyond what you think you can do to accomplish great things for the Kingdom!

Consider the coming days and how He can use you to be about Kingdom work and expand the tent stakes of the Kingdom of God. Join us in 2023 as we Reach the World and Teach the Word among all nations. Thank you for remaining vigilant as you pray for us, support us, and join us in the field. We are anticipating great things in 2023 through the opportunities we have to join our brothers and sisters in the fields as they work, serve, and harvest among the nations.

I wish I was a Christmas card wife/mom, but I gave up that expectation and hope for myself years ago. Maybe when my youngest kids graduate, I will have the time to do that...or maybe not. Instead, I try to live fully in the season where God has our family and enjoy that. By nature, I'm a doer - a lover of all things task-related and efficient processes. So, if something can be eliminated to make my life more enjoyable, I am likely going to chop away. I love bare bones, bottom lines, and completed to do lists.



That sounds awesome until I look at the downside. Sometimes, I choose tasks over people, the invented over the created, and the checkmark above quality time. I need to be challenged and encouraged to slow down and enjoy the moment. Recently, we took the whole family to New York City for a bucket list trip to see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. It was just as amazing as I imagined. I planned a few meals, a play, and the time at the parade, but nothing else was on the agenda. My kids were shocked, and I enjoyed every moment! I

pray that the Lord continues to give me opportunities to live in the season without every minute structured.

As we enter 2023, join me in relying on the Lord more, seeking His face daily, and listening to His voice. May we all choose God over everything else! From our family to yours, Happy New Year! - Sheryl Turner

## Tax Deductible Contributions

One Way Ministries is a 501c3 organization registered with the IRS since 2001. All donations made to One Way Ministries are tax deductible. Receipt for contributions made in 2022 will be mailed by January 31, 2023. If you have moved during 2022, please send us your current mailing address.

Donations received electronically through midnight on December 31, 2022 as well as via the USPS (postmarked by December 31, 2022) will be counted as a 2022 contribution. Please contact Sheryl (<a href="mailto:sheryl@1wayministries.org">sheryl@1wayministries.org</a>) with any questions about financial contributions.

## 2023 Mission Trips

March 26 - April1	Peru	Orphan Care/Comm. Outreach	FULL
April 1-7	Peru	Community Outreach	OPEN
April 21-29	Slovenia	Kids' Club/Church Plant Support	OPEN
May 27 - June 3	Guatemala	Community Outreach/Food Dist.	OPEN
July 8 - 15	Guatemala	Community Outreach/Food Dist.	OPEN
July 15-22	Guatemala	Community Outreach/Food Dist.	OPEN

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