

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In 1939, at the dawn of a dark and uncertain year, His Majesty King George VI addressed the nation on Christmas day. Many of you might know what he said, and will recall that he did not use his own words, but instead read a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins titled 'The Gate of the Year.' I think the words are still pertinent to all of us.

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year:

'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied:

'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'"

The King shared these words because they offer courage when the path ahead is unclear. And now, as we step into a new year of our own – with hopes, challenges and unknowns, the same words offer us the same reminder: our true security comes not from knowing the way we are going, but from knowing the One who leads us.

As the New Year begins, I find myself reflecting on God's faithful hand. I am deeply grateful for all of you: your prayers, your generosity, your incredible welcome, and your perseverance. And ofcourse, all of the ways you care for one another. You are a beautiful reflection of Christ's love.

This new year invites us to place our hand, once again, into God's own hand. To trust him more deeply. To seek him as earnestly as we can, and to walk in hope even when the path is dimly lit. For the same God who guided the generations before us, still guides us now.

My prayer for each of you is that, in 2026, you will find it a year of renewed faith, deeper peace, and a joyful obedience. And so that is our prayer focus for January.

May God's presence be your strength.

With Love, George.

Let's begin with Prayer

*As I begin a new year Lord,
I place my life into your hands
Walk with me in every moment
Strengthen me when i am weary
Guide me when the way is unclear
Fill me with your Spirit
Amen*

Bible Readings for January

Week 1 - A Renewed Faith

Reading: Isaiah 40:28-31

Reflect: A new year is an invitation to trust God again, fully, honestly, and expectantly. This reading calls us to place our hope in the Lord, who does not grow tired or weary. As we wait on Him, He renews our strength and restores our confidence in His faithfulness.

Week 2 - A Deeper Peace

Reading: Philippians 4:6-7

Reflect: True peace does not come from perfect circumstances but from bringing our concerns to God. This reading encourages us to pray with honesty, gratitude, and trust, allowing God's peace to settle our hearts and steady our minds in every situation.

Week 3 – A Joyful Obedience

Reading: John 15:9-11

Reflect: Obedience to Christ is not driven by fear, it springs from love. When we walk in His ways, we discover a joy that cannot be taken away. This reading reminds us that obedience is not a burden but a pathway into the fullness of Christ's joy.

Week 4 – A Trusting Heart

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6

Reflect: As the month concludes, we center our hearts on trust. The year ahead may hold unknowns, but God's guidance is sure. When we acknowledge Him in every area of life, He leads us faithfully and shapes our steps according to His wisdom.