

Blessings to Ponder
Numbers 6:22-27; Luke 2:15-21
Jan 1, 2023
Paulette Mixon-Weller

On the journey of life it's important to find moments of encouragement to keep going.

The Israelites were wandering in the Sinai when this blessing was offered to the people:

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.
So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

-The "you" is Singular and meant for each individual personally.

God smiled on the people wandering and God smiles on us today as we wander.

Terrence Fretheim

This text is located in the middle of a major section of Numbers (1:1-10:10). It describes Israel's preparations for leaving Mt. Sinai (where the people have been camped for almost a year) and the continuation of its journey through the wilderness to the land of promise. This blessing is designated for Israel's time of departure from Sinai, and was to be used daily throughout their journey. This is a blessing for a journey!

We, as Christians, bear the name of Christ: "Little Christs"

Lamentations 3:22: "The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease."

Henri Nouwen, "Each day holds a surprise. But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy. It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity."

CS Lewis: "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

Intention/ Determination

Wishing you 12 months of success, 52 weeks of laughter, 365 days of fun, 8,760 hours of joy, 525,600 minutes of good luck, and 31,536,000 seconds of happiness.

Celtic New Year's Prayer – The Opening Door

This day is a new day

That has never been before.

This year is a new year,
the opening door.

Enter, Lord Christ—

we have joy in Your coming.

You have given us life;

and we welcome Your coming.

I turn now to face You,

I lift up my eyes.

Be blessing my face, Lord;

be blessing my eyes.

May all my eye looks on

be blessed and be bright,

my neighbours, my loved ones

be blessed in Your sight.

You have given us life

and we welcome Your coming.

Be with us, Lord,

we have joy, we have joy.

This year is a new year,

the opening door.

Be with us, Lord, We have joy, we have joy.