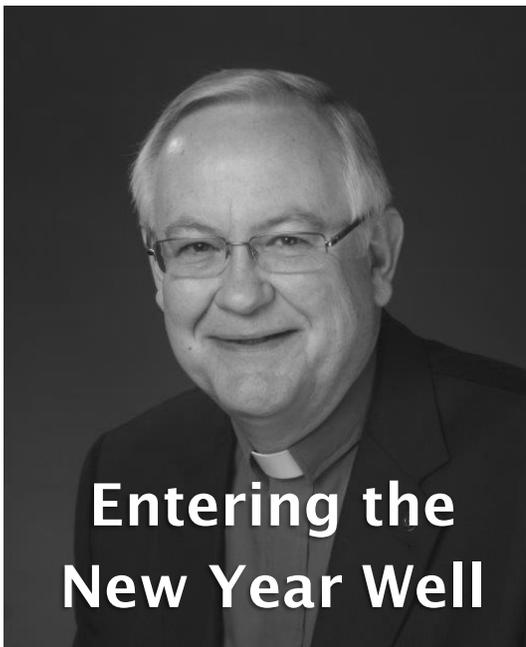


# Church Life News



By Kirby Unti, NWWA Bishop

What shall you bring with you into the New Year and what shall you leave behind?

I met the cutest couple in their eighties. They lived just down the street from the church. I had been asked by their neighbor if I would be willing to officiate at their wedding. I agreed, as I seldom turned down the opportunity to share the gifts of the church with the people of the community.

They invited me over to their home and graciously shared their story with me. Both of them had lost their spouses whom they deeply loved. I knew this when they invited me to see the family pictures in the hallway. On one side of the hallway were pictures of his family - his former wife, their children and grandchildren. On the opposite wall hung the photos of her former husband, their children and grand children.

This couple had accomplished what I have not often experienced. They were able to

appropriately hold the memory of their former spouses and still fully embrace one another. Neither had met the other's spouse when they were living but each had shared enough about their love and respect that they felt like they knew them. I was thrilled that this couple could celebrate what had gone on before them and begin a new chapter in life with great gratitude for each other's companionship and love.

It sure made it easy for this couple's adult children and grandchildren to be in the home of these newlyweds. They knew that their past was being appropriately honored and they could rejoice in the new beginning for their parents.

It takes wisdom and confidence to know how to carry the bones of those who have gone before us.

And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for Joseph had solemnly sworn the people of Israel saying, "God will visit you; then you must carry my bones with you from here." - *Exodus 13:19*

How well are you carrying the bones of your past? The New Year gives us the opportunity to be intentional about what we carry forward. For far too many of us, we tend to bring grudges, hurt feelings, jealousies not yet overcome, and anger still clutched. You do not have to carry that weight for another year. Letting go of the ugly past can be the best weight loss program there is.

Knowing how to carry the past and enter the future allows to live life in the present to its fullest.

## Happy New Year!

# Church Life News



*Pastor Dorcas Wang*

Dear Partner in Ministry,

What a joy for me to receive your Christmas letters and responses to my Thanksgiving greetings! I first wish you and your family Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

How grateful and encouraging for me to be reminded that you keep me in your daily prayers! I know this! However, it is still very special for me to read that fact again in your emails. I cannot thank God enough for His grace and your support in both prayer and finances!

Many of you have mentioned that you pray for me to have a good health. Yes, the older I get, the more I realize how important it is to have a good health. Especially, at the present time with the challenges from air, water and food, I need your faithful prayer support much more than before! Facing the realities of situation, I am reminded once again that how blessed we are by knowing God as His children. Well, I think I should say being known by God. Therefore, it is our joy and responsibility to share the GOSPEL with those who have not heard.

On last Sunday at BICF Chinese congregation, there were about 80 people who responded the altar call. I know you will rejoice with us for those new lives in Christ! As you know, these new babies need people to take care of. I am blessed and honored to continue being part of the teaching team for the spiritual growth and discipleship training at the Chinese congregation.

Also, I will start to teach again at Yanjing Seminary in March, 2016. I have several teaching trips already scheduled in the spring. With other ministries, I have plenty opportunities to serve each day.

I will be in the US at the summer of 2016 for my Home Assignment. I will have a Mission Conference in July, then I will start to visit different congregations to thank you in person for supporting this ministry through me.

If you want me to come to share with your congregation, could you please let me know ASAP, so I can make my travel plan accordingly? Because of my limited time in the US, could you please choose either Sunday or weekdays (like Wed. evening) for my coming? Once I get your reply, I will contact you separately for more details. I would love to see you and will do my best to schedule my visit!

Please take good care, dear friend!

May our God continue to bless you, yours and your work for His glory and make you a blessing to many others as you are to me!

With prayer for you,  
Dorcas