

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday January 1, 2024 - Revelation 21:5

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Read Revelation 21 for meditation and inspiration.



HAPPY NEW YEAR IN THE NEW YEAR OF OUR LORD 2024!

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

Jewish people, survivors of the Holocaust, who were gathered together in a safe hospital under Allied treatment and care, had the opportunity to meet with with a Rabbi who came to minister to their spiritual needs. On the second visit the Rabbi brought drinks to all to enjoy and how did these people still suffering the ravages of torture and malnutrition respond? Each lifted their glass and cried with a loud voice that rang throughout the building and beyond, “ L'chayim! ” which means “to life!”

In the days of the Roman persecution, one of the worst things that could happen to a Christian was being sent to the Numidia mines in North Africa. There,

the prisoners were brutally whipped, marched through rocky valleys, burned by the sun, branded on their brow with a hot iron, chained so that they were unable to stand erect, and sent into the dark pits to work interminable hours. It was indescribable suffering. Later, when the mines were opened to visitors, it was discovered that these early Christians had etched little words and slogans on the caves' walls in which they were working. Of all the many words that appear there, two appear more than any others. One is the word "Christ" (Christos); the other is the word "life." In that environment of terrible suffering, the two things they thought of most were Christ and life, for it is Jesus who comes to make abundant life possible -- even in the midst of the suffering in our lives.

We are born for life! So says our very nature. And so, says the Bible. Born for life! In Biblical terms, this means that we humans have a spiritual dimension that is "immortal" and "incorruptible" -- that is to say, our "soul." It means that as whole human persons, we can live this life to its fullest and prepare for the life yet to come. We celebrate life and the continuing of life as we pass each New Year's Eve. So, enjoy God's great gift to you of life. Every breath and every heart beat is a gift.

L'chayim,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger