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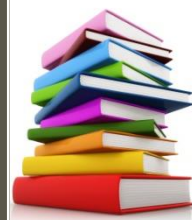
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January 2024

A Free Monthly Newsletter for Christian Students

# Today's Readers



## Happy New Year

The year has just begun, and it is interesting to note that God has brought you into the new year for a purpose – for His pleasure. What does that mean? Whenever God gives His people any privilege, He is only delighted if they please Him with that privilege. I can assure you from scriptures that everyone who pleases God, will have the heaven open upon them.

*And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (Matthew 3:16,17)*

So, our prayers for you as you take your journey into the new year that you would do all within your capacity to please God. As you know, the grace of God, the scriptures, and the Holy Spirit's quiet voice are all available to you. Every child of God can take advantage of these divine treasures to navigate through the year. God bless you.

## Mary Slessor <<< Biographical Reflections

*... against all odds, she went!*

*Mary died over a century ago, but her memory lingers in the hearts of humanity and her impact remains indelible. She exited the stage, leaving behind footprints of grace in the sand of time.*

Although Mary's home was not the perfect example of what any child would admire. She did not allow the unfavourable situation of her home to deter her from fulfilling her purpose in life.

Due to the circumstances beyond her control, she had to attend school on a part-time basis to work as to support her family financially. At such tender age, she was able to maintain a balance between work, school, and church attendance.

She stopped her formal education at age 14 to begin working a 12-hour shift daily.

As a teenager, Mary joined a local mission in Dundee, to take the gospel to a poor community. She would encourage and mobilize youths to Sunday school meetings. At the age of 28, Mary left the shores of Scotland for Calabar, Nigeria, following her missionary training.

In answer to God's call to serve, she travelled for four weeks over the sea to a local and strange place – where slave trade, infanticide and human sacrifice were in vogue. Against all odds, Mary lived with the people. Like Christ, she went down to their level, ate with them, learned, and became fluent in their

**Have you discovered what God would have you do for him in this life?**

language, and won them to the Lord. She mastered the people's culture and customs to the extent that she was appointed as a member of the local court system of the day. It was during the time when twin babies were

considered a curse and were consequently sacrificed to the gods. Mary lived the rest of her life, to serve those who could not pay her back. She sacrificed all that she received from the Lord for others to come to the saving knowledge of God. She was a true example of being "saved to serve". Having loved them, she loved them till the end of her life.

# The Beautiful Jewel

The Bible uses several similes to describe God's people. One of such symbolic names is a Jewel. In Malachi 3:17, God referred to His people as Jewels. What does it mean, and why did God use this expression? Jewels are ordinary raw materials converted into precious ornaments.

The craftsman picks up a stone, exposes it to heat and pressure for a long time. In the end, a valuable gemstone evolves. In the same way, God wants all His people to be admirable and beautiful to behold.

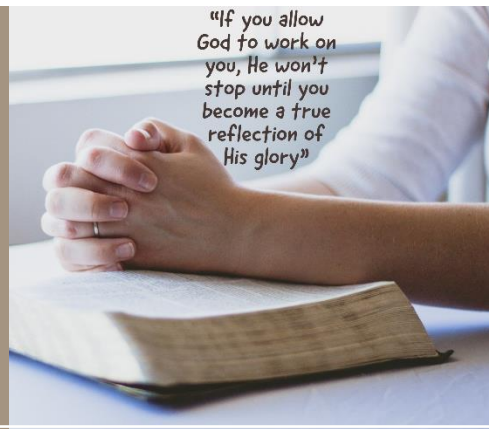


To be God's jewel, you must allow God to take you through the process of conversion and refinement. Are you willing to let God chip off certain excesses, habits, or tendencies out of your life as He feels necessary?

If you desire to be among God's Jewels, then you must be willing to sincerely ask him to chip and polish your life as the craftsman does to the stone. Moreover, you must be patient with God while He works on your life.

Several people want a positive change in their situation today, but they are not ready to submit to God's word. Unfortunately, God's word is the primary tool He uses to save, transform, and beautify the lives of His people (Romans 1:16).

"If you allow God to work on you, He won't stop until you become a true reflection of His glory"



It is as you read and listen to God's word daily and allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to your hearts that you will begin to see Him transform your life. God's word is the hammer that chisels. It is the ointment that polishes. It is the fire that will get the dross off your life.

Are you ready to become one of God's Jewels? You must be sure you are ready to change as you read and study God's word.



"A very little sin, as the world calls it, is a very great sin to a true Christian"  
- C.H. Spurgeon.

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## Rescue from The Pandemic That Has Refused To Leave

A disease becomes a pandemic (global threat) once it spreads beyond the boundary of a country. Over the years, several pandemics had occurred that affected billions and claimed several millions of lives.

There is one thing that is common to all pandemics that had impacted human history – Each of them left behind very distressing and devastating impacts on human lives and the global economy. With the most recent Covid-19 outbreak, no one could agree more with this perplexing reality.

Sin – generally understood as any form of disobedience to the law of God can be likened to a pandemic. It is a spiritual disease, and like any biological disease, it disrupts human peace and interrupts the ease of living across the nations of the world. As sin continues to spread across national and international boundaries, claiming lives and ravaging human dignity and sending untold millions into the fire of hell, no one seems to be concerned about the damaging effects it continues to have on human lives, families, and communities. A closer look at the troubles in the entire world today can be traced back to someone breaking either one or more of God's laws stipulated in the Bible.

Although, it is an undeniable fact that almost all the judiciary systems of every nation agree with the principles of God's fundamental laws, the statistics of crimes, violence, destructions, and other forms of evils destroying our world reveals that these laws alone would not suffice to save man from sin.

Perhaps, you are wondering how you could break free from sin. The GOOD NEWS is that you can be saved from your sins (Romans 8:3). Yes, you can live above sin and be saved from sin and its consequences. That is why God sent Jesus to provide a permanent remedy for anyone living in any form of sin. Sin is deadly.

All you have to do is – confess your sins to God, ask Him with all your heart to forgive you and accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour.