

*Always trust an unknown future to a known God--Corrie Ten Boom*

That saying of Corrie Ten Boom, the woman who much later in her life went around the world in the 60s and 70s to proclaim God's faithfulness and love after being imprisoned (along with her sister Betsie who died there) during World War II in the Nazi concentration camps), has been much on my mind, and if you haven't noticed has been put on our sign on 22 westbound. If anyone could testify to the truth of those words it was Corrie. Horrible conditions and uncertainty were part of those concentration camps.

So as we approach a new year it seems especially good to be reminded of the truth of those words. While we may never be in the same situation that Corrie was, in many ways I think uncertainty permeates our times in this early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are told that there is one job for every tree people. Established companies, while not at the rapid pace of times past, are still shutting down. This continues to hasten the economies of many communities in a downward spiral. Graduating from College is no sure ticket to a good job. Relationships between two people even when they seem stable bring no long term guarantees. Parents can no longer be assured that if they raise their child a certain way, their child will turn out fine. So in many areas this list could go on and I'm certain it would not only make you depressed but very pessimistic.

Still we are people of faith, and that should count for something, or if nothing else make us think that we need not feel defeated when we consider these depressing trends. Our Christian faith is based on God's entry in the world, not free of trouble or uncertainty, but encountering it at every turn. Starting with the circumstances of Jesus birth, Mary and Joseph were visitors with no place to stay except a makeshift room which for want of a better word was a barn. While Jesus life dynamically proved in word and deed God's love and care for all people, it was brutally cut short by his cruel arrest, torture, crucifixion and subsequent death.

Yet even in death God did not fail for Jesus was raised from the dead and the resurrection has become the strongest and most powerful word God can be trusted at all times.

So; a new year? Uncertainty? You bet! But we can trust God with all of it. For an old hymn from our Lutheran faith assures us:

"God never will forsake in need

The soul that trusts in him indeed" – Georg Newmark 1621-1681

Blessed 2014 to you and yours!

Pr. John Van Haneghan