

New Year's Day 2018
01/01/18

Before I talk about peace, which is one of the options for today, I want to start on a lighter note by sharing some quotes from the December issue of Reader's Digest. Trust me, I'm not in any way trying to minimize the importance of Mary or our obligation to pray for and work for peace. These fall into the category of New Year's resolutions.

I bought a treadmill because my New Year's resolution is to have more things to put my laundry on. Did you forget to make resolutions? Just write out everything you did last night, and at the beginning, add the word **stop**. For those of you who have already failed your New Year's resolution, there is always the Chinese New Year to try again. That takes place on Friday, February 16th. And finally, my New Year's resolution is to be more assertive, if that's okay with you folks?

In one of my daily meditation books, entitled Promise of a New Day, I found the following meditation for today. It begins with a quote from Pearl Buck: "One faces the future with one's past."

We are never divorced from our past. We are in company with it forever, and it acquaints us with the present. Our responses today reflect our experiences yesterday. And those roots lie in the past. Every day is offering us preparation for the future, for the lessons to come, without which we'd not offer our full measure to the design which contains the development of all.

Our experiences, past and present, are not coincidental. We will be introduced to those experiences that are consistent with our talents and the right lessons designated for the part we are requested to play in life. We can remember that no experiences will attract us that are beyond our capabilities to handle. The conclusion states: All is well. I'm ready for whatever comes today. My yesterdays have prepared me.

That conclusion reminded me of the Michael W. Smith song I so often heard during the lead-up to Christmas, entitled All is Well. The lyrics go like this: All is well, all is well. Angels and men rejoice. For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light. Sing Ale, sing Alleluia. All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth. Christ's come, go and tell that He is in the manger. Sing Ale, sing Alleluia.

All is well, all is well. Lift up your voices and sing. Born is now Emmanuel, born is our Lord and Savior. Sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia. All is well, born is now Emmanuel, born is our Lord and Savior. Sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia, all is well

And so, as we begin yet another year, let us remember that, in the midst of the tension and turmoil and uncertainty that may take place in our families, our communities, our nation and our world, because God decided to come among us, all is well. All will indeed be well.