

The Ideal Year 2008 *By H.H. Pope Shenouda III*

Suppose your past years competed with each other, which of them, do you think, could be the best? ... Don't worry yourselves about examining the past, but

do let this year be the best.. THE IDEAL ONE!



A Year Ideal in Love & Good Deeds:

If this year is wasted without yielding fruits, god's purpose of giving it to us would not be achieved. How then should you act this year?

Are you going to be effective and influential? Will you be a blessing to your household, to your church, ministry and work? Be keen on enriching this year from its very beginning with every good work.

A Year Ideal in being Mindful of Time:

Life means "time". The one who wastes his time is in fact wasting his life .. Therefore we ought to be mindful all the time, of every single minute and of every action. Many saints lived a short life, but the fruit of this short life was wonderful. Others lived long lives but as if they hadn't been born at all! Of which type are you? Is your time a friend of yours or an enemy? Do you gain your life or lose it all along? Do you grow in the spirit or fall back? Ask yourself.

A Year Ideal in Making Peace with Others:

He who blames himself can always live in peace, since he will not argue, nor resist stubbornly, quarrel, dispute, nor react to every word with a similar or a harder one, but will rather agree with his adversary quickly while together on the way (Mt 5:25). Moreover, one ought to blame oneself, not only for the faults one has committed but also for the faults one seeks to avoid falling in. In this way, one will be cautious and will make good progress towards perfection.



From the Fathers:

Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but Stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience.

St. John of the Ladder

Holy Bible Series *Let's continue with the past series* *To Whom Shall I Go?* *Part 2* *By H.G. Bishop Rafael*

The Word of God is.....

A devouring fire:

Fire purifies from impurities and trash.. And thus the word of God, it purifies us from every sin.. "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." (John 15: 3).

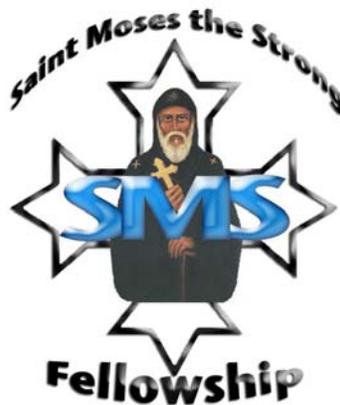
It is the fire that Jeremiah the prophet spoke about "Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts: 'Because you speak this word, behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.'" (Jer. 5: 14).

It is a fire against evil to purify "Behold, the name of the LORD comes from afar, burning with His anger and His burden is heavy; His lips are full of indignation, and His tongue like a devouring fire." (Is. 30: 27). "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, 'and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?'" (Jer. 23: 29).

Accordingly, the word of God sanctifies to the perfection "For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." (1. Tim. 4: 5). As for the servants who burn with this sacred fire,

they cannot keep it secret inside them "For we cannot but speak the things that we have seen and heard." (Acts 4: 20), and if the servant wants to keep silent, he discovers that his heart is burning with this fire "Then I said, 'I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name.' But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not." (Jer. 20:9), as for them who refuse the word of God, they shall burn by it "Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the

law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel." (Is. 5: 24). (To be continued next issue)



Saint Moses the Strong Fellowship

Feasts of the Month:

12/5 *The Martyrdom of St. Mercurius known as the Saint with the Two Swords*

12/7 *The Martyrdom of St. James the Mangled (Sawn)*

12/13 *The Entrance of Saint Mary into the temple at Jerusalem*

“Do not seek the perfection of the law in human virtues, for it is not found perfect in them. Its perfection is hidden in the Cross of Christ.”

St. Mark the Ascetic

DON'T QUIT

When you feel that everything is against you
And nothing seems to be true
Stand out but DON'T QUIT!
When you see everything black
And the world seems to be a small flat
Search for light but DON'T QUIT!
When you find that you were betrayed
And lovers with your heart played
Hold by love but DON'T QUIT!
When failure is clear
And success can't appear
Compete but DON'T QUIT!
When people give you no trust
And treat you as a weak crust
Report yourself but DON'T QUIT!
When no one believe in your words
And accuse you of lying of the herds
Hold by truth but DON'T QUIT!
When problems surround all around your world
And everybody escape like frightened bird
Act positively but DON'T QUIT!
When you feel shy
And everyone looks at you from the sky
DON'T hide your face
But raise it and show its grace
Lift yourself off your feet
Look to the sky and take your seat
Because you have a great value
Just look forward and DON'T QUIT!

Are you good with numbers?

1. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, he is five feet ten inches, and he wears size 13 sneakers. He has a wife and 2 kids. What does he weigh?
2. What is special about the number 854917632?
3. You have 2 American coins that total 30¢. One of the coins is not a quarter. What are the 2 coins?

Answers will be provided next issue

Last Issue Riddles Answers:

- 1- They are palindromes - they read the same forward and backwards.
- 2- "I am."
- 3- The letter "e" (sEcond, minutE, yEar).
- 4- The letter "g".

SMS fellowship and the congregation of St. Antonius Coptic Orthodox Church of the San Francisco Bay Area were blessed with a pastoral visit by **His Grace Bishop Youssef**, Bishop of the Southern United States Diocese. On Thursday November 1, 2007 His Grace inaugurated the SMS fellowship meetings with a spirit-filled lecture on the "Life of Victory". More than 200 parishioners were present. HG prayed the Midnight Praise with the deacons followed by the Holy Liturgy on Friday morning.

During the blessed month of Koiak, we will pray the Koiak praise (7 & 4) every Friday immediately after the meeting. Please refer to the schedule below.



HG Bishop Youssef

Friday 12/7 Fr. Gregory Bishay (Youth Center, Orange)
 Friday 12/14 Fr. Anthony Attalla (St. Mary & St Athanasius, Northridge)
 Friday 12/21 Fr. Shenouda Ghattas (St. John's Church, West Covina)
 Friday 12/28 Fr. Anastasi (St. Anthony Monastery)

6:30-7:30PM Agape
 7:30-8:00PM Prayers & Songs
 8:00-9:00PM Lecture - Q&A
 9:00-9:30PM Break
 9:30-2:00AM Midnight Praise
 2:00-4:00AM Holy Liturgy (Sat morning)

HG Bishop Youssef with the priests of Northern California Churches



Saint Moses the Strong Fellowship

The Resume of Jesus Christ

Address: Ephesians 1:20

Phone: Romans 10:13

Website: The Bible. Keywords: Christ, Lord, Savior and Jesus

Hello. My name is *Jesus -The Christ*. Many call me Lord! I've sent you my resume' because I'm seeking the top management position in your heart. Please consider my accomplishments as set forth in my resume.

Qualifications

- I founded the earth and established the heavens, (See Proverbs 3:19)
- I formed man from the dust of the ground, (See Genesis 2:7)
- I breathed into man the breath of life, (See Genesis 2:7)
- I redeemed man from the curse of the law, (See Galatians 3:13)
- The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant comes upon your life through me, (See Galatians 3:14)

Occupational Background

- I've only had one employer, (See Luke 2:49).
- I've never been tardy, absent, disobedient, slothful or disrespectful.
- My employer has nothing but rave reviews for me, (See Matthew 3:15-17)

Skills Work Experiences

- Some of my skills and work experiences include: empowering the poor to be poor no more, healing the brokenhearted, setting the captives free, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind and setting at liberty them that are bruised, (See Luke 4:18).
- I am a Wonderful Counselor, (See Isaiah 9:6). People who listen to me shall dwell safely and shall not fear evil, (See Proverbs 1:33).
- Most importantly, I have the authority, ability and power to cleanse you of your sins, (See I John 1:7-9)

Educational Background

- I encompass the entire breadth and length of knowledge, wisdom and understanding, (See Proverbs 2:6).
- In me are hid all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, (See Colossians 2:3).
- My Word is so powerful; it has been described as being a lamp unto your feet and a lamp unto your path, (See Psalms 119:105).
- I can even tell you all of the secrets of your heart, (See Psalms 44:21).

Major Accomplishments

- I was an active participant in the greatest Summit Meeting of all times, (See Genesis 1:26).
- I laid down my life so that you may live, (See II Corinthians 5:15).
- I defeated the archenemy of God and mankind and made a show of them openly, (See Colossians 2:15).
- I've miraculously fed the poor, healed the sick and raised the dead!
- There are many more major accomplishments, too many to mention here. You can read them on my website, which is located at: [www dot - the BIBLE](http://www.dot-theBIBLE.com). You don't need an Internet connection or computer to access my website.

References

- Believers and followers worldwide will testify to my divine healings, salvation, deliverance, miracles, restoration and supernatural guidance

In Summation

- Now that you've read my resume, I'm confident that I'm the only candidate uniquely qualified to fill this vital position in your heart. In summation, I will properly direct your paths, (See Proverbs 3:5-6), and lead you into everlasting life, (See John 6:47). When can I start? Time is of the essence, (See Hebrews 3:15).

إصنع شيئاً !!

خاطر رجل بحياته ، وقفز في النهر لينقذ شاباً صغيراً من الغرق ، وبعدما استرد الولد وعيه ، قال للرجل : أشكرك لأنك أنقذت حياتي ، فرد عليه الرجل : لا داعي للشكر يا ابني، لكن اصنع شيئاً في حياتك يستحق إنقاذي لها !!
عزيزي القارئ، أقول لك مع هذا الرجل : اصنع شيئاً في حياتك يستحق ما صنعه الرب يسوع لك
لا تقف في هذه الحياة متفرجاً ، ولكن اصنع فيها شيئاً يستحق انقاذ المسيح لك .

قصة سانتا كلوز مأخوذة من قصة القديس نيكولاس وهو أسقف "ميرا" وقد عاش في القرن الرابع الميلادي، وقد كان القديس نيكولاس يقوم أثناء الليل ليوزع الهدايا للفقراء ولعائلات المحتاجين دون أن تعلم هذه العائلات من هو الفاعل. وأما الصورة المعروفة لسانتا كلوز فقد ولدت على يد الشاعر الأمريكي كليمنت كلارك مور، الذي كتب قصيدة الليلة التي قبل عيد الميلاد (The Night Before Christmas) عام 1823.



القديس نيكولاس

كلمات منقحة لقداسة البابا شنودة الثالث

الإنسان السوي يقيم توازناً في توزيع وقته ، يعطى وقتاً لعمله ووقتاً لراحته ، وقتاً لأحتياجات الجسد ووقتاً للوسائط الروحية ووقتاً لمسئوليات الأسرة ووقتاً لمطالب الخدمة ، وقتاً لعمله ومعرفته ووقتاً لعبادته ... هكذا . الإنسان السوي قيم توازناً في كل مشاعره وأنفعالاته وتصرفاته ، توازناً بين العقل والعاطفة وتوازناً بين الأنا والآخر.

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Happy New Year 2008

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