

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Warm New-Year Greetings to you all!

The Year 2021 has given way to this brand-new Year 2022. The spirit of Christmas is still with us, I hope, as we begin the new year with *God with us*. Yes, God is still on the Throne regardless of how 2021 was or what 2022 will bring. This new year is a gift from God; he gives it to us, and he desires to make the next step of life with us – if we allow him!

I don't know about you, but the beginning of a new year fills me with a happy feeling, renewed positive energy, and offers me a myriad of new possibilities to explore. I celebrate with a grateful heart to God. I pray for better days and a prosperous year ahead that will offer me another chance to invest in my talents and aptitudes – especially those I may have *buried* or neglected in the past year. And I do grin to the New Year as well!

As we venture into 2022, I invite you to spend a *New-Year Moment* with God (and family) – raise up your hearts to the place of serenity where your heart and the heart of God will embrace. And as the fireworks ‘deafen’ the night and light up the sky, let the fire of the Holy Spirit work a spiritual awakening in you to silence the noises of negativity and to enlighten your heart to see beyond the darkness that often envelops minds and hearts. Take time to savor the moment and commit everything – your life – to God as you (together) write the next chapter of your life.



Likewise, as ‘*no man is an island,*’ we enter the new year with our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is good to remind ourselves that we are because God is! We all belong to God! We are all part of God’s plan; we are all *in* the plan of God. And as J.S. Mbiti (a Christian African Philosopher) said: “*I am because we are; and since we are therefore I am,*” it is self-evident that we all need one another for life to be what God intended it to be. So let resolve and commit to journey together; let us care for one another; let us resolve to be kind to others; let us live together as one; let us embrace humanity; let us choose love (for where there is love, there is life)! This new year, let kindness, compassion, and deep appreciation of others be the gift we give generously to enrich humanity – for the common good. “*How good and how pleasant it is, when brothers (and sisters) dwell together as one!*” (Psalm 133:1).

Therefore, as we look back to 2021 with ‘thank-God-it-is-over’ expressions, we welcome 2022 with hope and trust that all things will work well for us who love God. I pray that your life will be filled with the warmth of love, immense joy, bountiful peace, and an overflow of blessings. May the Holy spirit inspire you to new achievements, renewed faith, and optimal happiness. Let us pray for one another.

Happy New Year 2022! May God bless you!

Fr. Mike Thang’wa

