

Dear eNews friend and church member.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope that you have had a brilliant Christmas and looking forward to a vibrant and purposeful New Year. The twelve days of Christmas events with the church in Glasgow have gone very well-despite heavy snow- I think a couple of thousand people attended the celebrations. 500 hundred hampers were given out to those who needed some help-the kids were brilliant-and the Gen8 evening was just awesome. Even on a very cold snowy night-the hall had a good number warming up to the Christmassy feelings as we watched *It's a wonderful life*. Even around 200 turned up on Christmas day!

It was great to finish the year on a positive note in the press as the *Scotland on Sunday* ran an almost full back page on the new building and call centre vision. (Sunday 20th December)

Well-the *naughties* have gone and the tens are upon us. What will they bring? the press commentary pages are already carrying apocalyptic tones as they comment on the many challenges facing our global village. What affects one-is affecting all.

In my thinking and planning for this next year I feel God saying *You will know grace for the race*. There is no faith or religion on earth that has any understanding of GRACE other than the message of good news found in Jesus. The words *grace and Jesus* are divinely and eternally linked.

Do you know that you do not have to do any one thing to get God to love you or accept you?
Do you know every promise he ever made (and there are many) were not given to you on your performance or ability? -they were given to you as a gift!

All our lives we are taught we "merit" things or we "earned" them. But with God you are simply given them. No wonder Paul prayed that our hearts would be flood lit with truth-that we might get it. The only work we have to do according to the Bible is *believe*.

This is the work of God-to believe in Him whom he has sent John 6:29

When grace operates in our lives all kinds of things happen

- We have an overwhelming sense of hope as we know God is for us
- We see amazing unexpected breakthroughs
- We have space and understanding in our lives for others.
- AND we enjoy walking with God, as we know he is not holding our sins against us

In other words it's Life- as God intended.

I for one want to grow in grace next year-and I will be teaching lots on it.

I pray you will know it-really know it-often in unexpected ways. I pray it will catch you unawares-and you will find yourself overwhelmed by God's goodness.

The world is seriously challenged-there is only one way to live this year-in God's astronomical grace!

Below is the confession we will declare over our lives this evening as we go to see in the New Year together. Our thoughts are with you if you can't join us. Let this be a part of your life. For our friends away-or those waiting for complete breakthroughs-we love you, miss you -think of you often and stand with you.

Happy New year

Andrew

OUR CONFESSION OVER 2010

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
I believe in the church as God's mighty body on earth; the importance of communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.

And because I hold these things to be true, this I know, **God is for me**.
Because I have entrusted my life by faith into his hands, and my plans for the year ahead are laid at his feet, I anticipate the blessings of God into every area of my life this year.

In 2010 I am determined to grow in my knowledge of God and experience more of his grace than ever.

In 2010 I will live by His word-following His wisdom-enjoying His promises.

In 2010 I shall expect the favour of God to surround me as with a shield, just as his word declares.

In 2010 I will endeavour to walk in Love with people around me-and increase the circle of meaningful relationships

In 2010 I will bring at least one person to know Jesus as I know Him.

In 2010 I will discover more than ever my unique gifts and callings and use them to build up the church and glorify God.

In 2010 we the church expect God to bring in many more people to join us in this great journey and complete us by their inclusion and involvement.

In 2010 I extend by faith the grace of God over my family and loved ones, for their salvation and protection.

In 2010 I will make a conscious choice not to give into fear or anxiety, but to live by faith-daily-in the Son of God who loves me and gave himself for me

In 2010, I expect to walk in divine health, and so find strength from God for all he calls me to do.

In 2010 I will dwell habitually in God's house the church, where there is divine covering, comfort, wisdom and protection.

In 2010 we will find more ways to help the poor, share what we have and be a positive resource near and far.

In 2010 I will pray more- and testify to God given answers.

In 2010 I shall expect the supernatural, divine interventions of God in my life

In 2010 I declare with absolute confidence JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.