



Your JANUARY ~2016 ~ HUG IN A MUG
Greetings, dear Sisters in Christ, as we welcome in a New Year of our Lord

On the twelfth day after Christmas...it's time to move out and on. *It's who we are. It's what we do.* Anticipation preceded the expectations & subsequent **JOY** of the Magi, and expectation should fill our hearts as we mobilize our plans, thoughts, and harness energies, focusing on a new Biennium of our District, and June~2016~convening in Eugene.

Two weeks before Christmas, our Pastor spoke on Paul's message to the Christians living in Colossia... Col. 3:17, "In everything, whatever you do in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Hearing those key words, my brain did an immediate spin: "That's us!! We are called into the Lord's Army to share the Word and do the deeds!"

One of the best received VBS themes we have ever carried out up North with the First Nation People of Canada was from **Ephesians 6:17**..and taking on the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And in **I Thess. 5:8**...and putting on the breastplate of faith and love. I have images burned in my head of the children making their helmets and breastplates and swords and acting out being in the Army of God's children against the devil and his guise. The very comfort of protection: helmet, breastplate, sword and The Word empowers us each day in the challenges, as the ball descended and the clock struck midnight this new year. We are in His Mighty Army and we have things to do...it's what we do! And we do come equipped.

Word and numbers are trickling back to Servant Resources of the attendance and successes and enthusiasm born out of our Fall Rallies across the District. Some had mission speakers, most invited a broader audience than "just local Society members." And Interstate enjoyed using the Prayer Service from St. Louis, and celebrated a "Hat Day," sharing a rare collection from a member....and what woman doesn't enjoy wearing a hat for a spot of tea & luncheon? I feel strongly that women think *wayyyyyy* out of the box. So I will pray as Spring Rallies are just months away, and Board of Directors meet mid-February, you have begun to think about your next gathering and building it around the opportunities for our "Oregon Army."

With the help of Gospel Outreach VP Janet Schultz, I will soon be sending out a directory of Mission Outreach speakers, pp presentations, videos, and updated news & opportunities directly related to our Gospel Outreach Grant recipients, available to you to perhaps invite and include in **your** Spring Rally. It seems to me, our women would enjoy knowing of the fruits of their Mighty MITES.©

AND closing once more with **Col. 1:11-12**: *May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with **JOY**, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.*

JOY -FULL -Y YOURS !! Pat Reck, Leader Development
KEEP ON SHARING THE JOY!