



JANUARY ~2017 ~ HUG IN A MUG

Isaiah 9:6, from the Prophet ...For to us a child is born, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Greeting Sisters and Brothers in this third week of a New Year! We have just enjoyed the precious church year-end gatherings together of traditional "*Adventicipations*": bountiful soup suppers, mid-week services, Christmas candlelight Devotions, and Christmas dawn! And I come away realizing I never cease to flourish in the words of Isaiah, and the *comfort* of the names we call the Christ, Son of God. WHAT A GIFT WE HAVE RECEIVED! Our Counselor, implying intimacy; our God, an ultimate relationship with Him! A God who can be and is our own loving Father! And a Prince of the Peace we all want, seek, and have in the baby Jesus tucked close, in our hearts.

For all this, we have to *trust* in the perfect plan he has for us, that he has provided for us ~ and still has, for us, in advance. Our Pastor Tim admonished us Christmas Eve to "Keep our eyes on the Manger," wherein lies the only way to have that Father-child relationship with God, *only if* the Son is intimately involved. So I packed away my home-crafted Hummel nativity set just yesterday, and kept the manger, Mary, Joseph and a small lamb out in plain sight....for my eyes to remind me daily, that our new "Keep your eyes on the Manger" message must be: "God can be your loving Father! Come and meet Jesus."

We are just about a month away now from bringing together the entire District Board of Directors, Officers, Delegates & Alternates to the National Convention, June 2017, for an exciting kick-off to yet another new year. Challenges? Goal-Setting? Unlimited Opportunities? Focus and Vision, and all the key words that light up a roomfull of 50-60 women, yah, youbetchya!!! Tempered by the direction, of course, of our precious District "Counselors."

But buried in keeping our **eyes upon the Cross and the Manger** is the Purpose: reaching our women from cradle to grave and reminding them that : *God can be your loving Father! Come and meet Jesus.* "

All this, through setting the example, and the nurturing events your Society lays out and brings to fruition, *is possible!!!*

WHAT A Challenge, Goal, Opportunity, Focus, & Vision we have laid at our footstool. God bless your leaders, officers, society meetings in this coming year, 2017, that you come together behind one another to make it highly successful and God-pleasing. Be sure and thank them, for me. ☺ *Respectfully, Pat Reck Ldr. Dev. Chr.*