

January 21, 2017

Dear Friends,

We are sending the Creation Celebration information to Garry with the hopes that it may work more smoothly than it did last year coming from us. He will also put things up on the website so they can be accessed there. We are so grateful for Garry's expertise and gracious help!

I know some families have been working throughout the year with Celebration #22 in view. In some families, creation truth is also consciously woven into the fabric of everyday life. It seems more crucial than ever for this to happen, since there are so many negative influences and inputs that squeeze the Godly inputs out of busy days.

I've been struck with the up to date relevance of 2 Peter, and how it dovetails with 2 Timothy, which we will feature for Sharpen Your Sword this year. Any who have tried to memorize even part of a chapter of 2 Peter this year will have a renewed sense of the times in which we live. It is believed that both Peter and Paul wrote their goodbye letters from prison.

Paul's instructions in 2 Timothy 4:2 to "Preach the Word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine", although written to Timothy as a pastor, have seemed lately to me to be also applicable in terms of raising children. Adults need to be alert and ready to take every teachable moment, even to create such times; they also need to provide instruction/teaching (exhort), as well as to reprove and rebuke as necessary, but with "longsuffering" ...patiently and kindly! The word doctrine implies there is a base of truth from which the instruction would come. "Preach the Word" needs to happen right at home.

Paul predicted that there will come a time when "they shall turn away their ears from the truth". Even young people from Christian homes are doing just that, for various reasons. May our preparations for the Celebration remind us of the opportunity to make the truth clear and relevant for the dear ones within our sphere of influence.

I was reminded this summer that looking up scripture references in a real Bible is becoming a lost skill, hence, the addition of a quiz called Handle Your Sword, as well as the encouragement to learn the order of the books of the Bible. If this area is at all a problem, please ask for help. Please read the Handle Your Sword pages. Later, we will send out a sample of such a quiz. We will need a number of volunteers willing to listen to young folks recite the books of the Bible at lunch time, and also to conduct the Handle Your Sword quizzes. I will make them up so there will be no extra effort required for volunteers.

Sincerely, Sharon