

A LIFE-GIVING CHRISTMAS: WEEK ONE

“Hope...next year, things will be different!”**Romans 13:11-14**

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Memory Verse:***¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.***

—Romans 13:11

☆ **Hope—We need it to survive**☆ **Hope—May need to do something different now.***“Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”*

—Albert Einstein

☆ **Hope—comes with small practical things**

Christmas offering—Imagine No Malaria (INM)

Give Thanks—Philippians 4:6-7

Shallow and Profound (Utmost, Nov. 22)

*Beware of allowing yourself to think that the shallow concerns of life are not ordained of God; they are as much of God as the profound...To be shallow is not a sign of being wicked, nor is shallowness a sign that there are no deeps; the ocean has a shore.—Oswald Chambers***1. Wake up.** (To what God is doing.)***And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.—Romans 13:11*****Open your eyes to what God is doing.**

Where is God moving? Find where He is moving, and get there.

Wake up. Expect something new.

History and karma repeat themselves, but God interrupts our lives.

2. Put off deeds of **darkness**, put on armor of **light**.

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.—Romans 13:12

- ☆ Don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of the day-by-day that you become oblivious to God.
- ☆ Restore hope by putting off things of darkness and putting on things of light.
- ☆ Do something spiritually edifying for yourself and others.

3. Don't **exhaust** yourself with worldly things, but **clothe** yourself with Jesus Christ.

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.—Romans 13:13-14

Think about what is the most exhausting thing you do. _____
(Tell the person next to you or write it down.)

What is the most waste of money? _____

What is the least Spiritual thing you do? _____

As we prepare for Christmas, name three things we will do differently this Advent season. Substitute things that bring hope and faith, rather than deplete energy and bank accounts.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Response: Making a Prayer Tree from paper stars.

I Hope _____ will be different next year.