

January in the church is always an interesting time—a combination of the secular and the sacred. As participants in our culture, January is a time to start anew, to make fresh resolutions about how we can become healthier in our activities, our diet, our relationships, and/or our spirituality. We are well versed and rehearsed in our traditions of the new year. As participants in our Christian faith, January is when we focus on the season of Epiphany.

On what?

Epiphany is not so well known as Easter or Christmas, or even Lent or Advent. But it is important to us as Christians because it contains our job description.

An epiphany is a moment of understanding or revelation—the “aha!” moment. Epiphany in the church is when Jesus, the light of the nations as the Old Testament prophets put it, was “revealed” to the world, in the persons of the wise men, who followed the light of the star to the place where Jesus was born. And this same Jesus told his followers, “you are the light of the world,” making us, his followers that same light for others. It’s our job to be that light, to reveal Jesus to the world through the things that we say and do.

There are plenty of people who feel they are living in darkness, and could use a little light. People in Sri Lanka recovering from the mudslides of the past year. People in Haiti still struggling from last year’s earthquake. People in the lower Yakima valley who are without a job or without a home. People anywhere in the world who are feeling spiritually lost or abandoned. They are looking for the light.

Perhaps our New Year’s resolution could be to be more “light-like.” We have a good history of sharing the light and being the light. Just this past year we gave over \$1,600 to help people in Haiti, our youth raised over \$750 to buy presents for our Christmas family, and our Christmas Eve offering brought in almost \$400 for ministry in Nepal, and for Jubilee Ministries. We are a light simply by opening up our building to the outside groups who use it. But there is still more Epiphany that is needed in our world, and we can resolve to seek more ways to shed that light. It is our job.

Happy New Light-Year!

Shalom,
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