

# 2001-Can It Be Here Already

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What's ahead for the New Year? No one knows for sure. At least we haven't had to worry about Y2K this time. But didn't this past year fly by!

We all have to agree that "time flies." The encouraging thing in all this, however, is that, while "time flies," I'm the pilot. Each of us can take hold of the steering wheel and control our destination.

We can't control the length of our lives, but

we can control its depth and breadth.

We can't control the shape of our faces, but we can control its expression.

We can't control another person's opportunities, but we can grasp our own.

We can't control the height of our heads, but we can control the elevation of our thoughts.

We can't control another's annoying habits, but we can

control our own idiosyncrasies.

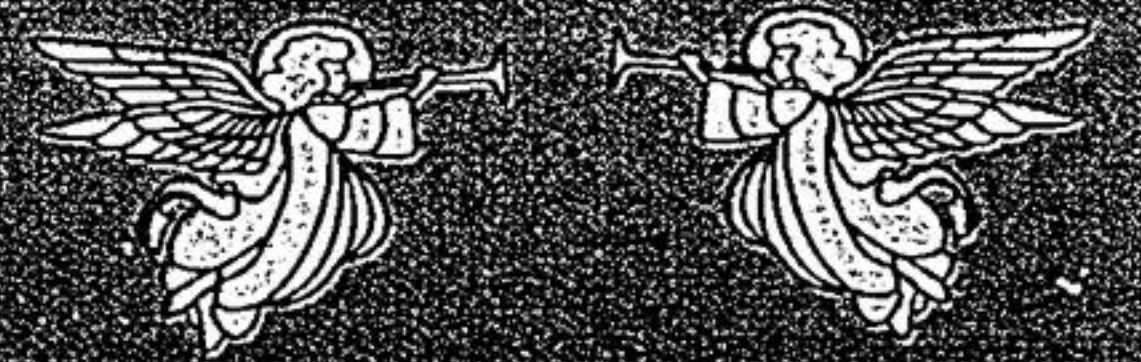
So, there's really no point in fretting over things we can't control.

Instead let's get busy developing the things we can. After all we're advised that we will not be held responsible for other people's actions, but we will give account for our own (see: Romans 14:12,13).

The past is gone, good or bad, it can't be recalled or changed.

The brevity of life makes time an extremely valuable commodity. The future lies before us. With the guidance of God's Word and the gracious enabling of His Spirit, it can be meaningful, rewarding and blest. Let's enter it with expectation and hope and use it wisely and well.

~submitted by Paul Fawcett



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
20 Union St., Unionville - 477-1731  
(Near Hwy. 7 & Main)  
 No Sunday School

**EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH**  
Corner of Brimley & Steeles • 477-4365  
www.ebcnezer-uc.on.ca  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Sunday School and Nursery

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**  
32 Main St. N. Markham • 294-0351  
SUNDAY SERVICE - 10:00 A.M.

**"New Lamps For Old!"**  
Remember the story of Aladdin? He owns a lamp which looks old and tarnished on the outside, but inside it lives a genie! An evil magician wants the lamp, and so, disguised as a peddler, stands outside Aladdin's house crying "New lamps for old! New lamps for old!" Aladdin's wife can't resist this apparent opportunity to get something better at no cost and quickly trades in Aladdin's lamp.  
Tomorrow brings us New Year's Eve, and whether at boozey, boisterous parties, or alone with the T.V., we will hear that familiar exhortation: "Happy New Year! Happy New Year!  
Happy New Year! Happy New Year! Happy New Year! So often repeated, the phrase belays a yearning within us for more solid ground. A year in which our marriage improves perhaps, or we find the courage to set aside the bottle and live, a year in which we brush past the trivial and abandon ourselves to the profound.  
Happy New Year! Happy New Year! So often repeated, the phrase begins to sound a little tinny too, like it lacks intent and represents instead mere wishful thinking. New lamps for old. Something for nothing. Improvement at no cost.  
Even two thousand years ago people wished for the magic arrival of a better day. However, Jesus shocked his contemporaries by announcing that a new day is already here, for anyone who would make loving the first priority of their lives.  
The same breathtaking promise is held out to us today. New life isn't out there somewhere, a whispy fantasy over the horizon; new life is *within each of us*, here and now, ours to love into being. May we heed the flutter of hope within, and transform it into fresh and vibrant living through our acts of caring and compassion.  
Happy New Year! Happy Transformation.  
Dr. Frederick A. Styles

**The Lion's Den**  
Christian Book Shoppe  
Serving Your Family and Church  
117 Main St., North Markham Village Tel: (905) 472-8412  
Diana Whitehead

**CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH**  
131 Main St., Unionville 474-0183  
Visit us at www.unitedchurch.com  
Service Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
A warm welcome awaits you

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**  
Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 11:00 a.m.  
A Service of NINE LESSONS and CAROLS  
Led by St. Andrew's Students home from University for Christmas Holidays  
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church  
143 Main St. N. 905-294-4736

**MARKHAM MISSIONARY CHURCH**  
Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada  
Sunday, December 31, 2000  
10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service  
Message - Pastor Enns  
\*No Evening Service\*  
May You Know the Reality of the Saviour as You Enter the New Year  
(Watch for new scheduling in the new year)  
Please call church for information regarding other programs available to you and your family.  
5438 Major MacKenzie Dr. E. Markham (905) 294-5081

**Wideman Mennonite Church**  
• DECEMBER 31st, 2000 •  
10:30 a.m. Ecumenical Service at The Sales Barn  
8:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service  
1 km North of Major Mackenzie on Hwy 48  
Church Office: 640-6219 For a ride call: 640-4185

**CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
A Fellowship Baptist Church  
A Church To Call Home  
11:00 a.m. only - Worship Service  
Sermon Title: "What Really Counts"  
Pastor Grover Bradford  
8176 McCowan Road (just south of Hwy. 7) Markham, ON Tel: 905-475-7695  
Home of Centennial Child Care Centre

**CHRISTMAS SEASON**  
**AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
14 Highgate Drive, Markham  
(2 blocks north of Steeles or 2 blocks south of Denison on Birchmount)  
905-474-1224  
**SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF NEW YEARS**  
**(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)**  
Saturday, December 30: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 31: (Feast of the Holy Family) 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Sunday, December 31: New Year's Eve (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) 5:00 p.m.  
And Special Mass at 12:00 Midnight (refreshments after in hall)  
Monday, January 1: New Year's Day (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon AND 3:00 P.M.  
Confessions: (Reconciliation) as usual before all Masses weekdays & Sundays and Saturday December 23 & 30. 10:00-12:00 noon and 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
**A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS, AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, TO ALL**  
\* Please note that New Year's day is a Holy Day of Obligation when Catholics must attend Mass as on Sunday.