



We wish you a 2011 Christmas and Holiday Season filled with Gratitude and Peace

Throughout this Christmas Season there have been many events in our world and here at home that have left behind the same message. The struggle of staying alive each day; having adequate food, clothing and shelter; and the opportunity for medical needs to be met are something we take for granted. Although we usually view these situations with compassion, we view them from a distance. Our involvement is from afar even when they are in our own country, province or community. We hear about the circumstances in the paper, on the television or from the radio; with requests to help or information about the struggles.

There are wars where millions of people are being killed and families are being torn apart. There are famines where people are dying from starvation. There are children who do not have the opportunity to go to school. There are adults who cannot work because there are no jobs. There are families who do not have shelter. There are people who do not have the basic medical care that we take for granted here. The result is death, pain, illness, deformities, disfigurement and emotionally destruction.

These events are taking place throughout the world and even in Canada. Some people were born in places where opportunity is not an option. Some people have made bad choices that have led them to this point in their lives. Some people are taken advantage of by those who would make profit over their misery, circumstances, and vulnerability.

It is when we become aware and reflect on these situations that the message forms. **“There but for the grace of God go I,”** can become so personal.

We have been greatly blessed to be part of this country, this province, this city.
We have been greatly blessed to have been born under the circumstances we were.
We have been greatly blessed to have been given the gifts that allowed us to overcome hardship and challenges in our lives. Many in the world have not.
We have been greatly blessed to have been given the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to ourselves, our families, our communities, our country and the world.
We have been greatly blessed to be able to care for and empower the individuals we work with.

Our lives are not perfect but for some reason we have been given the gift of opportunity that others have not. Let us be truly thankful and generous to those who have not been given this gift and remember. **“There but for the grace of God go I.”**

With Great Regard,

Rosemarie Painter, Helene de Klerk and the Leadership Team of New Age Services Inc.