

U.T.O.L UPDATE



2009 Issue 12

Looking Ahead with New Hope!

Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

Deut 7: 8, 9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9



2009 in the Philippines was marked by trials, sorrow, challenges and calamities. But we survived through the grace of God. But as we begin the New Year, we are again faced with new challenges, new opportunities and a major transition especially in our political arena. And along with those transitions and opportunities, there may be some unpredictable turning points in our lives that may also turn our world upside down.

The promise that God gave to Joshua is also a promise that we can claim for 2010 during unpredictable turning points: **"As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you."** The Lord will be there with us to see us through.

There's a wonderful illustration about this passage that happened in 1992 Olympic games. Derek Redmond of Great Britain had dreamed all his life of winning a gold medal in the Olympics 400-meter sprint. As he rounded the turn into the backstretch, Derek Redmond felt a piercing pain in the back of his right leg. The next thing he knew he was lying face down on the track, having experienced a runner's worst nightmare: a torn hamstring.

The first-aiders approached, Redmond somehow struggled to his feet. He began hopping, in a crazed attempt to finish the race. The crowd looked on, in silent amazement. When Redmond reached the home stretch, a large man in a white T-shirt leaped down from the stands, hurled aside a security guard, and ran over to the runner, embracing him. It was Derek's father.

"*You don't have to do this,*" he told his son. "*Yes, I do,*" insisted the son, through bitter tears, "*Well, then,*" said his father, "*we're going to finish this together,*" and there, before the eyes of the world, the son's head sometimes buried in his father's shoulder, the two men hobbled along in his lane to the end, finishing the race.

The crowd went wild. Derek Redmond did not leave Barcelona with his dream of a gold medal. But he did return home with the wonderful memory of a father's love that helped him finish his course

So it is with our Heavenly Father. No matter where we are in our life right now, whatever is happening, even in those unpleasant, unpredictable times, God will be there with us.

In behalf of the board members of UTOL, we wish that your journey this 2010 will be touched by kindness, inspired by wisdom, graced with understanding, and kept safe from all harm. Wishing you not just happiness but pure joy, not just wealth but Heaven's treasures, not just silence but God's peace. **Happy New Year!**


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