



Happy New Year 2023!

Brothers and Sisters,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have just arrived at the New Year 2023, and my prayers on your behalf are addressed to the Good Lord so that He may keep you under His protection and care as the human race is facing many challenges in the present world.

I want to remind you that the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter—will be a part of our world until the Lord's new creation will be established. Until that time, I want to affirm that God is the same yesterday, today, and forevermore. His goodness, mercies, love, and grace will guide His children in the way of the Lord until we meet Him and rejoice in His presence forever.

In the meantime, God is calling us to his mission. You and I are part of God's master plan designed to carry His blessings to the four corners of the earth. As the world population increases, our mission in the world is not growing at the same rate. We now have more than 8 billion people in the world, but we are not evangelizing and making disciples at the same rate as the world population is increasing.

Institutions of higher learning in the United States of America, like Christian seminaries in other parts of the world, are not producing enough clergy and missionaries to supply the actual demands required to keep up with the birth rates of the world's population. Also, many churches in America are not carrying out the great commission of teaching, preaching, and making disciples for the transformation of the world, as we should be doing. It is not time to rest; it is not time to give up! On the contrary, it is time to be alert and to keep watching while we are producing the fruits of the kingdom of God.

While Jesus was on earth, he encouraged his disciples to pray to the Lord of the crop because "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)

We still have a lot of people who are in need of the church's ministry and the service of the true disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Therefore, our job is not done until God calls us into his presence. We need to work together in coordination with God, his Word, and the Holy Spirit to produce the end results for which God calls us into his ministry. So, this year young and old, male and female, rich and poor, are called to join forces

to produce a great harvest of new believers for God's kingdom. Keep playing the Lord sends the Holy Spirit, so that under His anointing leadership we may carry on the mission of His Grace.

I hope you can join Trinity United Methodist church in carrying out the Great Commission in Richland Center, or in any other place where this letter is reaching you. God calls you, not in vain, but to manifest His love, grace, and power through you and me.

God bless you in this New Year as you pray that His will be done, now and forever. Amen.

In Christ Jesus,

*Rev. Rey Díaz, Pastor*