



REFLECTIONS OF HOPE

By Rev. R.D. Quema

Most of us will look back at 2016 with a lot of bewilderment and a certain sense of shock. A lot of things happened that were quite unexpected and surprising. In the political arena, governments changed political axis; Brexit, Duterte and Trump to name a few. Terror took center stage all over the world. The world lost some notable personalities recently, George Michael and Carrie Fisher come to mind. At our home, I went through a life-changing accident in the beginning of the year that developed into what was almost a fatal condition of a pulmonary embolism. Despite all these though, we pulled through and it looks like people are ready to hope for the best in 2017.

The events of 2016 are a good reminder to us that we ultimately do not control our fate. As much as we would like to plan and prepare for contingencies, we are all subject to the fate of the times in which we live. The Bible reminds us:

James 4:13–14 (ESV)

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— **14** yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

While we may be subject to circumstances beyond our control and we may plan to only a certain

Living a Better Story

degree, yet the Bible tells us that our lives have been carefully planned and guided by Him.

Jeremiah 29:10–11 (ESV)

10 “For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. **11** For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

I believe that God has a better story for you and I in 2017. When you let Him plan it out for you and you commit your way to investing in the building of your relationship with Him, you can experience a better life for 2017.

Here is a scripture to claim and meditate upon as you prepare for a better Story:

Psalms 37:5–9 (ESV)

5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. **6** He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. **7** Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! **8** Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. **9** For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

1. Make Jesus the Center of your Story. Commit your way to the Lord. Remember that He has a better plan. What does this mean? Get off the throne of your life and let Him rule.
2. Be Still. Learn to wait for His Time. This means investing in emptying yourself of your will

and desire. From January 9 – 29, our church will be doing 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting. I would consider accepting this challenge to center your soul on the things of God. To find out more about this, download our NewHopeNaz App on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Follow along with us and watch God transform your heart to be more sensitive to His will. This will put you in a place of blessing for 2017.

3. Forgive, forgive and forgive! One of the biggest hindrances to your best story is carrying the old baggage of unforgiveness. It will keep you from God's best. Bitterness is a poison pill you drink while expecting the person you hate to die. It doesn't work! Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
4. Don't Worry! I know, easier said than done, right? Worrying is the act of contemplating without purpose. Turn your worries into prayers. Contemplate towards an Almighty God expecting a great result!

This 2017, let us believe God for a better story! Let us put all our trust in Him by investing in the things that do not fade away. Jesus has promised us a better story!

May you experience this better story in 2017! Happy New Year!

John 14:12 (ESV)

12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

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