

SERVE

WITH JOY

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. **Serve the Lord with gladness:** come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." ~ Psalm 100 ~*

As we begin a new year I just wanted to share with you our theme for this year here at Siloam Missionary Homes – Serve with Joy. At first glance it appears that this theme focuses on our actions as servants of the Lord. But in reality we are really desiring to focus on who God is and what He does for us each and every day. We are able to serve Him faithfully because He is God. We are able to find joy despite our circumstances in life because He is good.

Why is this important? Two reasons. The first is due to the circumstances of the last few years. Between elections and COVID we have been bombarded with division and negativity. We have endured isolation and been restricted from gathering together to worship. Our ability to travel has been greatly hindered. Freedoms we once took for granted are being limited in ways that seemed unimaginable two years ago. And yet, despite all this, there is no doubt that God is in control. That He will be able to work through all this to continue His plan of offering salvation to all those who will listen and believe.

The second reason for this year's theme is as believers we sometimes get very focused on where we fall short in our walk with God. We tend to want to fix what is broken. And I am not minimizing our need for correction in our walk with God. But sometimes we need to focus on the fact that God is good. We need the encouragement that the Scriptures offer to us in Psalm 100. We need to be reminded that God not only desires that we worship Him, He desires that we worship Him joyfully. And one way that joyful worship manifests is in serving Him.

So just as I challenged our staff, I also challenge you. Pay attention to the greatness of God. Make note of the times that He answers your prayers and does great things in your life. Write them down as a remembrance. And take time to shout, and praise, and sing to our great and mighty God.

May His everlasting mercy encourage you in your walk with Him. Let's show the world in 2022 that serving God brings joy.

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