

No matter where you are, you cannot miss that time has brought us into another festive season.

Whether your Christmas was a huge family gathering, or spent a long way from home, I wish you peace and joy. Whether it was friendship and chatter around a turkey or a tin of sardines, I hope that your year in 2011 brings you opportunity, satisfaction and contentment.

Family gatherings can often be a time of too much, too much food, alcohol, expensive gifts and for some, arguments. Perhaps that is the way of some families saying...we are 'home'!

L. House from West Australia wrote: In our land of droughts and flooding rains, it is sometimes very difficult to consider being blessed when looking at shrivelled or sodden crops, dealing with locusts, flystrike, fires or more water coming through your home. Maybe you have tragically lost someone close to you, or wonder how you can carry on another year financially or in a relationship. There are more crosses to bear than is possible to name.

And in the land and island of my birth there has been the uncertainty of earthquakes and the coal mine tragedy to name but two.

Christmas is a time of counting life's simple blessings. The magnificence of sunrise, a beautiful sunset, good friends, family, nutritious food, a peaceful evening and a pet at your side.

It is also a time to acknowledge realities.

I cherish friends and loved ones who have remembered us, but for me... My sister in New Zealand was unexpectedly widowed and it was my privilege to be at her side. So forgive me dear friends, this year, my card is missing from your mantelpiece, but you can be sure my love and appreciation for what you mean in my life is not missing from my heart, you are remembered in my thoughts.

Traditionally this is the time of year when we review the past twelve months, ponder the present and envision how the future will be.

The past twelve months has brought challenges. I'm deeply grateful to have David support my purpose and passion. When your life's work is your passion and your passion is your life's purpose, if you want to be true to your life's purpose; it's impossible to stray from your, reason to be, even though some patches of the road may seem rocky once you know and understand the journey your passion does not fade or diminish.

Our work involves helping people through 'times of change' and this year we had 'times of change'. There were times when we needed to consider our physical health and when the body demanded rest I learnt to surrender to that call. We had holidays and 'time out' and now as 2011 peeps over the horizon we are looking forward with renewed strength and fervour to our future.

Our lives are truly blessed as repeatedly we see the results of our work manifest through the lives of our mentee's as they discover their purpose and diligently seek ways to grow their lives in alignment with their purpose. It is as though a light has been switched on and an inner strength, a new happiness and a joy that changes their entire countenance, and instead of striving for balance they've learned the secret to 'living in harmony'.

Before I close this message I want to share with you a favourite ode from -
George Bernard Shaw 1856-1950.

This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

If you have not had the opportunity to take our Self Mastery classes or a life changing retreat or the mentoring program we invite you to begin this year with us.

May love embrace you as you create another beautiful year.

HELPING PEOPLE THROUGH TIMES OF CHANGE ~ Sylvia Marina

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