

# WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



# Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



## What are you doing New Year's Eve?

Since many of you are probably reading this in 2019, the question should be what did you do New Year's Eve? Party all night long, see in the first sunrise of the New Year and/or asking yourself if you had a good time because you can't remember most of it?

Not these days, buddy, as many of my age or even younger have hung up their all night ways. Maybe not entirely because God has given us short term memory loss so we go out there and, despite being mid-50s, we try to act like we are in our mid-20s. Life will remind you the next day or several days, that is definitely not the case; trust me on this one. God has a sense of humor, you know.

Today it is more like, "Honey, are we staying up to watch the ball drop?" The spouse doesn't answer and you are like, "Yes! Bedtime!" Does snoozing together in your respective recliners count as a celebra-

tion? I'll allow it. The snoring can be like your own noisemakers welcoming in the next year.

Our family gets together and plays games, eats, watches some sort of sporting event, eats, tells stories, eats...I think you get the picture. We adults do our best to keep each other awake until midnight. Our tradition is at the stroke of twelve on New Year's Eve, we go outside of our house to bang on pots and pans. Thankfully, we have lived for decades near these people and they know of our noisy tradition. They put up with us anyway. No one has shot us yet. Let me emphasize yet, please and thank you.

Just like noisemakers or party horns it is supposed to scare away the evil spirits from the old year. Tradition also says you are supposed to come out one door, make your ruckus and then go back in another door because that will confuse any evil spirits that might not have been scared off by all

the noise. If that is the case, evil spirits are just plain stupid.

It is normally a quick trip out of doors because, well, we live in Illinois and quite often it is a balmy four degrees below zero on December 31. The evil spirits probably aren't even there those nights because they are in their nice, warm home watching Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve.

We end up by us all trying to sing Auld Lang Syne which, out of all the noise we make, is probably the most likely thing to scare off most anything!

Happy New Year 2019! Hope you made it until midnight!

With Much Resolve  
My "word of the year" for 2018 was LEARN. As I look back over this past year, I feel as if I have gained 10 years of knowledge and wisdom. Mostly spiritual wisdom and realization, but also a deeper understanding of people. I have gone through highs and lows, tears and laughter, worry and contentment; and I'm better because of it. I know I have more to learn, more to endure, probably more tears to cry, and hugs to share in the coming days. With God holding my hand, I will face each day with praise on my lips, and strength in my wings. I will take on each day as it comes, for we have no promise of tomorrow.

As we move ahead into the new year, I want to impart to you some of the things I have learned this year. Maybe they will help you, as they have helped me.

You don't know how weird someone is until they have kids.

Saying "no" to helping someone, even a family member, is ok if you need a break.

You will not die if you do not check your Facebook or email everyday.

You don't know how strong someone is until you watch them fight a battle with cancer.

Our family members do NOT belong to us, but belong to the all sovereign God.

God knows our feelings, our every heartache, our every tear. He will not leave us comfortless. Trust His word.

Someone who will do things for you when you are sick and can do nothing for them, are true friends and precious gifts from God.

Little children will take the little bits of love you give them and multiply them back to you.

Staring up at the clear night sky can be a magnificent revelation of God's massive splendor.

Sometimes it pays off to come up with your own pattern. Improvise instead of giving up.

I will leave you with some other words of wisdom that I found timely, relevant, useful, or amusing to help start out the new year.

Never play leapfrog with a unicorn. Unknown

A lie as an abomination to the Lord, and a very present help in times of trouble.

Adlai Stevenson

Nature has given us 2 ears but only one mouth. Benjamin Disraeli

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul, can always depend on the support of Paul. George Bernard Shaw

There are 2 kinds of pedestrians...the quick and the dead. Lord Thomas Robert Dewar

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