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It is a new year!

Many of us would love for a new year to bring change that is refreshing and requiring little effort. Unfortunately, change doesn't normally happen that way. Unless you win a great big lottery and then the change is huge and from what I have read not without problems about the size of their winnings.

Sayings, slogans, and, quotes have had much influence in my life and this year is no exception. I have chosen at least two to start the year. The first is: "You will never make a difference in the world by being like everyone else!" Author unknown. My second is: "Growth means change and change involves risks, stepping from the known to the unknown!"

In Deuteronomy, after seeing all that God had done and promised to do for the Children of Israel they would not believe He could defeat the giants in the land. Today there are still giants in our lives. Maybe not physical ones but they affect us in big ways never the less. For many change is the giant just like the Israelites were struggling with. They did not know what the end result was going to be so they failed to trust God even though He had proven Himself to them repeatedly.

All they wanted was to go back to the security of slavery because it was known to them and felt familiar. In a very similar way Jesus died to bring a new and different way of coming to God; and this change was a

threat to what was familiar to the religious leaders in His day:

Alpha has been in our present office since 1998 and it has been comfortable to always know where things are and how things work but still, it is time to go into the unknown. I have talked to the property management company that oversees our building and we will be leaving our current office at the end of March.

A number of people have asked if Alpha has found a new place to have an office and the answer is maybe.

We have been offered two places to meet. One is in an office building in downtown Bremerton and the other in a church near Poulsbo. We are praying for guidance from the Lord to make the right decision because each has certain advantages. So learning from the Israelites mistakes; we are prepared to follow God's leading.

You might ask what giants could we possibly have. There are about ten truck loads of stuff that have accumulated over the last twenty years and it's not just moving it but where to put it! One of my goals has been to downsize Alpha's footprint while still keeping our ministry active.

So please pray with us as we: 1) begin the task of finding a new place to do ministry; 2) the practical issues of determining what we should keep; 3) and then the moving aspect.

Your prayers and gifts are what keep Alpha ministering to those in need! Thank you!

*Richard and Debi*