



This year—2011—I turn 50. Birthdays and anniversaries mark milestones and offer opportunities to celebrate God grace and goodness. Therefore, I have accepted God's unique invitation to embark with Him on a *Jubilee Journey*. I invite you to share in my journey and see where God is leading and what can be learned.

During Old Testament times, God instituted the *Year of Jubilee* for His chosen people, the Israelites (*Leviticus 25*). *Jubilee* was the Sabbath's Sabbath. The people observed a day of rest each week and a year of rest at the end of every six years. After seven cycles ($7 \times 7 = 49$), the next year—the 50th—was the *Year of Jubilee*.

God's original intent for the *Year of Jubilee* had three parts: 1) rest for the land and the people, 2) release of slaves and cancel of debts, and 3) restitution of property. The year of less work meant the people relied on God for His provision and had more time for family. The acts of canceling debts and returning land helped to abolish slavery and poverty, and prevent large and permanent accumulations of wealth.

What does that mean for us today in the New Testament church? The 50th birthday is the approximate midpoint of today's healthy lifespan. I'm not sure I can answer for all of us, but after pondering and praying how God might use a *Year of Jubilee* in my life, I believe the following aspects will be represented in my *Jubilee Journey*.

1. Rest – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual rest and restoration of health; simple living within limited means; downsizing
2. Release – asking and offering forgiveness; claiming freedom from personal weaknesses and sins
3. Restitution – returning property/goods to the rightful owners; reconciliation among family members; fiscal responsibility; providing for needs of others

What does this *Year of Jubilee* mean for *hope4hearts* ministry? For one calendar year, the staff of *hope4hearts* will rest from the *work* of promotion, production and paperwork (simplifying office work as much as possible). Many resources were created last year and will be made available. And speaking assignments for the coming year will be honored as God assigns them. What I will be adding to ministry and life is lots of time for God—time to be quiet and listen, and obey.

If you would like to travel with me, you can find periodic updates regarding God's teaching and blessings at www.nancysebastianmeyer.com.

With joy,

Nancy