

One Year to Live

The year 2011 stretches before us. What will these next 12 months hold for us? The more important question is: How will I determine to live throughout this year?

The *Baltimore Sun* once conducted a contest, and offered a prize for the best answer to the question, “What would you do if you had one more year to live?” (I know some in Life Care and in my circle of friends in the community who are praying to have just one more year of life.)

The following poem, written by Mary Davis Reed, won the newspaper’s prize:

*If I had but one year to live;
One year to help; one year to give;
One year to love; one year to bless;
One year of better things to stress;
One year to sing; one year to smile;
To brighten earth a little while;
One year to sing my Maker’s praise;
One year to fill with work my days;
One year to strive for a reward
When I should stand before my Lord,
I think that I would spend each day
In just the very self-same way
That I do now. For from afar
The call may come across the bar
At any time, and I must be
Prepared to meet eternity.
So if I have a year to live,
Or just one day in which to give
A pleasant smile, a helping hand,
A mind that tries to understand
A fellow-creature when in need;
‘Tis one with me – I take no heed,
But try to live each day He sends
To serve my gracious Master’s ends.*



My prayer is that the thoughts Mary Davis Reed put on paper have stirred some introspection and, perhaps, some commitments to help face, and brighten, the days ahead.

– Beecher Hunter