

*Dr. Larry J. Dennison  
Compassionate Outreach Ministries  
From The Pastor's Pen*

*A New Beginning Under Difficult Circumstances  
Ruth 1:21*



*A new year is filled with many goals, plans, ideas and dreams. Many of us view the Beginning of a New Year as an opportunity to start afresh. In the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament, Naomi, after the death of her husband and her two sons, returned to her homeland Bethlehem and she said, "I went out full and the Lord hath brought me home again empty..." Naomi was actually saying, "I have lost everything. I have to start my life all over again." You too, may feel the same way. Maybe you've lost a loved one, your job has been terminated, your possessions are repossessed, you are going through a divorce or some other crisis has befallen you.*

*Even though these circumstances are difficult, God has given you a New Year for a New Beginning. Allow us to share with you three vital keys to remember as you rebuild and restore your life:*

- (1) Seek God's direction first and establish a new and fresh relationship with Him.*
- (2) Focus on progress, refuse to get caught up in meaningless relationships and activities that have the wrong purpose.*
- (3) You cannot change or undo the past, but you can be determined to finish strong.*

*Pastor Larry J. Dennison*