

ARTICLE FOR GAZETTE
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I got a new telephone for Christmas, and that's good, because the one I had wasn't working. It hadn't worked for two weeks. So, I read the manual and set up the new phone. It didn't work! I got somebody else to read the manual and check the setup. It still didn't work. That's when I realized that the problem wasn't the phone—it was the connection.

That can be so true in our own lives. It is the beginning of a New Year and maybe we made some New Year's resolutions and we want to start fresh and new. We will do things right in 2007. It is going to be a great year! Then to our dismay, we find that we aren't keeping our resolutions very faithfully. The year that started off with such high and shining hopes is already becoming tarnished and dull. We realize that what is missing for us is the connection to a source of energy that can help us accomplish the good we want to do and keep our hopes alive.

Exercising with a friend can keep us on track. Having someone to listen to us and to bounce ideas off of can keep us engaged in daily tasks. Family and friends can help us be accountable and make good decisions. But none of them can really do the job without a bigger connection to back them up. What that requires is immersing ourselves in the events and scriptures of a faith community, committing our lives to God, taking hold of the hand of Jesus Christ, listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Life is like a string of pearls. Each experience we have is strung on the string that holds it all together. Taken together they make a life that has significance and character that is uniquely ours, a life that is well connected. We build upon

the events of the past and make way for the future to have a place. Take care, then, not to break the string and let the pearls fly away to be lost and forgotten or crushed under foot. Be sure you choose the string that is strong enough to endure into eternal life.