A New Beginning
By The Rev. Dr. Herbert Brokering

Read Genesis 12-14 and learn how Abraham moved from place to place, trusting the call of God. People of God did this throughout Biblical history and still today. (New places, new people, new routines and new beginnings have the power to heal.)

As a child I liked and didn’t like New Year’s Eve. I did not always like going up the long hill in bitter cold just before midnight to ring out the old year for 20 minutes and, after a pause, ring in the new. I did not mind the bitter cold, Lord, as much as I minded my thoughts. Though young, I knew I could do better to keep resolutions than in the past. It was the quitting of the old and the beginning of the new that troubled me. Resolutions usually had to do with right and wrong and values and truth and faith.

Now I am 81 and again quitting the old and beginning the new. I am moving into a senior home three miles from a house that has been ours for nearly 50 years. The children were mostly raised in this one house and they know the valley by heart; Lois and I lived in the woods along the Minnesota River for these many years. She has died and, after three years of being alone in the house, I have chosen a new beginning.

Gideon Pond is the name of the unit of 115 seniors which I chose carefully and willingly. I need their wellness trainers, water therapy, community and safety. Lord, I like the joy and satisfaction in the faces and voices of my children. They are glad dad decided to make the move on his own. In a way, this all has to do with wellness. For more than 10 years, I have been happily writing and advocating for Wheat Ridge Ministries. My thoughts and prayers and readings and dreams are seen through healing and wellness. Through these years others have taught me to make health decisions while I am able. I have made this choice to go to Gideon Pond.

When we moved to Minnesota 48 years ago, I was fascinated by Gideon Pond, the Missionary to Native Americans. I studied him, hoping to write a drama about his ministry, and also about Native Americans who 100 years ago lived in the valley where I live. Lord, I have not forgotten the feeling from long ago about this place where we’ve lived for almost half a century. I feel the presence of tee pees and wigwams and trappers and camp fires and sweat tents. Our family has thanked You often for this dwelling place. Like Abraham, I am moving to the next place.

I will live where the missionary brothers did ministry in 1888, when my father was five years old. Thank you for the history of Your church and how we are part of that life as inheritors. I am 81 and leaving a legacy. I will inherit a legacy left me 120 years ago by the Pond brothers.

Lord, we make choices. Jesus knelt and prayed beside a stone and chose to say, "Not my will but Your will be done." So we all must do, and always decide with thanksgiving, and hear Your call. Amen.

NOTE: Please acknowledge Rev. Dr. Herbert Brokering and Wheat Ridge Ministries in all reprints. Thanks!