You are invited to a New Year's Eve Event in Greenwich Village.

A REACH-NYC Sponsored Gathering.
This Saturday Night, December 31 / 7 p.m.
At Historic Manhattan Church
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

The new is here!

2012! Can you believe it?

A New Year is only a few days away and to celebrate this event, REACH-NYC is inviting you to join us in a gathering in Greenwich Village, New York City to start the year off right.

The atmosphere will be relaxed and the dress code the same. Just come and enjoy some good friendship and some healthy food.

We will have lots of good vegetarian food available for you to enjoy along with the specialty of the house, The REACH-NYC Burrito (kind of a NYC skyscraper on its side).

What plans do you have for the New Year? How does God fit into those plans? What new direction do you want for your life in the days ahead? One of the great things about a new start, is how much fun it can be.

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians tells us of the excitement of new beginnings and the possibility of restored friendships, not only with God but with each other. This is a part of what it means to be a follower of Christ, not in name only, but also in action.

One can almost feel Paul's joy as he suggests:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ..."
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." - 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Reconciliation - The coming together in unity of spirit and focus. Not counting what someone may have done to hurt you but the real enjoyment of forgiveness and moving on in a spirit of relationships that are built on the forgiveness that Christ offers to each of us.

I pray that in my own life, this spirit of reconciliation will be better understood each day, by people who may agree with me on issues I hold to be true and those who may not agree. That I can learn to forgive as Christ has forgiven me. That they can forgive me for my short comings.

There is something else I pray for in the coming year, the ability to listen, deeply listen when someone is speaking to me and truly focus on what that person is saying. To make more time for people who want to be heard and to give more of my time for bonding with friends and people I meet each day.

In this get it done yesterday, rush, rush, rush world of ours, we all need to slow down and enjoy a friend's smile or take time to wipe away a person's tear.

I was recently sent a quote from a little book called The Ministry of Healing that I would like to share with you. It hit a cord in my thoughts and it is something I want to remember as I enter a new year of opportunity and for reconciliation with other humans I share this earth with. I hope in this quote you can find something that you can relate to.

"Every association of life calls for the exercise of self-control, forbearance, and sympathy. We differ so widely in disposition, habits, education, that our ways of looking at things vary. We judge differently. Our understanding of truth, our ideas in regard to the conduct of life, are not in all aspects the same. There are no two whose experience is alike in every particular. The trials of one are not the trials of another. The duties that one finds light are to another most difficult and perplexing.

So frail, so ignorant, so liable to misconception is human nature, that each
should be careful in the estimate he or she places upon another. We little know the bearing of our acts upon the experience of others. What we do or say may seem to us of little moment, when, could our eyes be opened, we should see that upon it depended the most important results for good or for evil." - Ministry of Healing, p. 483

It is clear that God loves each of us with all of our individuality and unique personalities. What a true gift from God to us if we in turn could have true appreciation for each person we come in contact with.

"As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."
- 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

I hope you can join us on Saturday night, December 31, 2011 as we share thoughts of God's blessings together and the joy of a new beginning with God and friends, some of whom we are yet to meet in 2012.

God bless you and give you peace.

Best regards -
Tony Romeo, Pastor / REACH-NYC

Click here for map of location of Manhattan Church

Donations to REACH-NYC help us in our efforts to reach out to the people of New York City. REACH-NYC is a recognized tax-exempt corporation by the IRS and all contributions are fully tax-deductible.*

Contributions can be sent payable to "REACH-NYC" and mailed to: REACH-NYC, P.O. Box 651, North Salem, NY 10560.

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*A receipt will be sent recognizing all contributions at the end of the year for tax purposes.