

## Ruts of 2015

*He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.—  
Psalm 23:3*

We face this New Year with great anticipation and our heart's desire is for 2015 to be a year marked by God receiving the glory in our lives. To accomplish this, it begins with restoration of our soul. Because of "difficult circumstances, spiritual carelessness, secret sins, and the world's influence" (David Jeremiah), we need a renewal of our spiritual commitment. We need to be reminded of the righteous paths God has for us. God wants to be intimately involved in our lives. He desires to lead us, strengthen us, protect us, and provide for us.

Part of this restoration of our soul includes paths of righteousness. The word "paths" has the idea of ruts. With the ice and snow this week several cars could not make it up our driveway. Their wheels went back and forth until they had created a rut. In our lives these ruts are caused by habits—the behaviors we do repeatedly. The ruts talked about in Psalm 23:3 are good ruts or godly habits. Some of those righteous habits involve daily prayer, intercession and supplication for the needs of others as well as a time of worship and communion with God. It refers to growing in the word. Listening to what God wants to show us and taking time to apply it.

The ruts of righteousness include welcoming and following the guidance of the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of the Spirit. My prayer for 2015 is that God will produce love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in my life and that these will become my ruts of righteousness.