

THE “NEVER BEEN BEFORE” WAY

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When the Israelites were about to cross the Jordan River, the officers went throughout the camp, giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord and the priests carrying it, you are to move out from your position and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before.”

Today, at the threshold of 1992, I share the same feeling with the Israelites: There is the way I have never been before. Actually, this is the way no one has ever been before. How exciting! It seems as if we are joining a tour which offers new adventures for every one.

But this tour provides no guide nor maps. The year of 1992 only comes once and no human knows what will happen during these 365 days. If somebody tells you: “Follow me, I can lead your way.” Don’t believe him. The Israelites were not to follow Galeb-the oldest

person, nor Joshua-their commander. They followed the ark- God Himself. Only the Creator who is timeless and controls the future can lead us.

As soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. So they led the people cross on dry ground. Then the priests and the ark stood firm in the middle of the Jordan until the whole nation had passed by. It showed God’s perfect love who not only leads us through tribulation but also suffers with us. He is with us all the time.

So, what are we afraid of? For every danger there is excitement and with every affliction, a miracle. The year ahead is not a path of roses for sure, yet the sweet fruits of faith will follow our steps. Come on, let’s walk forward into the new year with rejoicing and thanksgiving!

