A Day to Reflect and Feel Grateful
New Year’s Day in the Democratic Republic of Congo

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My favorite celebration is New Year’s Day. This day is really special in my home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

New Year’s is the best day for people to reflect on life. They inspect what aspect of their life has failed or why they haven’t achieved their dream. Then they figure out how to manage their lives in order to succeed in the New Year. On this date, Christians are grateful to God for keeping them safe and for still being alive. In addition, New Year’s Day is a particularly good day to meet friends, family, and to share food and drink beer together.

The New Year’s festivities start around the beginning of December. Everybody looks to buy new clothing and new shoes for themselves and for their kids. Everybody is well-dressed on New Year’s Day. Spouses feel more confident and they renew their love during this period. However, this moment is also frustrating for many people because they don’t have enough money to afford all the new clothes. Because of this, just after New Year’s Day, you will find many people selling their new clothes at the Kuwait, a market where people sell used stuff.

On New Year’s day, families and friends meet together to eat. They make several meals. I especially like the chicken dish called Mpondu, made with cassava leaves, and Fufu, a dish of maize flour mixed with cassava flowers and rice. During this day, you will hear loud music everywhere along the streets. Adults and children dance. They dance the Ndombolo, a popular dance that uses the hips. The town officials are aware of it, but they don’t mind.

New Year’s Day is important to me because it reminds me of the mercy of God. During this day, I scrutinize my life in all its aspects and decide in which direction I must go to be more successful in the future. On the day before January 1st, when I am in church with my other brothers and sisters in Christ, I feel grateful to God for keeping me safe and alive.

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Scrutinize This!

What does the author scrutinize on New Year’s Day?

Scrutinize the article and find an example of something that is frustrating to the author about this holiday.

Using context clues, define “scrutinize.”