

Norwood Christian Grapevine

I am the vine; You are the branches... John 15:5

Pastor's Promptings...

WELCOME TO 2010

Another decade has passed and a new year lies before us. Pause for a moment and reflect back. Not just on the old year but on the old decade as well. Did you accomplish what you wanted to accomplish? Ten years ago when you thought about the future, are you now where you thought you would be then? Did you even have a plan for where you wanted to be in ten years?

What are your plans for the New Year? What are your plans for the new decade? Do you have a plan for how you want to spend your time in 2010? Do you have a plan for where you want to be five or ten years from now?

There is an old saying that, though it has become cliché, is still very true. "If you fail to plan you plan to fail." Another good one is, "If you don't know where you are going any road will get you there."

The point is, at midnight on December 31st, as December 31st 2009 gives way to January 1st 2010, the sands of time for 2010 will begin to fall. That is a fact of life. Time marches on whether we are ready for it or not. We have two choices: We can be carried away by the marching of time and let life live us, or we can take charge of our time, make it march according to our orders, and live life to the fullest. Most of us fall somewhere in the middle, but closer to letting life live us.

I want to challenge you this New Year and new decade to make a

plan. This time next year as you look back on the passing of 2010, what would you like to have accomplished with your life? What is important to you?

Do you want to spend more time with your family? Do you want to get out of debt? Do you want to make improvements in your marriage relationship? None of this happens by accident. It takes deliberate planning and purposeful living.

If you go to any bookstore you will find dozens and dozens of "self help" books on time management and planning. While these books can help you with the mechanics or steps to making a time management plan, most of these books miss the basic principle for successful planning.

It's interesting that this basic step has been known for thousands of years yet today's authors repeatedly miss it. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, wrote a lot about planning way back in the 900s BC. The underlying principle of successful planning is summed up in Solomon's writings in the book of Proverbs. Here is what Solomon wrote nearly 3,000 years ago:

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."
Proverbs 16:3

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."
Proverbs 16:9

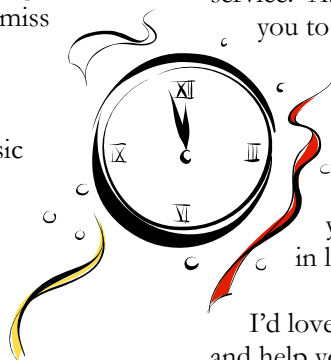
What Solomon is saying is if you leave the Lord out of your planning you are ultimately going to fail. If you want to succeed in life you must know the giver of life. The Lord created time. He also created you. So doesn't it make sense that He is the best one to help you make the most of your time?

I want to encourage you as you head into 2010 to plan at least this one, vitally important thing: Plan on starting the New Year by checking in with the Lord. Come meet with Him during our 11 a.m. worship service. Ask Him what He wants you to accomplish with your life this year, for the next five years and beyond. Ask Him to be your guide through this life to help you accomplish your God-given purpose in life.

I'd love to sit down with you and help you get acquainted with the Lord and discuss how the Lord can help you plan your day, your year, and your life. Give me a call at the church office or stop by on a Sunday morning at 11 a.m. Start the year off right by connecting with the Creator of time and the Creator of your life, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Serving Christ and His family in the New Year and beyond!

Pastor Ken



THE BIG HEART

BY DAVIS WATSON

At this time of year, I always remember our Watson Family Celebrations. My Mother would always invite this friend of my Grandmother's over. Now this lady was quite large and my Dad always wanted me to find the strongest chair that we had for her to sit in. And, it couldn't be the sofa because we didn't think we could pull her out of it!

No matter how big she was, her heart was even bigger. She was always doing something for someone. In her later years, her size prevented her from leaving her home, but that didn't prevent her from ministering to others. One time I was over visiting my homebound Grandmother and she said, "Mrs. Salee hasn't called today." She told me that Mrs. Salee had been calling her every day for the past few years and later I found out that Mrs. Salee called about 25 homebound people every day. Now, that's ministering to people. I know my Grandmother and others looked forward to her call and were blessed by her love.

Mrs. Salee could have used many well worn excuses: "I'm too busy." "I have family obligations." "I don't know how to do this or that." "No one appreciates what I do." "I can't do it well." "I'm criticized for what I do." "I'm not comfortable with that!"

As followers of Christ we are called to serve, not make excuses. We may not be comfortable but I don't believe Christ was very comfortable hanging on the cross. Your service can be to those in the church which we call "your ministry" or to those outside the church which we call "your mission." No matter what you call it, we are called to serve others.

How do we start this life of service? First, we need to go to God and ask, "What can I do for You?" and listen for the answer. When the answer comes, "Just Live It!"

What about all those excuses? When God gives you a Ministry/Mission you have no excuses because He also gives you the power and authority to accomplish His request of you. When God is on your side, who can be against you?

What is the Church's role in your personal Ministry/Mission? We are here to encourage you to commit to a life of service and then to help you to carry out your God-given and God-directed service.

On Sunday, January 10th during our Bible Study hour, Debbie Daniels from the Montrose Pregnancy Center will describe the Center's mission to teen mothers in our area.

After the Worship Service, we will have a meal and will then discuss our Church's ministries and ways we can commit to serving others this coming year.



FOURTH FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Join us on the fourth Friday of each month for a time of fun, fellowship, and food. Bring your favorite game board and a snack to share.

Our first game night of the year will be on Friday, January 22nd beginning at 7 p.m. in the church basement.

SUNDAY SERVANTS

January 3rd

Communion Preparation
Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Greeters
** open **

Communion Servers
Davis & Mary Watson

Communion Meditation
Jerry Pike

January 10th

Communion Preparation
Ken Lawrence

Greeters
** open **

Communion Servers
Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Communion Meditation
Rich Benintendi

January 17th

Communion Preparation
Betty Greager

Greeters
Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Servers
Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Meditation
Ernie Calvillo

January 24th

Communion Preparation
Davis Watson

Greeters
Dick & Kathy Nelson

Communion Servers
Dick & Kathy Nelson

Communion Meditation
Jerry Pike

January 31st

Communion Preparation
Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Greeters
** open **

Communion Servers
** open **

Communion Meditation
Davis Watson



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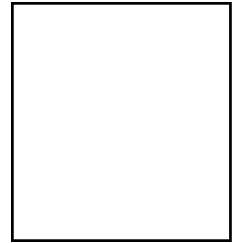
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10 AM ~ Bible Study

11 AM ~ Worship Service



ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

January

Week	<u>The Law</u> Mon.	<u>History</u> Tues.	<u>Psalms</u> Wed.	<u>Poetry</u> Thur.	<u>Prophecy</u> Fri.	<u>Gospels</u> Sat.	<u>Epistles</u> Sun.
1	<u>Gen</u> 1-3	<u>Josh</u> 1-5	<u>Ps</u> 1-2	<u>Job</u> 1-2	<u>Isa</u> 1-6	<u>Matt</u> 1-2	<u>Rom</u> 1-2
2	<u>Gen</u> 4-7	<u>Josh</u> 6-10	<u>Ps</u> 3-5	<u>Job</u> 3-4	<u>Isa</u> 7-11	<u>Matt</u> 3-4	<u>Rom</u> 3-4
3	<u>Gen</u> 8-11	<u>Josh</u> 11-15	<u>Ps</u> 6-8	<u>Job</u> 5-6	<u>Isa</u> 12-17	<u>Matt</u> 5-7	<u>Rom</u> 5-6
4	<u>Gen</u> 12-15	<u>Josh</u> 16-20	<u>Ps</u> 9-11	<u>Job</u> 7-8	<u>Isa</u> 18-22	<u>Matt</u> 8-10	<u>Rom</u> 7-8

January 2010

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM <i>Heather Lawrence</i>	4	5 <i>Joanne Wood</i>	6	7 Praise Team 7:30PM	8 <i>Rebecca Williams</i>	9
10 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM Potluck 12PM	11 <i>Abigail Berg</i>	12 <i>John Warfield</i>	13 <i>Robert Lawrence</i>	14 Praise Team 7:30PM	15	16
17 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	18	19	20 <i>Dori Calvillo</i>	21 Praise Team 7:30PM	22 4 th Friday Fellowship 7 PM <i>Rhonda Oliver</i>	23 <i>Lee Barrett</i>
24 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM <i>Natalie Lawrence</i>	25 <i>Chris Oliver</i>	26	27	28 Praise Team 7:30PM	29	30
31 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM						