

A New Year

How many times have you awakened from a night's rest and marveled at the miracles of a new day? Have you ever wondered at the mystery as to why God has willed that we should have another day,

another week, another month, or another year, this side of the grave? What opportunity is it that God wants to offer us? What job does He want us to perform, that He has spared us?

Every Christian needs to ask himself this question, "Why am I here? Why have I been allowed to see not only another day, but the opening of another year and of another decade? What is it that God is offering that will better prepare me to stand in judgment?"

We need to realize that we were not created by God's hand just to fill so much space and to be another nose counted among the population of the world, nor did God place us here to just be a more successful businessman, a more effective salesman, a faster typist or a more effective teacher of math, science, or geography.

The man or the woman who thinks that his little niche is just to be a better machine in the scheme of human production can not help but be a frustrated person. Each year thousands take their own lives because they do not feel that they have any purpose in living. Alexander the Great cried because he had no more worlds to conquer and drank himself to the grave. What was wrong? The answer can simply be found in the fact that they had missed the very core of the purpose of humanity—service to the God of Heaven.

The apostle Paul referring to Christ said, "All things were created by Him and for Him."

The purpose of existence of every human is to fit in to God's plan and God's scheme. He wants our service, our devotion, and he has a reason for letting us live another day, another week, another month, or another year. It may be in the hope that we will see our own mean, little selves, and repent before it is too late for repentance. It may be that He has a greater work than we have ever dreamed that He wants us to perform. - cont.

A Touch of Magic? (4)

(A continuation and conclusion of last week's article, a reprint from a 1988 article which appeared in the Firm Foundation.)

Why is it that so many members of the Lord's church continue to practice such "magic?" The answer is found in two places: 1) Ignorance of God's word; 2) Stubbornness to conform to that which is known. Both of these will condemn one's soul, and no "magic" can prevent it. There is nothing magical about baptism. The grace of God, blood of Christ, and faithful obedience will save the soul. Although baptism is included in this and is essential to salvation (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Pet. 3:21), in and of itself it possesses no more power to save than does "faith alone" (cf. Jas. 2:17, 20, 24, 26). There is no touch of magic in the Lord's Supper. Other commands of worship are just as binding. No sleight of hand by obtaining the approval of others for one's misgivings will "trick" the Lord into forgetting their occurrence. There is nothing magical in obedience. Simple obedience to the gospel and faithful obedience throughout life will assure one of an eternal home in heaven—no voodoo, no sleight of hand, no touch of magic. "If ye love me, **keep my commandments**" (Jn. 14:15).

-Eddy

Additional note: The Lord condemns excuse-making (Lk. 14:16-24). In the continuing efforts of the elders to contact those who are absent from worship, many excuses are being offered by the unfaithful. Brethren, the Lord will not accept our lame excuses for disobedience to and defiance of His will. We can not glaze over or magically erase our disobedience with excuses. Whatever we put ahead of our service to Him is, in essence, our god. And we know that no idolater will make it to heaven (Eph. 5:5). Instead of trying to "pull something out of our hats," we need to put something into our lives. Please consider these thoughts and repent if there is a need.

Teens

December Dates:

12/30—Youth Conduct Evening Services

12/31—Youth Game Night

Winter Youth Devos:

January 5—Radford

February 2—Christiansburg

March 8—Lake Drive

A New Year - continued

It may be that there is a soul that we can influence to serve Him, and for this one task He continues to give us the very breath that we breathe.

May God help us to never forget that there is nothing that we have that we can call our own, not even our own lives, "In Him we live and move, and have our very being." Without a doubt, if God dealt with us now with justice we would have long since been struck dead, but we must also remember that the day of mercy will cease, and in judgment He will deal with us justly. We will be judged as to whether or not we have followed God's purpose of existence. It will not be just the question as to whether we left the world a more comfortable place to live, but whether we left men better and serving God because of our influence.

It is our fervent prayer that on this, the first week in a new year, Christians around the world may go to their knees and pray for God's guidance in service, in love, and in purpose. May God help us to make this new year the greatest year for the cause of Christ in all the history of mankind.

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Team Events

We will be having a Congregational Dinner on January 6 after morning services. This is a pot-luck fellowship with brief planning session after the meal with each new team breaking off into different rooms of the building. Bring your ideas to make this the best year ever.

Team 1—will be in charge of set up.

Team 2—will be in charge of paper products and drinks.

Team 3—will be in charge of clean up. This includes resetting the fellowship hall for classroom use.

WOW GROUP

The next meeting will be on January 8, 2008.

Congratulations!!



Congratulations to Nathan
Anderson who graduated
Summa Cum Laude from
University of Alabama—Huntsville!

Thank You!

Thank you all for the many holiday wishes, cards, food and gifts. You are a wonderful group of people and we are blessed to be able to work with you every day. We wish you the best year ever in 2008, with all the happiness, joy and peace that life can afford. May God richly bless our efforts together in the new year.

-Eddy & Jeanny

SICK

Walter Dennis, Erin Duran's grandfather, had successful surgery on Monday.

Sandy Garby's grandmother is not doing well.

Cindy Nicholas' grandmother is also not doing well.

Remember the following in prayer: **Betty Jenkins, Collin Gregory, Marguerite Charles, Betty Buckner, Effie Wimmer, Glen Williams, Curtis Doss.**

Happy Anniversary this week to:

Jim & Charlotte Harrington—1/1



Happy Birthday this week to:

Melissa Rogers—12/30

George Mellon—12/30

Cindy Nicholas—12/31

Squeaky Valentine—12/31

Nancy Benefield—1/1

Amanda Brown—1/3

Chandler Jearls—1/5

Ben Munsey—1/5



MILITARY

Ty Stricklin—Stationed in Iraq

John Duran—overseas.

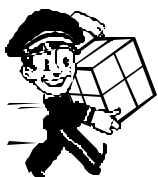
Kyle Nester— in Iraq

Erich Felps—in Iraq.



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:

Sweet 'n Low and Degree Deodorant.
Give your items to Jeanny and she
will ship them over!



CALENDERS

Be sure to post your copy of the Jan/Feb Calendar to your desk or fridge—lots of stuff going on!!

YOUTH GAME NIGHT

Youth Game Night will be December 31, 6:30-9 PM, in the fellowship hall.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

There will be a **Congregational** Fellowship Meal will be on January 6 after morning services. We will be eating and then break up into new fellowship teams for a brief planning session. Bring a dish and your ideas!!

MEMORY PROGRAM

The **New Memory Program** will be starting on Sunday, January 6, at 5:40 for the young kids. Make plans now to bring your children. Adam House will be handling the details!!

LADIES NIGHT OUT

The LNO for January has been changed to Jan. 21 at 7:00 here at the building.

PRIMARY TEACHER MEETING

The next Primary Teachers Meeting will be on February 24 at 4:30. 4/K teachers in charge of snacks!

ASSIGNMENTS

Next year's assignments for communion, baptismal garments and nursery attendants are posted in the hallway!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plan of Works—1/20

New Member Dinner—1/23

Education Banquet—2/23

Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat—2/14&15

January 2008

Announcements Jerry Anderson
Song Leader (AM) Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (AM)
1/6 Richard Simms
1/13 Squeaky Valentine
1/20 Barry White
1/27 Jeremy White
Preside at Communion Tom Duff
Serve Table Jim Bush Willard Campbell
 Jim Cooke Preston Duff

Closing Prayer

1/6 Ethan Rogers
1/13 Tom Richardson
1/20 Paul Mays
1/27 Adam House

Song Leader (PM) Paul Mays

Opening Prayer (PM)

1/6 Don Pettit
1/13 Roger Mays
1/20 Charlie Maness
1/27 Crawford Keith

Scripture Reader Cameron Brown

Closing Prayer (PM)

1/6 Jim Harrington
1/13 Charlie Gwaltney
1/20 Collin Gregory
1/27 Bob Garby

Serve Table (PM) Glenn Gabbard Charlie Puckett

Song Leader (Wed) Josh Whitlow

Prayer (Wed)

1/2 Greg Edwards
1/9 Mike Durham
1/16 Jeff Durham
1/23 Garrett Durham
1/30 Eddy Gilpin

Open/Close Bldg Jerry Anderson

Open/Close Sun PM David Wilcox

Greeters J. & L. Cooks J. & R. Bush

Nursery Attend M. Earnhart G. Earnhart

Ushers Curtis Oakes David McFalls

Handouts John Black Herb Baker

Alternates John Black

Prepare comm. Kay Anderson Jean Argabright

Cards & Pencils Sydney Durham Chandler Jearls

Last weeks attendance 12/23&26/2007

Bible Class— 148 Worship Service—172

Eve. Worship— 129 Wed. Service—140

Contribution—\$5467