



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

by Pastor Ali

A new year is upon us and most of us are asking the same question, "Where did the year go?" I am reminded of a comment from Dr. Seuss' book, *Tell the Time*:

"How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?"

One of the things I have noticed as I have "seasoned in in my years" is that time does indeed seem to move much faster than when I was a child. Growing up in Cleveland, Ohio we looked forward to summer break each year because it seemed the summer lasted so long before school restarted in the fall.

This year rather than bemoan the fact that 2018 has gone by so fast, I have decided to take every advantage of whatever time I have before me. In Psalm 90 we have a prayer of Moses (not David as many assume). In verse 12 he prays, *"The years of our life are seventy or even by reason of strength eighty...so teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."*

None of us can know for certain our remaining years in this world. In today's world of high tech medical advancements, more and more individuals are living longer than just thirty years ago. Many diseases that once proved fatal, now can be cured or at least managed to allow individuals to live longer.

I would like to encourage us to consider what it means to start this year with a more resolute determination to give priority to our relationship with God. I am not sure what this means for you, but for me it means examining the use of my time and being wise in what I spend my time doing. While there are a lot of worthwhile things to do given our fast paced culture, it seems to me the more time invested in "other things" means that I have less time to invest in my relationship with God. Spending more time in God's word is a good start for most of us. This might necessarily mean turning off our favorite television programs, shutting down our social media, and committing to a regular and consistent time of prayer.



KEY DATES

January 1

Holiday (office closed)

January 8

All Boards/Leadership Mtg (7p)

January 13

WOW Bible Study Registration begins

January 15

Executive Board Mtg (6pm)

January 21

MLK Holiday (Office closed)

January 26

Food Pantry/Clothed in Love (9am)

January 27

101 Class (12:15pm)



Happy New Year (continued)

When we gather with friends and family why not spend time talking about the Lord and expressing thanksgiving for all that He is in our lives? Why not listen to more Christian worship music when driving in the car? Why not get involved in a weekly Bible study or start a study in your home? Why not consider starting each day in prayer with the kids before sending them off to school? Why not start a husband and wife devotional time? (Last time Karen and I did Bible crossword puzzles.) These may be good ways to help you and others deepen their relationship with the Lord.

The apostle Paul challenges us with his admonition in Ephesians 5:16, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of time, because of the days are evil."

Take baby steps, but let's be "all in" for Jesus in 2019 and don't be surprised if it's contagious! ☺

Youth News by Pastor Zach

Happy New Year! I pray that your Christmas was a time full of joy, hope, peace, and love as we celebrated our Savior's birth. January is the kick-off of the spring semester. If you are a parent of a student in our youth ministry, please for information about the upcoming semester.

JHO and RPM will start January 9 and 10, respectively. We will be meeting at the normal times (JHO-Wednesdays @ 6pm; RPM-Thursdays @ 7pm). We look forward to seeing your son/daughter join us!

Youth ministry is experiential ministry. There are things that

cannot be learned or experienced in

- Junior High Winter Camp -
 Old Oak Ranch Conference Center
 Sonora, CA
 Early Bird Registration-\$100 due Jan 9
 Regular Registration-\$120 due Feb 3

a midweek program. Things like the mountaintop high of weekend camps, serving others in an unfamiliar location, or corporate worship with 100s of like-minded peers. Events such as weekend camps and service projects are important in developing lifelong memories that serve as anchor points in a person's life and faith in Christ.

Fundraisers are one of the ways we can provide the means to get students to camp to experience God. "Fill the Envelope" is a wall of envelopes that are labeled "1" thru "100". You take one envelope (or 2 or 3) and fill it with the amount written on the envelope. Then you return the envelope and help send students to these important, life-impacting events. We will make the wall available January 13 and our goal is to fill all the envelopes by January 27. I pray that you consider supporting the youth of the church in this way. ☺

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

"WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE"

Sundays @ 8:30AM

We will be using Max Anders book to learn about spiritual warfare and the Armor of God. Come join us! A limited number of books are available for \$11. Contact Darrell Williams at 786-0507 for more information.

Jan 6-Intro Jan 13 Chapter 1

Food Pantry

***** UPDATE *****

New Schedule:
 The 4th Saturday of every month
 9-11am

New Directors:
 Dora & Bob Bowerman

BAPTISMS

February 10

BELIEVING JESUS
 Journey through the Book of Acts with
Lisa Harper




BEGINS FEBRUARY 5!

Registration starts January 13 in the Lobby! Come join us for this 8-week study as we journey through the Book of Acts!

Cost: \$18 (includes class fee)

For more information contact:

AM Class-Sharon Gregory 772-3105
 PM Class-Debbie Ghiselli 772-7152