

ILLUMINATOR

"Ye are the LIGHT of the world." Matthew 5:14

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NO. 01



RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Take 12 whole months; remove all bitterness, hatred and jealousy. Wash them in love, light and life.

Then cut each into 28, 30 or 31 pieces, as desired. Set aside all but one portion. Prepare the daily portion, one day a time, by adding the following ingredients: 1 part faith, 1 part patience, 1 part courage and 1 part honest work. Mix well.

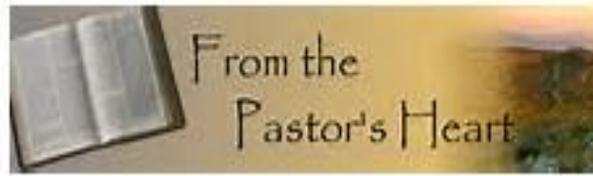
Add to each day 1 part hope, faithfulness, generosity and kindness. Blend with 7 parts prayers and 3 parts meditation. Add at least 1 good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play and a cup of good humor. Carefully fold in friends and family until thoroughly combined.

Pour all ingredients into a vessel well oiled with harmony. Cook thoroughly over radiant accord until your heart tests warm and tender. Garnish with a smile and serve with quiet unselfishness and unending happiness.

Yield: a Happy New Year filled with joy, peace, hope and love.

(copied)



Its 2018 – where are you heading? The Great Commission from Matthew 28:18-20 is our marching orders. “GO...” and “MAKE DISCIPLES ...” A disciple is a learner, one who grows in spiritual wisdom and knowledge. A disciple is a follower of Jesus who “sits at His feet” and “serves Him obediently”. Are you a disciple? Are you also a disciple maker? Are you helping others to grow spiritually?

In what way do you desire to grow most in 2018? Could it be an unhealthy habit or a crippling fear or a secret sin that seems to hold you captive; and you want to overcome them. Maybe you desire to grow in your knowledge of God’s word ... or learn to walk by faith ... or step up in your service to God and His church ... or learn to give faithfully ... or even desire to step out of your comfort zone and share your faith with others. In what areas do you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to grow in 2018?

I overheard an adult say to a child the other day, “You sure are growing up fast.” Just as we hear about a child physically, wouldn’t it be wonderful to our ears to hear someone say of us spiritually, “You sure are growing. I can see the change in you.” At the end of 2018 I want to hear someone say, “Tony, you seem to have grown so much spiritually in 2018. I can see it in your life.”

Let’s make it our desire to grow – be a disciple. Let us make it our desire to help others to grow – go and make disciples. Let us strive as a church to become the strongest discipling church in the mountains. If you and I strived for excellence and to please God in everything we do in 2018, what would be different about the you and me from 2017? What changes must we strive to make?

I leave you with this thought – REMEMBER – you are not merely serving the church and you do not work for the pastor. Rather you work for almighty God in the business of the Kingdom of God. That is awesome, isn’t it? That should be our greatest motivation in 2018 – Please God in everything you do!

Bro. Tony

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A child sat his grandmother’s feet as she embroidered. Looking up, he saw a mishmash of threads and ugly knots but no discernible picture or words. “Nana, he said with concern, “that’s not very pretty.” “Come up here,” Grandma said, “and look at it from this side. You have to see it from my perspective.” He then exclaimed, “Oh! It’s beautiful!”

Seeing the world from our human, earthly viewpoint, we can’t grasp the masterpiece that God is completing. But when we finally see it from his perspective, we’ll discover that the thread and knots all contribute to a beautiful work of art. That work won’t be finished until Jesus returns, but in the meantime, may God grant us an occasional glimpse of the work in progress – from God’s side!



Over the past few months more and more of the basic needs of people in our community have been brought to my attention. I suspect that the Holy Spirit is drawing my attention to those things and people and, of course, He is doing that for a reason. One area that I know He is prompting me towards is the area schools. I have heard enough stories to know that the faculty and staff of our schools are trying their best to help the children and families that they serve, but our schools need help to meet so many needs.

One need that I know of is jogging pants in all elementary boys and girls' sizes (with small and medium needed most frequently). This would be a simple, and relatively inexpensive, way for the families of our church to help out a local school. Proving a warm pair of pants for a child to change into is a simple way to share Jesus' love with them and relieve a little bit of burden from our schools. If you can help, please drop off the jogging pants at the church by January 24th and I will deliver them to the school; don't forget to gather your family together to pray for the child that will receive the pants and for the school.

Thank you for your generosity and willingness to serve. I encourage you to see what needs you might be able to meet in your neighborhood, and don't forget the most essential need of all – the need to hear about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
JEREMY
Prov. 27:17

4th-6th GRADE PARENT MEETING

On Sunday, January 21st, at 5:00 P.M., there will be a meeting for the parents of 4th-6th graders to discuss camp and mission opportunities that will be happening this summer. This meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

NEW MERCIES

Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging.

The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote, "*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness*" (Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV).

God refuses to give up on us. When we lost hope, when we fail and fall short, his mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord's unceasing love.



*"Jesus, Keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calvary's mountain."*

Christmas and New Year's are over and we have had such an amazing month celebrating the birth of our Savior. Now we must begin preparing music for worship services, Easter, Youth Sunday and VBS.

I am so very thankful for our children's choir leaders that willing work with our children each and every week. They will be starting back soon, and are planning on teaching our children the VBS music again this year to lead us in worship on a Sunday morning. If you have not been bringing your son or daughter to Children's Choir, please consider bringing them. It is a great opportunity for them to develop music skills and increase their boldness for standing in front of others and sharing Christ.

I am also very thankful for our Drama Team. They led us in worship on Christmas Eve with a presentation of our Savior's birth that was amazing. They are now planning on doing something for Easter and would love to have people that would be willing to be a part of a play, or some other type of drama, for Easter. Please consider becoming a part of this ministry and let Saranell and Tessa know of your interest.

Finally, I am always amazed at what our Adult Choir does each year. They willingly sacrifice their time and voices to sing praises to our King. We will begin practicing our Easter Cantata, "The Road to Calvary", this Sunday. We would love to have you come and join us as we learn this new music. I promise you will have a great time of worship, even during practice. Please pray about joining the choir.

Baptist Men's Day will be on Sunday, January 28th. We will need all men to sing in the Men's Choir that Sunday, volunteers to share your testimony that Sunday morning or evening, and we are looking for men to sing solos, duets, quartets, etc. If you are interested in singing, please let me know. If you would like to share your testimony, please let Jeremy know.

HUMOR TO BREAK UP THE WINTER BLAHS

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite and sweet spirited ... until you try to sit in their pew.

People are funny: They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

Working for God on earth doesn't pay much, but his retirement plan is out of this world.



*"I see your generation standing on the truth
In each and every day saying God is on the move
Anytime the Gospel stirs a searching soul
And someone says, 'send me, here I go'*

*I know, I know, I know, I know
God is on the move, on the move
Hallelujah
God is on the move
In many mighty ways
God is on the move, on the move
Hallelujah
God is on the move
On the move today"*

Our youth attended the Winter Xtreme Youth Conference over the weekend. We had a wonderful time of worship and learning. One of the speakers, Greg Stier, founder of Dare 2 Share ministry, shared with us from Romans 1:16: **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes; first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."** He asked those of us in attendance to think of one lost person that we would be willing to share the Gospel with within 24 hours of returning home. He then challenged us to stand up, take the challenge, and shout that person's name out loud. He then shared that if we had a cure for cancer, and knew someone that had cancer, would we not be relentless in trying to share that cure? He then challenged us to think of sharing the Gospel in that light.

He shared three facts with us during his message:

1. The Gospel is Explosive
2. The Gospel is Extensive, Jews and Gentiles alike. The religious and the rebels.
3. The Gospel is Explicit. The Gospel has no room for confusion or doubt.

A huge crowd of thousands accepted this challenge including those in our group. Imagine if all follow through with this challenge. What if we accepted a similar challenge? Are you up to the challenge?

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACKS

January 7

Amy Craft, Jeremy Horn

THREE QUESTIONS

There's a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, "Who are you? Where are you going?" Why are you going there?"

Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid – and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the new year ahead. For Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

- Who are you? "I'm a child of God!"
- Where are you going? "I'm going out into the world!"
- Why are you going there? "I'm going out of love for Jesus, who died for me."

Place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently, knowing "whose" you are and what your purpose is.



- Jan. 7: Angelina Longworth
8: Josh Caudill, Kassandra Ramirez,
Alex Wiseman
10: Caroline Horn, Vicki Setzer
11: Haley Banks, Aaron Hacker,
Landon Webb

Lord, help me by your heart today, providing hope for those who stray.

Lord, help me be your love today, displaying grace in every way.

Lord, help me be your Word today, proclaiming good when all is gray.

Mary Ann Sundby



We have offering envelopes for 2018 in the vestibule of the church. If you do not have a box, please notify the church office and we will be glad to assign you a box. Offering envelopes help us in posting contributions that are given to the church.



CHURCH GOAL ----- \$2,500.00

GIVEN TO DATE ----- \$ 1,500.00



**MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 6:00 P.M.
CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL**



**STEWARDSHIP TEAM MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 6:00 P.M.**



EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

UNIFIED BUDGET

MICHAEL & KIM COMBS
In Memory Of
OWEN AMBURGEY

ELLIS CAUDILL
In Memory Of
LYNN & RUBY CAUDILL

MARK & LINA BREWER
MINNIE HAWK SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
In Memory Of
HERB CAUDILL

BARBARA PRICHARD
In Memory Of
HERB CAUDILL
GREG AMBURGEY

GEORGE & BETTY KINCER
In Memory Of
NANNIE DUNCIL
BONNIE HOLBROOK
MACIE WARF

MYREL & SHARON SHORT
In Memory Of
HERB CAUDILL
ROGER WEBB

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

DARYL BOGGS
In Memory Of
BRENDA BOGGS
KENDALL & LENA BOGGS
JOHNNIE & HENRIETTA RAICHEL

SANDY BANKS
In Memory Of
HELEN BENTLEY
GREG AMBURGEY
HERB CAUDILL

BOBBY & MARGARET FISHER
In Memory Of
BEN FISHER

DESIGNATED

EARLENE WILLIAMS CORNETT
In Memory Of
JOHN WILLIAMS

Jan. 7

Pam Pratt, Holly Caudill

Jan. 14

Laura Whitaker

PRESCHOOL WORSHIP

Jan. 7

Lee Adams

Jan. 14

Calviston & Rebecca Cook

CHILDREN'S CHURCH WORKERS

Jan. 7

Angie Horn, Tracie Day, Kathy Perry

Jan. 14

Viva Anderson, Brenda Cook, Lori Thomas

A minister on the Internet, who calls himself simply Pastor Tim, loves to tell jokes. One joke is about a little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap, while he reads a bedtime story to her.

As the child listened, she kept reaching up to her grandfather's face to trace his many wrinkles with her finger. When the story was finished, she looked at him quizzically and said, "Granddaddy, did God make you?" He answered, "Yes, sweetheart, God made me a long time ago." She said, "God made me, too, didn't he?" The granddaddy said, "Yes. God made you not too many years ago."

She then placed one of her hands on her own face, noticed how smooth it was and said, "God's getting better at it now, isn't he?"

LAST SUNDAY'S STATISTICS

Sunday School ----- 81
Adults -- 54
Youth -- 4
Children -- 15
Preschool -- 8
Morning Worship ----- 118

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Housing Authority -----
Letcher Manor -----
AWANA/IGNITE/YOUTH -----
Children: Adults:

ADDITIONS TO DATE

(September – August)

By Baptism ----- 3
By Letter ----- 0
By Statement ----- 1
TOTAL ADDITIONS ----- 4

TOTAL RECEIPTS

(Dec. 24 & Dec. 31)

Budget Receipts ----- \$11,310.00
Budget Requirement ----- \$14,342.00
Family Life Center ----- \$5,610.00
Designated ----- \$ 17.00
Lottie Moon ----- \$ 240.00
Budget Required to Date ----- \$377,363.00
Budget to Date ----- \$341,535.21

IN THE HOSPITAL

JIMMY BATES, U.K.
MAURICE CAUDILL, Local ARH

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

TOTAL NEEDED – PHASE 2

\$500,000.00

GIVEN TO DATE

\$434,102.00

NEEDED

\$65,898.00

DEACON OF THE WEEK

January 7 - 13

MYREL SHORT