

In this Edition

Happy New Year
Brothers and Sisters
in Christ,

The staff and I are so excited to once again put together this Newsletter for your enjoyment and your encouragement. It has been a long time in coming.

This issue features a guest writer encouraging us into the New Year. I send thanks to Brother K. Cason for being willing to lend his talent. Other members have written articles to inspire and uplift the body of Christ. It is our hope that you will be blessed.

Thanks to all who have contributed in the past and who will continue to do so.

Greta Jones, Editor

The Time Is Now

By: Bishop-Elect Franklin Gordon

Say not ye There are yet four months and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. (John 4:35)

I am sure that most of us have heard the idiom, "there is no time like the present." I don't know about most of you but there are times when I delay doing things because I conclude, based on the due date of the thing that's due, that I have sufficient time to accomplish the project. Lately I have started moving away from that way of thinking because it doesn't always work out that way where I have the time that I thought I would have. Something that I did not plan for and in most cases could not plan for seems to pop up and has to be addressed, thereby consuming the time that I thought I initially had. When this happens it compresses my schedule causing me to

have to work at a pace and under pressure that would not have been necessary had I not procrastinated. See, if I had taken care of the matter when I had sufficient time, it would have taken the pressure off and allowed me to do a much better job. I guess in instances like this there was no time like the present to address present responsibilities.

From the passage in the fourth chapter of John it appears that Jesus was warning us about reasoning with ourselves and justifying delaying necessary work or not recognizing that the issue at hand requires immediate attention. Jesus recognized the immediate opportunity for the harvest of souls and would not be distracted nor deterred, but recognized and prioritized this opportunity over meeting the natural desire or need for food. Soul winning or witnessing for Christ is not a seasonal thing but a right now and ongoing thing. Let's not delay any longer, lift up your eyes and look at the opportunities before us to

share the good news to anyone who's ready to receive it.



SCHEDULE

Bible Study

Wednesday | 6:45 PM

Sunday School | 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship | 10:15 AM

Youth Study

4th Wed | 6:45 PM

Women's Study

4th Wed | 6:45 PM

Men's Breakfast

2/4th Sat | 8:00 AM

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday | After Bible Study



Valentine Day Social

Saturday, February 11th: The Women's Ministry of Great Commission is hosting a Valentine's Day Social from 5:30pm-8:30pm. Tickets for the event are \$10.00/ person. For contacts and more information, please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board.

*Consider it pure
joy, my brother and
sisters, whenever
you face trials of
many kinds,
because you know
that the testing of
your faith produces
perseverance.
James 1:2-3*

Finding Hope In Your Heart

By: First Lady Gordon

There are times in life when the hurt is so overwhelming you feel hopeless. A person's concerns may be emotional pain, health issues, family drama, financial insecurities or problems at work. I am sure that some of you know exactly what I mean since many of you may have been impacted by this recessionary period and the continued slowdown in the economy. Your pain could be the result of the betrayal of a friend or loved one, the loss of something or someone significant or a broken relationship. Let me encourage you. You don't have to live without hope. There are many afflictions that we

may encounter but there is a promise that we can expect deliverance from our place of hurt. Promises like these can and should give us hope even in the darkest of situations. It does not matter what your circumstances are through God you can find hope in you hurt. Romans 5:3 states that we glory in tribulations or times of trouble because when the process that begins with trouble ends in hope and we are assured that hope does not make us ashamed (Romans 5:5). Lamentations 3:26 further encourages us in that it tells us that it is good that a man should both hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. Did you get that? That means while

we are expectantly waiting on the LORD, we should do it with great patience and without complaining because He will bring salvation. See, this is how you find hope in your hurt.

Into the New Year

By: Brother David Cason

I am a person who subscribes to the notion that life is 10% of what happens to us and 90% of how we react to what happens...that's why this article about praise and worship is so important especially as we go into this New Year. 2012 has been predicted by some to be the end of the world, of course we who are believers know that this notion is "HOGWASH", but many are preparing themselves for the worst and it affects their attitudes and personality in the worst way, because they actually have no real faith foundation and many have itching ears wanting someone to tell them something of significance and most of the time it is "HOGWASH"...but despite the crazy notions of many, we are in charge of our attitudes. It is not what life brings, but what we as believers bring to life that matters.

I think there are some key areas of our attitude in life that are important. The first is to be authentic. In other words be your real self. Authenticity is an attitude of honesty and humility. Don't allow circumstances to change you. Don't wear a mask around others. Be the same person in public and private (Now there's a resolution for you). One of the disappointing things about some of well known Christian leaders this past year was that they were living two different lives. They were not authentic. Their public persona was vastly different from their personal life. It would have been far better for them to talk openly about their struggles, and admit their weaknesses, rather than to pretend everything was great. Far better for us to know of their struggles so they could get help and we could pray for them, rather than have them pretend they had it all together, when they were actually falling apart. We would have

had much more respect for them. It is so hard to hide secret parts of your life, and the bigger the secret is the harder it is to hide. The harder it is to hide, the more dysfunctional your life becomes.

It takes courage to be authentic. It doesn't take any courage to wear a mask. One of the scriptures I love is about what it will be like when the kingdom of heaven arrives in its fullness. Paul says, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known." (1 Corinthians 13:12). I love that second key attitude that helps us to be of good cheer. You can't be of good cheer if you are constantly thinking about how bad and terrible the world is. If you are focused on the end of the world, you cannot enjoy the present moment. How can we ever convince the world that we have good news if all we talk about is bad news? And we don't just have good news, we have the best news the world has ever heard — news that the world is desperately in need of. How are you going to minister to the world if you are afraid of it? You have to love the world as God loves the world. It was Jesus who said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33).

So as we go into this New Year be authentic all the way, and have a cheerful heart ...always praise God for his goodness and be gracious for his kindness to you and your loved ones, and definitely praise Him for every test and trial. Through these circumstance we build Christian character and the test come to see what you know ...remember we don't study the word simply for "head"

knowledge but direction in every aspect of our lives.

Testimony of an Overcomer



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By: Yvette Valentin

At times we all may look back over our lives and wonder how we've made it this far. It seems to puzzle us all as to how God has kept us to reach another birthday, another year, for that much another day. I can honestly say that when I look back over my life God has truly had his hand on me. I never thought that I would be a licensed Realtor, let alone back in school. God has a very unique way of putting people and things in our paths to help us to step through that door he has opened. The entire process was not easy. Through lots of prayer, persistence and perseverance, after 9 attempts I passed the State and the National

Real Estate Exam. I am now a Licensed Realtor in the state of Pennsylvania. It's amusing to me to look back and see how God prepared me for this. In his way and his timing things transpired. 2 Corinthians 5:7 states "For we walk by faith, not by sight", for me, this speaks volumes. We don't always know what plan God has in store for us and we seem to want to do things our way; if we only get out of the way and allow God to do what he needs to do.....accomplishments would be much easier, smoother and the lesson learned would be greater.

I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me.
Philippians 4:13

Access

By: Greta Jones

How often do we suffer because we do not understand our access? How often do we miss the mark by not understanding our access? The Oxford American Dictionary (2nd Edition) defines the special usage of the word Access as the right or opportunity to approach or see someone. The action or process of obtaining or retrieving information stored in a computer's memory (for this article the computer will be the Bible) - The condition of being able to be reached or obtained.

Sin was introduced in the Garden of Eden where we had unlimited access

except for the for the fruit in the mist of the garden. Sin took away that access then came The Law. The Law gave us access with strict conditions. That condition required a blood sacrifice of some sort. The sacrifice depended on the sin. Every Christmas season we celebrate the birth of the key to our renewed access. Every Easter we celebrate the pure blood sacrifice that once again gave us access. Once you confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved (Romans 10:9). By that confession alone your faith has been activated. Have faith in your access that comes with the gift of everlasting life that has been given to you.

Every time we neglect to acknowledge or tap into our access we belittle the sacrifice.

By not seeking to gain a better understanding of that access we belittle the sacrifice. James 1:5 states that if any of us lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraided not; and it shall be given him.

We thank him for the cross and all that was gained but do we access the gift or is it still wrapped. I challenge not only you but myself to remove the wrapping from the gift. This year let us all do a better job of understanding and tapping into our Access.

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Its All About Jesus



VISION: *"To Bring the Body of Believers into a Vibrant Personal Relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through Diligent Study of the Word of God, Prayer, Commitment to Ministry, and Obedience to Scripture."*

~ Bishop-Elect, Pastor Franklin Gordon

