



## A NEW DAY

New Year's Day is one of the oldest and most widely observed holidays in the world. First celebrated about 4,000 years ago in Mesopotamia, during the spring equinox. New years has since moved on the calendar and has adopted various traditions and rituals. Setting personal goals at the beginning of a New Year dates back to the early Babylonians as a means for self-evaluation and renewal. Most people today never make New Year's Resolutions, but I believe a little self reflection is not only Biblical but necessary. Let me tell you why.

First, we all need to make changes in our lives. There is great power in confession-to God, to others, and to ourselves. Owing up to our failures is the first, painful step on the road to something better.

Second, when we change calendars it is a good time for reassessment. How did last year go? What do I want to do differently this year? This time of year always reminds me of a passage of scripture, better understood by farmers than suburbanites: "Break up your unplowed ground, and do not sow among thorns" (Jer 4:3). It makes sense. The more land you put into production, the more prosperous you'll be. But some of us are crazy enough to try to sow seeds in land that has not been plowed and is overrun by weeds and thistles. Without breaking up the soil and removing the roots of the weeds and the thistles your new crop will not do well. Every farmer knows that you have to get the soil right before you plant the seeds or it will never grow.

Let me ask you a serious question. What percentage of your life is producing something of value to God? How much "unplowed ground" do you have that ought to be broken up in this coming year and made useful? A new year is a good time for reassessment.

Third, setting goals is a really good idea. Sure, we might fail in what we set out to do, but if we fail to plan then we are really not giving ourselves a chance to succeed. If you're so fearful of failure that you never set up your row of tin cans to shoot at, you're not very likely to hit any at all. Failure is not the end. For the person who determines to learn from it, failure is a friend.

One of my heroes in the Bible is the Apostle Paul. Talk about failure! Throughout his life he was opposed, persecuted, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, deserted by trusted co-workers, slandered, and scorned. Sometimes it seemed that projects to which he had devoted years were turning to dust before his eyes. But during one of his stints in prison, we can see from one of his letters an unwillingness to quit. "Forgetting what is behind," he wrote, "and straining toward what is ahead, I press on

### Personal Message



### Songs of Solomon 8: 6-7 (NLT)

6 Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, its jealousy as enduring as the grave. Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame.

7 Many waters cannot quench love, nor can rivers drown it. If a man tried to buy love with all his wealth, his offer would be utterly scorned

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toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13-14) No wonder he made a mark on his world. He stopped looking back, and looked forward instead. He didn't let failure or the fear of failure keep him from trying again.

Fourth, New Year's is a time to learn to rely more heavily on the grace and strength of God. It was God's strength and grace that saw the great Apostle through all the problems, pain, and failure that eventually lead him to the joy and accomplishment of his life's mission. That mission was to testify the Gospel of the Grace of God.....

Now.....

Our Theme for 2019 is, "Therefore, Go"!!! It is both simple and profound and it will be what we focus on as a church in the coming year.

"Therefore, Go"

Show Love.

Offer Hope

Bring Healing.

Share Jesus.

We live in a broken and hurting world that is crying out for help! Crying out for genuine Love!! Crying out for Hope!! Crying out for Healing!! Crying out for answers!! Answers which we as the body of Christ have.

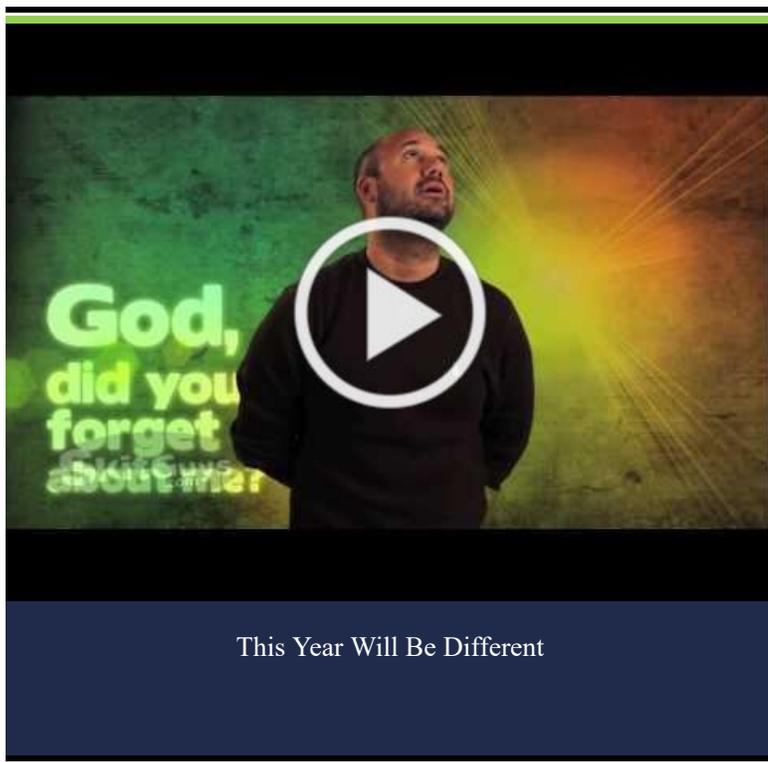
In fact, we are the only one on the planet that has the Real Answer, His name is Jesus.

In 2019 let's rob hell of all its projected victories!!!!

I pray you have a very Happy New Year and a great start in 2019.

Have a great month

Pastor David Kennedy





## The Ellzey Family Missionaries in Bolivia

### Merry Christmas

We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Bolivia. This time of year is special for our family as we reflect back on what all God has done for and through us. The Holiday here will be much different than what we are used to in the States. December is probably the hottest month of the year, and the mosquitos think we are Christmas dinner. I just thought everything in Texas was bigger, until living in Bolivia.

### 10th Anniversary



This past Sunday I had the privilege of preaching the tenth anniversary of Iglesia Bautista de Coroico. This is the second church I started in the Yungas, an area about three hours from the capital city of La Paz. The church was full, and two adults followed the Lord in baptism. Pastor Santiago has done such a great job in this area. Several young men from this church have graduated from Bible College and now plan to serve as pastors in different areas.

### Property Needed

Pastor Santiago has prayed for years that God would help them find property for the church. This has been difficult because the town is built on top of a mountain, and most of the land has been used. They have recently found a couple of different locations that are for sale. Because their monthly rent is expensive, they have only been able to save a couple thousand dollars to put toward property. My desire is to do all that

I can to help them obtain some property, and then start to build on it. I truly believe this church has great potential of reaching this area for Christ. There is one other Baptist church in the area that we started about forty minutes away. This part of Bolivia called The Yungas has hundreds of villages without a Baptist church. Coroico, where our church is located, is in one of the largest towns in the Yungas. Please pray with us that God would settle their hearts on a location and then He would provide the means to purchase and build a building.



### Investing In Others

In the last couple of months, many doors have been opened for me to preach conferences all over Bolivia. Last week Pastor Joel Castellon invited me to Sucre, to preach a three-day meeting on the family. What a blessing it was to see how God is using young Bolivian men to reach their own people. Pastor Joel is about 25 years old and has a great vision for the area where God has called him. I plan to leave Coroico this Monday, travel back to Santa Cruz, and preach a missions conference next week for Pastor Jimmy at Iglesia Bautista Betel.



## Getting Started

Starting in January 2019, we plan to work in a town called Caranda. Pastor Gerald at Iglesia Bautista Dios Es Amor has had a family camp in this area for the last couple of years. Because of their presence in this town



many people began to ask if it would be possible to start a church out there. Caranda is about one hour and forty-five minutes from Santa Cruz making this a little more difficult for pastor Gerald to send layman to this area. Even though it 's been difficult, faithful men and women have been making the trip to have a Sunday morning service for the last couple of months. We plan to start full-time out there in January. Please pray for us as we follow the Lord in this new work.



2019 is here! We hope that your holiday was full of love and blessings!!

January is an exciting time for CF, we are putting together the events for the new year so be sure to stay connected to get the details. Here is some of what is to come.

### January

Wednesday Night Bible Class returns January 16th, 7:00 pm in the portable building.

R.E.A.L. Women's monthly meetings are coming back. First years meeting is Thursday, January 6th; a "we have survived 2018" bash, come comfy and let's reflect and renew.

The Annual CF Rally will be Sunday, January 20th at 5:00 pm. It will be an ice cream social event, we will talk about the 2019 plans for CF and some important new news. The ministry leaders will talk about plans for the upcoming year in their area of ministry. Lots of great stuff!! EVERYONE is invited!! We can't wait to see you all there!

We will no longer have Tuesday night prayer group. There is now a Prayer Service every Saturday night in the auditorium from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Come and pray as you would like, there will be a CF leader to officiate the service and pray with you if needed. This year we will win our battles on our knees!

## Upcoming Events

Wingman's Breakfast  
Saturday, January 5th  
Beginning at 8:00 AM  
@ Luby's

Titus Women's Group  
Saturday, January 5th  
10:00 AM @ CF  
In the Brymer Room

Bible Class  
Every Wednesday evening  
7:00 PM @ CF  
in the portable building

R.E.A.L Women's Meeting  
Thursday, January 3rd  
7:00 PM @ CF  
in the portable building

Wingman Meeting  
Thursday, January 17th  
7:00 PM at CF  
Contact: Orrell Chatmon  
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Prayer Service  
Every Saturday evening  
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM  
in the auditorium

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