

DANIEL FAST
21 DAYS OF
PRAYER & FASTING

January 1st - 21st



**KCOG Night at
 Skateland
 USA!**

**February 5th & March 5th
 at 6:30p.m.
 \$4 per person* Includes Regular Skates!
 Fun for the Whole Family!**
 *Part of the proceeds go to our Children's Ministry!



Kannapolis Church of God
2211 West A Street · Kannapolis, NC 28081
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Walk Together

by Dr. Greg Sloop, Lead Pastor

Happy New Year!

We hear that phrase often about this time of year, and it elicits hope and newness. Resolutions fly, and succeed for a while. Some even make it past one month of the new year, even beyond. However, the failed attempts at losing weight or quitting a habit, or being nicer can fall by the wayside pretty quickly. What makes it so hard to continue these well-meant efforts beyond a few days or weeks?

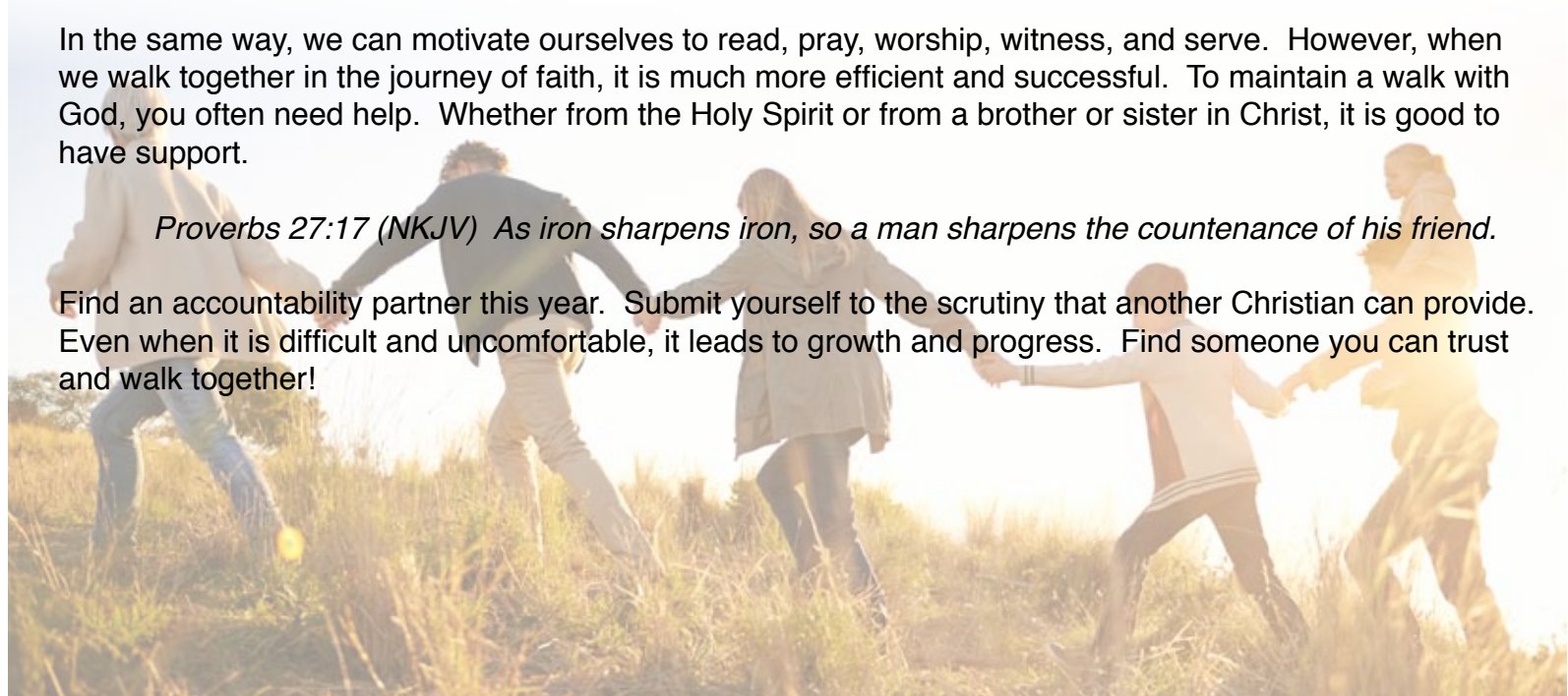
I believe two things play in to these issues: motivation and support. What is the motivation for a new year's resolution? Maybe you are overweight, or smoke or drink, or else you have a bad attitude and would like to get control over these shortfalls in your life. But looking in the mirror or recognizing your bondage may not be enough to motivate you to continue these efforts. Motivation alone can carry you for a while, but it may not take you over the finish line to your goals.

Support is often the second piece of your success in making change. You can motivate yourself for a while, but when you have accountability and encouragement from someone else, it makes it much more likely that you will succeed. A workout partner, a trainer, a coach can help you workout more faithfully, eat better, etc.

In the same way, we can motivate ourselves to read, pray, worship, witness, and serve. However, when we walk together in the journey of faith, it is much more efficient and successful. To maintain a walk with God, you often need help. Whether from the Holy Spirit or from a brother or sister in Christ, it is good to have support.

Proverbs 27:17 (NKJV) As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Find an accountability partner this year. Submit yourself to the scrutiny that another Christian can provide. Even when it is difficult and uncomfortable, it leads to growth and progress. Find someone you can trust and walk together!



Loving God, Loving One Another, Loving Souls

Salvation Has Come To This House

By Pastor David Edwards

9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” – Luke 19:9-10 (NKJV)

This is from the story of Zacchaeus, a man who was not liked by many. He was a tax collector; is anyone ever happy when the taxman comes to the door? He also worked for the enemy Roman government, so his Jewish countrymen weren't crazy about him. They probably thought of him as a traitor. He was a rich man, but his wealth came from dishonest means and a detestable job. I imagine he lived a pretty lonely life.

Then Jesus! As we all know, Zacchaeus heard Jesus was coming to town. He was short and couldn't see over the crowd, so he climbed a tree. The Lord stopped, spoke to Zacchaeus by name, and said “I must stay at your house today.” (“Behold, I stand at the door and knock.” – Rev. 3:20) Imagine the overwhelming joy he felt! Jesus is coming to my house.... Is the house clean? Is the yard mowed? Let's order pizza! Let's look a little closer.... This is so much more than just a visit, this is the beginning of newness of life for Zacchaeus! It changes him so much that he begins to give away his wealth! He begins to offer restoration to those he wronged! Salvation came to his house that day!

What did our life look like before Christ knocked at our door? The day that He came to “stay at our house” is the day of a new beginning! Do our lives still reflect the day salvation came to our home? I am so lost without Jesus! I want to give Him my best every day and in everything I do!

When salvation comes to our house and brings newness of life, it changes everything!



Enjoy Life More Fully in Three Steps

By Christine Harvey

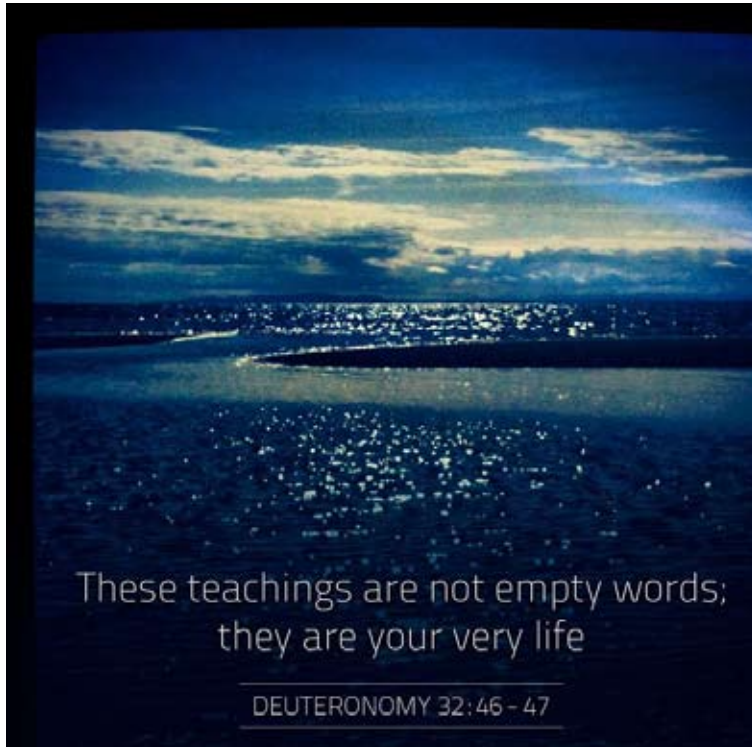
1. Don't assume the worst in others. This does not apply only when you agree with others, but mostly, when you disagree with them. So called “stupid stuff” others say or do is often done in ignorance and/or by accident. Ignorance meaning they may not know enough information.
2. Live life unoffended. We live in a melting pot, we don't all agree, we won't all agree. Unless some one is coming at you with daggers (verbal or literal), choose over and over to live life free from offense. Why? Isn't it just extremely emotionally exhausting to be offended easily?
3. Simple faith. Something we should all actively choose to live out, not just in the moment, but over and over. Life is too big, too complicated, and too impossible to try to manage it all. Simple trusting in God is the only way to keep sane. Simply choose it – consciously and daily.

January 2018							Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1	2	3	4	5	6								
	Joshua Akers Bennie Kerley	Jenna Hudson Hannah Safrit	Allen Beaver Barry Givens Margaret Luther Benjamin Winecoff	Shirley Correll Seth Turbeville	Brooke Helms	Trudy Karriker Jimmy Stallings								
7	8	9	10	11	12	13								
Group #4 Party	Riley Sullivan Rick Varner		Caroline Shimmel Connie White	Colleen Heglar Charlea Safrit Kathryn Sherry	Linda Chewning	Blake Ketter Linda Winecoff								
14	15	16	17	18	19	20								
Oliva Jaap	<i>Office Closed</i>		Sam Eremie Michelle Wilson	Seth Davis Frances Rodgers Earl Williams		Church Summit Bryson Bare Alexander Sherrill								
21	22	23	24	25	26	27								
Jonathan Edwards Judy Fallen Shirley Lindsay	Kyle Bridges Terry Ennis Pee Wee Newton Samuel Safrit Glenn Shaver Kathleen White	Young at Heart Bradley Newton	Katie Crosby Anna Beth Davis	Kristi Newton Greg Sloop	Children's Ministry Volunteer Dinner	Children's Ministry Volunteer Dinner								
28	29	30	31											
Sherry Arant Jason Johnson, Jr. Larry Watkins David Williams	Barbara Coe Jon Whitley	Bethany Winecoff	Fannie Bell Waldroup											

To Stop or Not to Stop

By Pastor Rhonda Barber

I was driving down the road yesterday with my daughter, Emily when we came to a stopped school bus on the opposite side of the street. There were a few cars in front of me that passed the bus as it was dropping off kids after school. As I saw this all quickly unfolding, I said out loud, “Do I stop?” Is the turn lane considered a median? But the cars in front of me didn’t stop...so I think I don’t have to stop?” Emily, being a rather new driver, began to question herself after somewhat confidently telling me I should stop. Although I slowed down, I didn’t stop, because I wasn’t sure what the rules were, and I saw the others go by without a pause. Afterwards, I immediately said, “I should’ve stopped. Better to be safe than sorry.” Later that day, I asked Charlie who drives for a living, about my encounter and he confirmed what I thought, which is that YES, I should’ve stopped because the turn lane isn’t a barrier. I should have known that but honestly, I don’t pass stopped school busses very often, and it has been A LONG time since I have had to read the Driver’s Handbook.



You know, it made me think about the phrase, “Ignorance is no excuse for breaking the law.” After all, it is the responsibility of the driver to KNOW the law. If a cop had pulled me over yesterday for passing that school bus, he may have let me off the hook because of my genuine “ignorance”, but he would have been perfectly within his power to write me a ticket because I disobeyed the law.

God’s law is similar to the Driver’s Handbook - it has the rules in it to keep us safe, and help all of us get along on the road we call “life”. When we follow the Handbook, we have purpose and direction. It doesn’t always keep us from the bumps, wrecks and delays in life, but we have the assurance that we are going to reap the blessings that come with obedience. In my example above, my knowledge was limited, and although unintentional, disobedience was the result. Furthermore, in this situation, everything happened so fast, I didn’t have

a chance to consult the Driver’s Handbook to get the information needed to make the right choice. That’s the same with God’s Word. We shouldn’t wait until a situation or crisis arises to consult God’s Word for direction or counsel. However, if we become a student of God’s Word, and develop a regular, daily Biblical intake, our lives will show it. We will be able to proceed confidently through the things that come our way, knowing what we should or shouldn’t do. Don’t you wish everyone on the road obeyed the Driver’s Handbook? In the same way, don’t you wish all your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ obeyed the Word of God? How much more unity we would have!

In summary, if you know the Word, you will be ready for whatever comes your way. Don’t wait until an emergency arises before seeing the importance of the Word of God. Knowing God’s Word is life to us!

“Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. 47 They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.” Deuteronomy 32:46-47

Joy Unspeakable

By Pastor Dean Wood

As we start the New Year and Christmas has become a wonderful memory of the celebrating of the birth of Christ, we have enjoyed festive times with our family and friends. We shopped, ate, went to concerts, to school and church programs and we spread the much-talked-about holiday joy. But what is joy? Merriam-Webster defines joy as “the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires: DELIGHT”. But joy to the Christian should be this and so much more; One of Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary definitions of joy on the spiritual level is “The extreme happiness with which the believer contemplates salvation and the bliss of the afterlife.”



Joy characterizes the corporate worship life in which the individual participates, Psalm 122 reads “I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go the house of the Lord’” There is truly joy when we gather as a body. In the times of corporate worship we join with others of like faith to worship God, sing praises to his name, reflect on his goodness and be cleansed through God’s word. As believers we rejoice because God has surrounded us with his steadfast love and brought us to salvation. Joy is that response to God’s word and God’s reward to believers and builds their faith. In Galatians 5:22 the Apostle Paul speaks of joy as one of the fruits of the spirit and in Romans 14:17 as “joy in the Holy Spirit” as a part of the kingdom of God. In the New Testament Paul associated joy with faith, hope, brotherly fellowship and sympathy.

Christian joy is not just a mountain top experience that knows no trouble, but is the result of our faith over adverse and trying circumstances, which, instead of stopping our joy, actually make us rejoice more. Jesus exemplified this in Hebrews where He said, “for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame.” There is joy in our suffering when we look to God in our pain.

I feel our joy can be summed up in 1 Peter 1:(6-8) 6Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Let us Look to Jesus the “author and finisher of our faith” as our joy, our faith and our salvation are connect in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Joy to the world, let Christ light your heart and share the good news of Jesus Christ not just at the holiday season but all year long so everyone can experience joy unspeakable and full of glory.

God Brings All Things Together

by Pastor John Taylor

A few years ago, Faye and I had the privilege of teaching, preaching and fellowshiping with some Christian believers in Mongolia. One of the places we visited was the Yarmag Church of God in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city. This church was in an area where extreme poverty exists. There is virtually nothing for the children or youth to do, and many follow in the footsteps of their parents toward a lifestyle of alcohol and drug abuse, along with much domestic violence. Unknown to us at that time was a young man and woman whom I would later meet when I taught a course at the Asian School of Christian Ministries in Manila, Philippines. This young man and woman had married and were attending the seminary, preparing for ministry. When they finished their degrees they returned to Mongolia and later became the pastors of the Yarmag Church. Then, in 2016, the couple traveled with Tom and Jennifer Wolverton, our missionaries in Mongolia, to the U.S., during which time they visited KCOG. You may remember the couple dressed in their native dress when they spoke at one of our services. Taivanaa Bat-Erdene (American name "Peter") and his wife, Tsolmon Enk-Amgalaan ("Rebekah") never asked for any assistance, however, KCOG graciously agreed to help their church by raising a spontaneous offering of \$10,000 toward helping build a community center on the church property. Since that time, the Yarmag church has completed the construction and has opened the doors to the community. I recently received a letter from "Rebekah" sharing some of what has been happening. This is the gist of the letter:

Hello dear Brother John and dear Kannapolis Church of God.

We have very great news to share. Our children and youth development center is opened. We opened May 30. With the help of your support we finally achieved what we wanted to do.... Many children are coming to study, to learn English, to have healthy safe fellowship with one another. For some of the kids who comes here regularly said it's much (more) comfortable than their home's both spiritually and physically. 3 weeks ago 2 of the girls who come here to study regularly got saved and attending church. It's such a pleasure to share goodness of God young people who are looking for Hope and Peace.

(Our church has had an exciting year). We started implementing systematic bible study and all our church member began to join in April. Since then church atmosphere just changed. We asked maybe forced and encouraged our church cell group leaders to have personal relationship with Jesus everyday through Quite time and Prayer. It may sound bit rude to you but we asked full commitment and those who missed quite time (we check them every week they have their own journal) and daily prayer we made them clean church bathrooms which is outhouse, and wash the church floor and walls. First 3 months people were washing wall and floors but now they love doing prayer and quite times. God's word is so powerful and once they began to understand it's actually good for them to have regular devotion, quite time they started loving it. It's God himself and our constant pushing helped.

Once our church leaders started doing it they are becoming more joyful and so much willingness to share Gospel. Since April till December 12 in church we had 64 new people came to church and 25 of them accepted Jesus as their Savior. Me and our church leaders are seeing the labor of fruit and it gives us so much joy of serving and sharing good news. God is so good to us.

As much as we are pouring our life and love to this place same time some things are wants to bring us down. Spiritual war is real here some of the new comers wouldn't attend church because their family members are shamans and they are afraid they might be cursed. Or other fears lead them away from salvation but we are continually praying for them and believing that once seed is planted God will not let them just wonder.

God bless you sir.

We are grateful and praying for you all.

KCOG has been providing some support during 2017 (\$200 monthly) to the church and Center, and recently the deacons agreed to a request from our Missions Committee to increase that amount to \$300 monthly for 2018. We would be happy to forward any individual donations also should you feel led to give.

It is amazing how God has brought us all together in this process. May He get all the glory for the Kingdom work that is being done in His Name in Mongolia and in Kannapolis! Pray for our brothers and sisters in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia!

If you would like to know more about the Yarmag Church and the new Center you helped build you can find a great video on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzeVctLW2zU&feature=youtu.be> or you can just search for "CYDCenter."



*Peter & Rebekah
Pastors of the Yarmag Church
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia*

Light of the World

By Pastor Barbara Watkins

Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

I remember at Christmas every year when the girls were little, Craig's dad loved to go ride and see the Christmas lights. It was always "the more the merrier" and we would stop and get out and walk the town and see the lights. It was beautiful to see the sparkles and just enjoy them. It left a feeling of pleasure that warmed your heart inside.... On the way back home we would share our joy of seeing the lights and how we couldn't wait to do it again.

When Jesus teaches that we--as His followers--are to be the light of the world, I picture our house lit up on Christmas Eve. The light of our faith is not for our benefit only. There are too many people living in darkness for us to selfishly hide our light. In fact, Jesus says that a town built on a hill cannot be hidden. The implication is that, if we are filled with the light of Jesus we are unable to keep it hidden. We can't help but illuminate the paths of those around us. The light of our faith should be as evident from the road as it is from our living room.... My prayer for us is, "Lord, help me get out of my comfort zone and seek to brighten some of the darkness around me...." May we please the Lord as our light shines out to others. Blessings to all!



February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Bernice Hardin Louise Walker	Children's Ministry Volunteer Dinner Levi Akers Brian Turbeville	Children's Ministry Volunteer Training Samantha Purkey Sylvia Teague Martin Yoos
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Super Sunday Night Ron Holt	Skate Night Kisha Bowlin Ann Christy	***** STATE PRAYER CONFERENCE ***** Youth Service @ Camp Meeting Brent Bare Jimmy Chewning Roger Egnor Tyler Winecoff		PRAYER CONFERENCE ***** Jill Dancy Teresa Newton	Parent Meeting for Children's Ministries Steve Ross	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Alex Deal Jonathan Holt	Camden Baldwin Hilary Selman	Ann Marie Edgison	Valentine's Banquet	Phyllis Smith Craig Watkins	Marsha Ballard Sarah Coley Robert Eutsler Eddie Heglar Blair Wagner	Khloe Arquette Grace Walters
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Zachary Deal Trey Freeze Danny Waller	Gretchen Cornelison	Declan Bentley Lynn Hodges Geraldine Sloop	Adam Christy Jerry Ervin	Mary Lee Teresa Ross	Megan Baker Felicia Shepard	Gail Barnhardt Joe Dunlap
25	26	27	28			
Madison Baker Janice Bruton Ruthie Shimmel	Young at Heart Jason Johnson, Sr.	Brandon Barnhardt Angela Melton Kathleen Richardson				

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					Joshua Rasmussen Spencer Ross Jensen Stames	Austin Armstrong Rock Butler Tanner Hawkins Jason Sorrow
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Water Baptism Sam Crisp	Skate Night Jacob Eremie	Darah Anderson	Tamara page Luis Sastoque Wynell Wood	***** WINTERFEST 8TH - 11TH ***** Faye Taylor	Kevin Cook Ashlyn Gwyn Bobby Shue	Ashley Deal Dorlena Egnor
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Time Change Delores Page Kolyn Staton			Reagan Fuller	Lanea Adkins Marilyn Jordan Sarah Julian		Mike Roberts
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Special Guest Chris Moody Cheyenne Akers Donna Anderson TJ Fisher, Jr. Andrew Swink	Kathleen Powlas	Young at Heart Jesse Cron Betty Laney	Maudine Duncan Kayla Shimmel Jennifer Williams	Teresa Fallin Vickie Wood	***** JUNIOR TALENT ***** Steve Bowlin Josie Johnson Annie Keller Kierstin Preslar Laura Sherrill	Andrew Safrit
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Membership Isaac Edwards Casey Walters Zachery Whitley	Helen Hooper	Young at Heart Jesse Cron Betty Laney	Rhonda Barber	Maudy Thursday Scott Sastoque	Community Cookout Addison Givens Josh Richardson Madison Thomas	