



The Living Stone Link

January 2018 News Letter

Its a New Year

At the beginning of the New Year we take time to make Resolutions (Goals) for things we would like to change and improve in the upcoming year. Typically people pick things like eating better and losing weight. Most businesses centered around these service: Gyms and Weight Loss Centers run specials to entice people to join an commit time and financial resources to achieve these goals. Sadly these businesses are banking on the fact that most resolutions fail in the first two months.

These are certainly good goals but, this year I would like to challenge everyone to explore your Spiritual Health. Can we set goals to read the Bible More, Pray More, and Fast More. I am not asking for drastic change. Mostly because drastic change "Fails". In our own strength drastic resolutions will fail every time. Some people have noticed that Kelley and I have been trying to with losing some weight. Often people ask me what I am doing? The answer is simple, I am trying to be more aware of what goes into my body and what I do to exercise and burn calories. The goal is a "Life Change" and "Change of Thinking" in what I do. In all honesty, I have had great challenges in this change. Some days are good and some days are not so good. I have had weeks when I have dropped 2-3 pounds and other weeks I have gained. But I do not let the failures discourage me, I plug ahead and reflect on the long term goals. (continued on back)

Mission Moment

What is the IMB - International Mission Board (Part 3 of 3)

In just one year's time, field personnel shared the message of Jesus with 1.7 million people and started 6,200 churches.* Each year, the number of unreached people groups who have been given access to the gospel through IMB's efforts increases.

IMB's history continues, and its strategies to reach the world change as the world changes. What has not changed is the strong commitment of Southern Baptists to join the author of history in his redemptive movement to advance his gospel among all peoples.

Starting in 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® was established to empower the international missions efforts for Southern Baptists. After more than a century, the annual offering continues its steady growth. The National Goal this year is \$160 Million. Your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

For prayer needs or questions, feel free to contact Pastor Jim Hess @ 207-642-2309 or visit our website www.livingstonemaine.org

Its a New Year (continued)

I have made two statements that I want to follow up on. First, in my own strength I will fail in everything - I will need to surrender to Jesus to take charge of my worship in Bible Reading, Prayer, and Fasting. Only through the power of the Holy Spirit can God transform us into His likeness. Second, this is a "Life Style" change and will take time. It usually takes over 21 days to break a habit and develop a new habit. In some circumstances it can take close to a year. Don't give up?

So for 2018, check your Spiritual Health. Are you complacent in our worship? Are you looking for opportunities to share Christ and fulfill your role in the Great Commission? Your "Exercise" of Spiritual Disciplines are going to lead and strengthen your relationship with God.

Yours in Christ

Elder Jeff Hunt

Calendar Notes for December

Men's Breakfast - Saturday January 13th

Deacon / Elder Training Retreat - Friday and Saturday January 19th and 20th.

Winter Fellowship Lunch and Business Meeting - Sunday January 21st.

Regular Weekly Services

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Life Groups at 11:15

Sunday Evening Discipleship-U at 6:30

Wednesday Youth Groups at 6:00

Thursday Children Study and Prayer Meeting at 6:15.

Birthdays

Cindy Hunt - January 10

Elaine Conant - January 17

Glenn Seavey - January 16

Dave Shaw - January 20

Wedding Anniversaries

(If you would like family birthdays and anniversaries listed in the news letter, please submit to Elder Jeff.)



2018 Operation Christmas Child

Collection Week is November 12th – 19th

In 2018 we are going to expand out Shoebox contributions by having monthly collections items. In January we will be collecting.



Hats, Gloves & Scarves

For February we will be collecting Accessories.

Need some ideas for shoe boxes, visit www.samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/