JANUARY 2023



How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him



We all must admit some years are better than others. One person's bad year I plan to have a great year in 2023. The bad year for many, self-included. Have you been told to count your blessings? anything but optimistic. snakes and alligators. I must admit 2022 turned out to be in the top five of the worst years of my life. I plan, however, to leave my troubles behind and press on toward what lies ahead.

(Php 3:13 NASB) Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

(Php 3:14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

A wise pastor once told me, "In life, there will be troubles, that is part of life." Trials, however, will always pass. In trials, we grow and learn.

(Jas 1:2) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

(Jas 1:3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

(Jas 1:4) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

The Lord wants us to grow in grace and knowledge and let's face it, if everything were always hunky-dory, our growth would be stunted. I think the main made all things, sustains all things, and knows all things.

(Nah 1:7) The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

(Psa 121:2) My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

So, for me, I am going to put the past behind me, humble myself, and seek the Lord. As believers, it's not what is behind but what lies ahead. Our future is

(1Pe 5:6) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

(1Pe 5:7) casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.



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ENDLESS DAYS, ENDLESS PRAISE

Christina Hutchinson

My mind is set on spring. Well really, it's set on Cora's 3rd Birthday! Somebody tell me where time goes, please. I'd like to gather up a few extra minutes with my baby. Anyway, by the time you're reading this spring is about 76 days away and clocks go forward in about 68 days. That should give most of you, including myself, something to look forward to. Time goes by so fast, before you know it we will be in another season with the gift of longer days and more sun rays. I always look forward to the spring and having longer days to soak up some memories and get more done.

Think about eternity for a moment. We wont know any different than days that never end. All our days, we will be basking in the glory of our Lord and Savior. Just like winter, this world at time can feel so dark and cold and not one we want to be a part of. But, we're looking forward to something greater! Endless days and endless praise! May we in 2023, set our hearts and our minds on our heavenly treasures. May we fix our eyes on Jesus and remind ourselves through 2023 and all our days here on earth, that He is the ultimate the prize at the end of our race in this life! May you all have a blessed and happy new year!

I long to be where the praise is never-ending, Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades; Where countless worshippers will share one song, And cries of worthy will honour the Lamb!

-lyrics from "Beautiful Saviour"



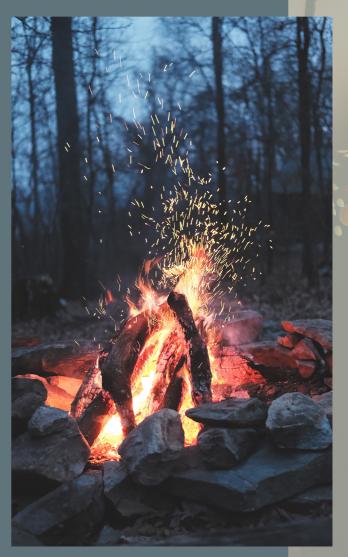
THE DOOR Denísha Stearns

"Is there a door that doesn't lead to prison?" asked Ben Gates in the American classic movie *National Treasure*. This scene is where FBI Agent Sandusky confronts Ben Gates about his breaking the law. "Door Number One. You go to prison for a very long time. Door Number Two. We are going to get back the Declaration of Independence. You help us find it. And you still go to prison for a very long time, but you feel better inside." To this, Ben Gates gives his famous reply above. After all, who wants to go to prison?

Proverbs 14:12 reads, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is death." Few of us find ourselves going to prison physically, but so many of us find ourselves in prison spiritually. We break God's laws and are imprisoned by our guilt and its shame. History, habits, hangups, and hurts bind up our minds and hearts. The good news in the movie is that Ben finds Door Number Three and his freedom. The Door Number Three in real life? It is Jesus Christ. Jesus said it himself, "I am the Door," (John 10:7,ESV). And Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's earlier prophecy, "He came to set the prisoners free."

There IS a door that doesn't lead to prison. In fact, it frees us from it. It is a spiritual door, granting spiritual freedom. Yes, a pardon for our crimes against God and others. And more-Jesus took away our sins, and made our souls clean. (1 John). We can be free FROM the guilt and shame that keeps us prisoners and be free TO love God and others and live the life He gives. Who will you meet this year who needs this good news? Please share, so more people can celebrate being, "Forgiven and Free in '23!"

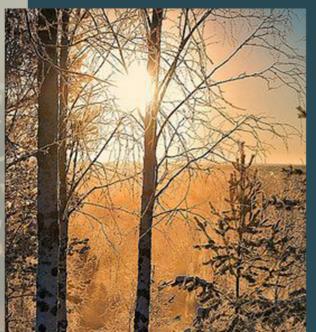
*To explore this more, go to our website wjlu.org, and click on "What is the Gospel?".





A CALL TO PRAYER IN 2023, WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL? Brandon Schmidt

Happy New Year, Cornerstone Family! Can you believe 2022 is in the books? That's it we can shut the door on 2022. Its time for 2023 and a new year. Like many of you, I have my list of goals that we all like to call New Year's Resolutions. Some have goals to lose weight and get in shape, some have goals to read the Bible through in a year, others have financial goals, relationship goals, etc. One of my resolutions this year is to work on a more developed and effective prayer life. While I have been a praying man since coming to Christ, I know that I could always use more time in prayer, and I can always be challenged to develop a more effective prayer life. Dr. Jerry Falwell, founder of Liberty University use to say, "Nothing of eternal significance happens apart from prayer!" I believe him to be right. Christians must understand how important prayer is to our daily lives. One way we can become better prayer warriors is to study the



prayers of the various saints in the Scriptures. We also should be deliberate and spend time in prayer throughout the day. I also suggest reading the booklet by JC Ryle, A Call to Prayer. We have several copies at the Cornerstone and would love for you to stop by and grab a copy or ask us for the PDF link, where you can get a copy. So, will you be a prayer warrior in 2023? Will you answer the call to pray?

Finally, I wanted to thank everyone for all of your support and donations for our Christmas Collections. I know that the recipients of the gifts were blessed! Thank you for reaching out and loving your neighbors with the love of Christ!

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

Another big thank you to those of you who gave during our Christmas Collections! You brought joy and the love of Christ to others in our community





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SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY

1.1 | New Years Day 1.22 | Sanctity of Life Day

January is Sanctity of life month! Keep an ear out for exclusive interviews on air with local ministries.

Visit our website for details on events in your community www.wjlu.org/events

PRAYER CORNER Join us Thursdays at 9am

A new year begins!

We pray that this next year would be peaceful, and if not, that we would all find our contentment in the One who gives us His perefect peace. We pray cent during Sanctity of Life month. We pray the Lord would work in the hearts of those who do not see the value of His creation, even in the tiniest form of human life.

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