

### Thank you for your help!

During our Christmas Collections we were astounded by the amount of things you all were able to bring in to bless nursing home residents, foster kids & teens, and the homeless community as well. Thanks to you, those less fortunate in our community were blessed and filled with joy during the Christmas season.





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As we embark on a new year, let us take a moment to reflect on the past and look forward to the future with hope and optimism. The cold months ahead may bring challenges, but let us remember to keep faith and pray for guidance and strength to overcome any obstacles that come our way. As we move forward, let us also carry with us the lessons and blessings from the Christmas season, and strive to spread love, kindness, and generosity each and every day. Let us pray for a year filled with peace, joy, and blessings for all. Amen.



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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

BY BILL POWELL

Well, a new year is upon us, and I believe it's going to be and He will guide your plans and steer you in the significant. To start off with, it's a leap year. For some, they are going to finally have a birthday. I remember as a kid," 30 days has September, April, June, and November all the rest have 31 except February which has 28 till leap year gives it 29". It's crazy the things we remember. It's also an election year. Have you heard this before, "it's going to be the most important election ever"? I unfortunately think it just may be true. 2023 will be in has something for you to do or learn. Don't let the rear-view mirror and praise God no hurricane for us.

We turn the page to a new year even though we're in winter not spring. Nonetheless, it's time we all think ahead. I am a firm 2024. believer in setting goals and planning. The motivational speaker Zig Ziglar once said," If you aim at nothing you will hit every time". I set a list of goals for work and home every year. I must admit I enjoy looking back at all the things I was able to accomplish with God's help. I keep on my list the things I haven't accomplished until they are accomplished or no longer relevant.

Do you need motivation? How about motivating yourself. Plan out 2024 your goals, hopes, and dreams. We all need to remember that as we plan everything we do should be done in prayer and discussed with the Lord. We should include those loved ones in our life. As we seek to accomplish it, it should be done with careful guidance through prayer and study of the Scriptures.

(Pro 16:3NASB) Commit your works to the LORD And your plans will

(Pro 16:9NASB) The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs

Why not be deliberate rather than be tossed about? You say God is sovereign and He is. Seek His guidance. Plan your year, and you probably won't accomplish everything but seek the Lord

way that you should go. (Psa 32:8 NASB) I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

Sometimes life throws you a curve or the Lord life surprise you or hit you upside the back of your head. No matter your age, health, or situation with God's help make the most of

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## REMEMBER CHRIST THIS SEASON

BY CHRISTINA HUTCHINSON

This month, my daughter Cora, is learning all about the rich fruits of the spirit. Watching her absorb the lessons of love, joy, and kindness feels like witnessing a tiny, beautiful bud unfurling its petals. It's such a reminder that, as we navigate the uncharted waters of 2024, we too can draw strength from these virtues. Cora's journey becomes a beacon, urging us not just to remember the fruits of the spirit but to internalize them, recognizing that they are integral facets of God's character.

In the midst of life's hustle and bustle, it's easy to lose sight of the divine guidance encapsulated in Galatians. Yet, as we strive to make 2024 a year of personal growth and spiritual renewal, let us remember that the fruits of the spirit are not mere abstract ideals—they are reflections of God's very own nature. Love, joy, peace, patients, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, are not distant concepts but embody the character of Christ himself. As we contemplate these things, let it be a rallying cry to center ourselves on Christ, to emulate His character in our daily lives, and to allow His transformative love to shape our interactions with others.

May 2024 be a year where we continually center ourselves on Christ, drawing inspiration from His character as we navigate the challenges and joys that lie ahead every minute, every hour, every day. God Bless you in 2024!

> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

> > **GALATIANS 6:9 ESV**



# A SHIP, A DESK, AND A LESSON IN RESOLVE

BY DENISHA STEARNS

The icebergs and ice floats in the icy artic waters immobilized the vessel. Yet, though it was not alive and could decide nothing, befitting its name, the HMS Resolute seemed resolved to survive. It was on a search and rescue mission in 1854 for a lost explorer, but it needed its own rescue. When the Resolute was found, the US resolved to patch up icy relations between the US and England by fully restoring the vessel as a gift. After its later retirement, England reciprocated the goodwill, gifting to the US a desk built from the ship's timbers, the Resolute Desk. The Resolute Desk has been in the White House since 1880 and anchored in the Oval Office since 1977. The Resolute Desk stands as an outward symbol of that inner resolve needed by sitting presidents as they have decided and declared matters crucial to US survival.

We Christians need resolve too- to declare the words of God crucial to peoples' spiritual survival (maybe revival fits better). Since the fall in the Garden, God has been on a rescue mission, resolved to save people through His Son, Jesus. And He has commissioned us to this mission (Matt 28:19,20). If you keep just one New Years' "Resolution", resolve to join your Captain, who rescued you, on His rescue mission for others. Be resolved in the strength of the Lord (Eph. 6) and, "...Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Cor: 15:58, ESV).



# **BRAND-NEW**

Here we are: a brand-new year! I always love the New Year. It's such an exciting time of anticipation and looking forward, while at the same time reminiscing on the last twelve months. It's also a time for resolutions! People love setting goals for the year to come, whether it be a new habit, breaking an old one, or finishing a project. Maybe your goal is to make the most of the time you're given. Maybe you're just ready to start over. After all, it's a brand-new start, a clean slate. The past is in the past, and the best is yet to come!

As Christians, we've been given a brand-new start. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (LSB) We, who were dead in our sins, have been made alive! It's not as if God wipes clean our old slate-no, He gives us a brand new one! In Christ, we are righteous before God. In His eyes, we are clean, holy, and pure. He's given us a brand-new life in Christ, that we may live to serve and love and glorify Him. This new year, let's live for Him who made us new!

P. S. If you know any middle or high-schoolers, be sure to encourage them to tune in to my brand-new program, 180 Saturday Nights with Lucas! It can be heard from 8-9 PM on WILU.





**WEEK DAYS** 6am - 7am 9am -12pm Brandon & Christina



**WEEK DAYS** 



12pm - 3pm **Brandon & Christina** 3pm - 6pm



**SATURDAYS** 



## IT'S A BRAND NEW YEAR

BY BRANDON SCHMIDT

brand new year. Like many, I wonder what this not be disappointed. year will entail. Will there be hardships? Trials? of Jesus Christ. I want to encourage you this year 2024!! to spend more time doing the things in your walk with the Lord that you may have been neglecting. Maybe it is devoting more time to studying His Word, or prayer, or evangelism. Maybe you want to be more involved with your church or begin to do family worship regularly at home. Whatever it is that the Lord is pressing on your heart to devote

I cannot believe that 2023 has come and gone more time to or to devote less time to, I encourage already. I pray that it was a good year for all of our you to listen and obey. Spend time cultivating more listeners and supporters. Now it is time to begin a spiritual disciplines in your life. I promise you will

Successes? Triumphs? Difficulties? Joys? Only God Once again thank you to everyone who helped with knows what the future holds for each of us, our Christmas Collections. It was amazing seeing all however, what we do know is how we are to live of these items come in and be used by those who need our lives before Him. I want to encourage you to them most. We collected so many things from so dedicate yourself even more to the Lord this year. many wonderful people. Thank you once again! As believers we are called to be made in the image Looking forward to doing more in our community in

