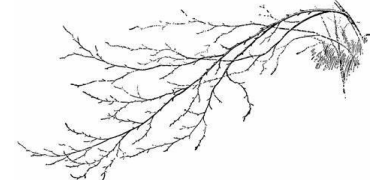


The Living Branch
Logan Elm Baptist Church



January 2020

“Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Consider your ways!’ ”

Haggai 1:5

(For the dozen or so folks who made it to the December 29 evening service, the following may sound familiar to you.)

Don Whitney, a professor at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, has authored several books that have been helpful in encouraging God’s people to grow spiritually by cultivating spiritual disciplines, such as: Bible study, Scripture memorization and meditation, prayer, fasting, etc. A recent article by Professor Whitney challenges God’s people to prepare for the New Year. The following is adapted from his article.

As 2019 prepares to roll over to a new year it’s an ideal time to stop and look to the Lord to help us “Consider our ways.” Here are some questions that we can consider.

1. What’s one thing you can do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?

God has promised to bless us most directly and consistently through means such as His Word, prayer, and the church. Consider *meditating* on Scripture along with your daily reading. If necessary, it’s better to read less and remember *something* (via meditation) than to read more and remember *nothing*.

2. What’s an impossible prayer you can pray?

The Lord Jesus said, “With man this is impossible, but with God nothing is impossible.” What’s an impossible situation or goal that you can ask God to fulfill in your life in 2020?

3. What’s the most important thing you could do to improve your family life?

- Read the Word together as a family at mealtime.
 - Or spend ten minutes reading a passage, singing a song, and praying together as a family.
 - Engage in a service activity, like visiting a shut-in member or a nursing home.
- These things take little to no prep, but can yield fruit that glorifies God.

4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year?

Is it a *personal* spiritual discipline (one you do alone), or an *interpersonal* spiritual discipline (one you do with other believers)? 1) Decide a discipline 2) Determine the next step to take

3) When you will take it 4) Enlist someone to hold you accountable to do it!

5. What’s the single biggest time-waster in your life, and how can you redeem the time?

Social media, TV, Video games, Sports, Hobbies, Movies all can be valuable time-wasters. Though recreation and diversions are not necessarily sins, it's easy for any of these (or other things) to take too much of our hearts and time. Are we willing to ask the Holy Spirit to show us if we need to repent? Actively replacing a time-waster with something better helps us obey Ephesians 5:16.

6. What's the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?

Our personal relationship with Christ is crucial, but we shouldn't allow it to be the excuse to minimize the importance of our service to Christ's body. How can you help make His church stronger this coming year? By serving more, giving more, praying more, ?

7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?

Praying frequently and fervently for someone's salvation makes us more sensitive to opportunities to share the gospel with him or her. Will you commit to praying for at least one person's salvation every day this new year?

8. What's the most important way, by God's grace, you will try to make this year different from last?

We know that God rules sovereignly over the world, including our lives. But, somehow, within His sovereignty, He gives us the responsibility to obey His Word and contribute to the advancement of His kingdom. Maybe you feel the need to spend some time fasting in the coming year, either to periodically skip a meal in order to give more time to fervently pray. Or you may feel the need to go on a longer fast (a full day or a few days) sometime during the year, praying for God's will to be done in the 2020 national election.

Or maybe your most important way would be one of the things in the previous seven questions, like determining, with God's help, to tell someone about Christ every month during the year. Or you might set a goal every week to invite someone you meet to attend church, or to give someone information about your church. Or you may determine to routinely ask people, "How can I pray for you?" Then when you see that person again, ask about the matter you agreed to pray about.

Will you spend time in prayer, considering these things, asking the Holy Spirit what He is urging you today for the glory of God in 2020?

Praying the New Year will be your best yet for God's glory.


Pastor Dave

Our total *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering* for
International Missions was:
\$6,112.00

Calendar of Events

- Prayer meeting each Lord's Day at 8:00AM in Room 202 of the multipurpose building -
- Prayer meeting, youth meeting, Bible Club, & Mission Friends, 6:45PM each Wednesday -
- Children's Church, the first and third Sundays of each month -

- Jan. 1 Happy New Year! (No midweek services)
- Jan. 7 Elders meeting, 7:00AM & Staff meeting, 9:00AM
- Jan. 18 Men's breakfast and *Know What You Believe* study, 7:30AM
- Jan. 19 Sanctity of Life Sunday
- Jan. 21 Elders' meeting, 7:00AM; Staff meeting, 9:00AM
- Jan. 26 Men's Day, 10AM service; Business meeting & Lord's Supper observance, 5:45PM
- Feb. 13 Annual Valentine Dinner, Pickaway Golf Club



SANCTITY OF
*Human
Life*
SUNDAY

*"For we are God's
handiwork, created in
Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in
advance for us to do."
— Ephesians 2:10*

JANUARY 19, 2020

Ah.. a new year with new adventures, new projects and new things. Solomon, of course, had a different opinion while another has said that all new news is old news to new people. The news I have is both old and new so take note of the following:

1. Top news story is the major water leak which occurred and may have been going on for a couple of months. The water main cracked at the entry point to the building. Evidence in the form of wet carpet was first detected in room 203 on December 6th. Water was shut off to the building as soon as the source was determined, but not before 20,000 gallons of water was lost, outside the building. (\$\$\$) The broken section of the line was replaced and associated plumbing was completed on Saturday, Dec. 14, just in time for the Sunday services, thanks to due diligence of the plumber. On that subject, I regret to report that we have suffered other water losses this year, the main reason being “running” toilets. (I.E., toilet components which do not stop the flow of water when the tank is full.) There are 13 toilets in our facility, so you can see there is great potential for problems. I mention all this because I want to stress how important it is for vigilance on everybody’s part and to report wet carpet, water on the floor, or suspicion there is water running when it shouldn’t be. I have always followed up on these types of reports and in several cases was able to make corrections quickly. In response to the water loss potential and prompted by a suggestion from Pastor Dave, I have requested the water company install a commercially available register on our water meter which will enable weekly monitoring of water usage via the internet. There is no charge for the register installation, but a minimal subscription cost.
2. A commercially rated carpet cleaner has been purchased and tested on the fellowship hall carpet with good results. No magic, tho, ingrained stains require effort to remove, so please report spills so they may cleaned up in a timely manner. Related to this, I ask that the area of fellowship hall dedicated to the Ladies’ Sunday School be kept free of food, drinks, and crafts, and since the chairs have been thoroughly cleaned, they not be used in other areas. This generally applies to any group activities in the fellowship hall.
3. We expect to purchase a larger flat screen TV for use in the fellowship hall and replace the “old timey” TV in the classroom section with the existing flat screen TV.
4. New in projects, the painting of fellowship hall. I have secured a contractor for this at a very reasonable price and will schedule pending review by the finance committee.
5. Finally, may I request that those in charge of crafts minimize the use of “sparkles”. They are showing up literally everywhere and are a bear to eradicate.

That is all I have to report at this time, but I (and others) agree that the maintenance part of me should be looking for a replacement, someone with mechanical aptitude who would eventually fill in the maintenance position. The current responsibilities are budgeted for 12 hours per week, but typically it is more in the 8 hour range. Anyone with an interest should contact Bill Gibson or me.

Bill Snyder, Trustee Chairman

Thank You

David and I would like to thank our Logan Elm family for all the prayers and support we have had during this time that I have been recovering from a broken foot. The food, visits, calls and cards are so appreciated. We love you all.

~Pam Atkinson

Safety Committee Update

Our church Safety Committee met recently to discuss and plan an evacuation procedure for use whenever services are being held in the sanctuary. The evacuation procedure would be useful in the event of fire or other emergency situations. The object would be for the congregation to exit the building in a rapid and orderly manner and to gather at a point outside of the building until the emergency is over.

A Safety Team has been organized to provide direction and leadership to the congregation during an evacuation. The Safety Team is composed of four members on duty each week and is led by Doug Burns. The team members would serve once or twice each month on a rotating basis. At least one member would be a concealed carry member and at least one member will be trained in EMS and AED procedures. In the event of an emergency situation the team members will help attendees to evacuate and direct attendees as to which exit to use and where to gather outside the building.

The team plans on holding evacuation drills every few months so that the members of the congregation will be accustomed to the proper procedures for exiting the building.

Bill Gibson, Church Administrator

Birthdays

Ellen Umsted-Jan. 1
Eli Wilson-Jan. 2
Jim Smith-Jan. 2
Brayden Herron-Jan. 3
Scott Hodges-Jan. 4
Conda Wood-Jan. 4
Shirley Herron-Jan. 8
Cora Wilson-Jan. 11
Isaiah Serra-Jan. 11
Anna Mitchell-Jan. 14
Eva Kuhlwein-Jan. 14
James Wilson-Jan. 17
Eva Steinhausser-Jan. 22
Linda Stewart-Jan. 27
Tom Kanitz-Jan. 30
Christina Rosenberger-Jan. 30

Anniversary

Mike & Sharon Belcher-Jan. 4