

“What Does the New Year Hold for You?”

Rev. David J. Bauer



We must admit: 2020 has been a year unlike any other! Our year started out with a presidential impeachment hearing, while our state of the union president boasted about economic gains, great foreign policy, military strength, stock market highs, lowest jobless rate ever, greatest opportunities ever for minorities, and political stability for the GOP and many other gains that he had achieved. All this talk of human gains was quite reminiscent of the bragging of Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel’s day. As Daniel had given prophetic warning, that year would not end well for the king, boasting on his own self achievement! (Just take a look at Daniel 4:28-35.) And how timely that event seems some 2,500 years later as we reflect upon the (humanly) unplanned events of this past year!

Who would have thought that a simple pandemic pestilence of biblical proportion would radically affect all that we hold near and dear in our free country? We have taken the hit politically, economically and socially, as we cower in fear alone at home behind masks with hope for a better tomorrow. Biblical admonitions abound; but two of them especially come to mind: “...All men are liars” –Psalm 116:11; and “Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils, for where is he to be accounted of?” –Isaiah 2:22. We cannot trust humans for answers!

Though there is a lot of finger pointing, we do know that the virus originated in Asia. But there seems to be no human means of slowing down the spread of contagion, outside of a forthcoming (successful) vaccination. Businesses, theatres, restaurants, churches (and yes), even home gatherings have been put on notice by government officials as to limits of people in attendance. Musicians, maids, waiters, waitresses and other helping folks have all been longing for life once again to return to “normal.” All this, while doctors, nurses and health care workers have been over taxed in dangerous contact with possible new contaminations each day!

Then we have witnessed much violence in the streets of our major cities, while law enforcement officials have not been allowed to exercise forceful control of pillaging, looting, burning, and other forms of destruction of businesses that are decades old. Violent carjacking has been in vogue lately. Gun and ammo sales have increased like never before. But in the present climate of lawlessness, no sensible person looks forward to shooting an intruder even on one’s property. We pray we never need to use our weapons... Who would have thought; who would have predicted? Admittedly, only God knows, and He alone knows how this will all end. With “...men’s hearts failing them with fear



Rev. David J. Bauer, Director
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...looking upon those things coming upon this earth” (Luke 21:26), we would hope more people would turn to the One who rules the universe for answers, or at least directions in how to live in this present unpredictable day. Unfortunately, such does not appear to be the case. Human and political solutions are offered by many; but success is questionable. And now a New Year looms ahead of us. What will be the joys, sorrows, blessings and gains?

One thing this past year should have taught us is to not make long distance plans. How many of our plans have been canceled recently? James warns us specifically, “For that you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this, or that” (4:15). Let’s make definite plans to bring Almighty God into the equation. We truly do not know and cannot see what lies ahead of us. God has not permitted us to know the future. It is probably best that we do not know, as it surely would discourage us. And this also causes us to cling to Him the more each day while it is our “today.”

We cannot live yesterday again. We should be glad in many ways. But we can do the most with today, while we still have it. Remember: The flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today! We are only responsible for today! The Bible clearly instructs us: “...Now is the day of salvation” –2 Corinthians 6:1. We should only look back to correct our today.

Finally, would we be able to give an account to God for the things we have done in the past year? Or would we honestly say: “Please Lord would you give me another chance?” Fortunately, our God is the God of the second chance! Our Lord is “patient, and not willing that any would perish, but that all would come to repentance” -2 Peter 3:9. But there will be a time when God will close the door. Our “today” is a gift from God. It is all we are guaranteed. The past year has taught us that the horizon can quickly change. If you have not, call upon the Lord to be saved as per Romans 10:13! If you confess Christ as Lord, why not live each new day in hope of His return? Yes!

Real Hope for Today – Our Lord’s Return:
Rev. 4:1 says, “Come up hither.” Now you don’t go up to some comet, you don’t have any stopovers on the way. When the Christian leaves this life, either by death or by the rapture, it’s immediately going into Christ’s presence. If it’s by death – 2 Corinthians 5:8, “Absent from the body, present with the Lord.” No stopovers. You don’t take anything with you. You came naked into the world, you go out naked. You can’t take your car, you can’t take your dog, you can’t take your cats, you can’t take your bank account; you don’t take anything. You go into the presence of God and there you receive something that no human leader could give you.

-Vintage Teaching of Pastor Chuck Svoboda

RECIPES

Bacon Cheeseburger Tater Tot Casserole

- 1 ½ lb. Ground Beef
- ¾ cup Cooked Chopped Bacon
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar Cheese
- 1 32 oz. pkg. frozen Tater Tots
- 1 10 oz. can Condensed Cheddar Cheese Soup
- 1 16 oz. ctn. Sour Cream

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray cooking spray or grease a 9”X13” pan or baking dish and set aside. Cook ground beef in large skillet until no longer pink, drain oil. In a large mixing bowl, combine Cooked Beef, Bacon, Cheddar Cheese, Tater Tots, Cheese Soup and Sour Cream. Mix until thoroughly combined. Spread mixture into prepared pan. Bake for 45-50 minutes, until bubbly. Yum!

--Rachel Kerns



To avoid teary eyes when cutting onions, cut them under cold running water or place them in the freezer 20-30 minutes before cutting.

Fresh lemon juice will remove onion scent from hands.

To get the most juice out of fresh lemons, bring them to room temperature and roll them in your palm against the kitchen counter before cutting and squeezing.

Next time you need a quick ice pack, grab a bag of frozen peas or other frozen vegetables out of the freezer.

Never overcook foods that are to be frozen. Foods will finish cooking when reheated. Never refreeze cooked, thawed foods.

Separate 2 stuck together glasses by filling inside glass with cold water and setting both in hot water.

Leave a legacy for your family & favorite ministries. When planning a legacy, give Terry Balko a call at 404-229-1645 or email Mr. Balko for forms and details at terry@terrybalko.com. **Don't let your hard earned life-savings go into a probate bureaucracy! NOT PLANNING is a plan, but it is NOT a very good plan!**

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Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director



2021

"Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

-Matthew 6:34

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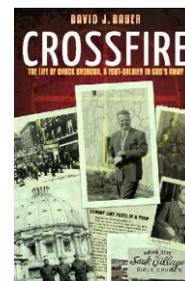
Rev. David J. Bauer's January Itinerary



Jan. 3 Iron River Bible Church, Iron River, MI
10:45 Worship

On the Lighter Side: COVID Musings

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
3. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars & keep men at home!
4. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
5. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
6. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Backyard. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.
7. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask & asking for money.



From Cicero Gangland, to
Enemy Gunfire, to Church
Organization, to Arbitration
in Churches... and beyond!
The Chuck Svoboda Story
& Bible Church History

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BRM Field Report #01

Though this has been a time of many cancellations, we have been able to get into a number of pulpits as we forge ahead in our ministry of "helps" to pastors, boards and church people. Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan we have visited in spite of COVID threats and restrictions. I recently saw a sign on the highway coming from Indiana into Illinois, advising motorists on the highway to quarantine for 14 days after entering Illinois. As if the thousands of folks entering Illinois each day are doing that!?

Do pray for us as we travel; safety on the road as well as resistance to the virus. Some churches are very serious about taking all necessary precautions toward keeping their facility clean and safe. Others have virtually no restrictions or safeguards during their worship service. We have informed our Associates and pastors we send out for pulpit supply that it is up to them to take personal precautions when engaged as a visiting speaker. Masks and many hand cleansings are the order for the day. Servants of the Lord must stay healthy!

Note that it is 100% biblical to take precautions against communicable diseases! Masks, isolation (quarantine) and many washings were solutions given to Moses by God so that His people would as a community, be free of diseases. See Leviticus chapters 14-16.

Despite temporary closings and streaming of services, the church of our Lord Jesus Christ goes on! We have been instrumental in recommending several pastors in interim ministry of churches and are using most of our men in pulpit supply currently.

Our counsel has kept a couple of churches from closing their doors in recent months. We have been active in advising churches and in keeping God's work going even in challenging times. Troubleshooting calls just keep coming in. We are reminded by the Corinthian church that even though a church may have many problems (this church had at least 8 glaring issues), people of this congregation were "...washed, sanctified and justified in the name of our Lord Jesus by the Holy Spirit" -1 Corinthians 6:11. Though we are not yet glorified and still subject to temptation and sin, we are still God's people, set apart for holiness.

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer -Matthew 16:18