



“Resolutions for the New Year”

Rev. David J. Bauer

While feeling guilty about the recent holidays of the past two months, many of us make resolutions or set goals for the year ahead. With all good intentions, we vow to eat healthier foods in smaller quantities and get proper exercise in the next year. We also make resolutions to spend more family time with our spouse and children, to nurture our social friendships, and to put a certain percentage of our income into long range savings or investments. Some business minded individuals set goals for company growth in the corporate world, or advancement in their business leadership rank. Goals and New Year's resolutions... How often do things go differently than planned by the year's end?



Rev. David J. Bauer, Director
& Dolores Bauer, Secretary
Office Assistant

But also, how often do we consider spiritual plans for the New Year? And how often do we bring God into the equation and say, Lord willing? I have also made some new resolutions in the past. Many I have broken, but thank God, some I have kept as well.

Great men of the Bible have broken some of their resolutions as well. But they have at least tried to keep some of their goals, and for this faithfulness in honoring God, He has been faithful and honored them:

Daniel “purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself” -Daniel 1:8. While captive in a foreign country, with his life and reputation on the line –God honored his resolution and gave his group special favor in Babylon.

The **Apostle Paul** said: “I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” -1 Corinthians 2:2. God honored Paul's commitment and a vibrant church began in the city of Corinth.

The Psalmist, **David** said: “Because He hath inclined His ear unto me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live” –Psalm 116:2. In spite of the human failures that David demonstrated at times, God described him as “a man after the Lord's own heart.” Calling on the Lord was his strength.

Joshua, Moses' successor said: “Choose this day who you will serve... As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” –Joshua 24:15. Joshua was up in years when he said this, but his family served the Lord faithfully even through the next generation.

But what are some of the spiritual resolution/goals we should be setting? We have listed a few “**priorities**” we ought to have in the New Year:

Receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Isn't it about time you received Jesus as your Savior as per Romans 10:9? Perhaps you have been thinking of this for some time. Isn't it about time you make up your

mind? To not decide is a decision, but will not get one into heaven.

Read your Bible through this coming year. Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words shall not pass away” –Matthew 24:35. We hide God's word in our heart so that we do not sin against Him –Psalm 119:11. You may use the Bible Reading Calendar we give out this time of the year.

Put God to the test by increasing your gifts to the Lord's work. “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...and prove me now says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” –Malachi 3:10. Give faithfully, secretly, generously, and motivated by love into the Lord's work. Try this priority and watch God supply your daily need. Put God to the test says Malachi 3:10!

Be filled with God's Holy Spirit. “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit” –Ephesians 5:18. We are not to be controlled by wine, but by God's Holy Spirit. Actually, the way to the Holy Spirit's filling is to allow the Holy Spirit to have more of us! Open up the corners of our life to Him and He will fill us and lead us in right paths.

Pray more–and more effectively. “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto, with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” –Ephesians 6:18. We are also told to “Pray without ceasing” -1Thess. 5:17, and to “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God” –Philippians 4:6. Keep a prayer journal and note carefully how God answers.

Attempt to win more souls to Christ this coming year. “The fruit of righteousness is a tree of life; and he that wins souls is wise” –Proverbs 11:30. Talk with others as God gives opportunities. Reach them with the gospel and train them to serve the Lord –See Matthew 28:18-20.

The Lighter Side:

The 3 Stages of a Man:

He believes in Santa Claus.

He doesn't believe in Santa Claus.

He is Santa Claus. but don't forget the 4th stage....

He LOOKS like Santa Claus.

If the Wise Men Were Wise Women...

They would have asked for directions, arrived on time and helped the young lady with the birth.

They would have brought practical gifts like diapers, blankets and clothes for the new baby.

They would have baked a casserole and a cake and brought it along for the needy family.



Cream of Almond Soup

1 Tbsp. Butter or Margarine

1 Tbsp. Flour

2/3 tsp Salt

1/8 tsp. Pepper

1 ½ Cup Chicken Broth or Bouillon

½ Cup finely chopped Toasted Almonds

2 Cups Light Cream

2 tsp Grated Lemon Peel

Paprika

Melt butter over low heat. Blend in flour, salt and pepper. Cook over low heat, stirring until mixture is smooth and bubbly.. Remove from heat. Add chicken broth and almonds. Boil one minute, stirring constantly. Stir in cream. Heat through, but do not boil. Sprinkle with lemon peel and paprika to taste.

Makes 8 appetizer-size servings. Very good on a cold wintry night!

From “Icing on the Cake”-Eleanor Svoboda



Place large Marshmallows on top of a frosted cake to keep foil or plastic wrap from sticking to the frosting.

This is yummy and so easy to serve for your holiday get together. Line Muffin Tins with Paper Cups and place scoops of Ice Cream in them. Put the tin in the Freezer. Now when ready to serve, just slip the prepared scoops onto Dessert Plates. Quick & easy!

Use eyeglass-cleaning tissues instead of a wet cloth to clean the glass on a picture frame. Water can seep under glass and damage the frame or picture.

Are your Candle Holders dirty? If your candleholders are coated with wax, place in freezer for an hour or so. The wax will peel off in a jiffy with absolutely no damage to the silver.

Or, run them under very hot water and dry with a paper towel.

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!**

Gifts to BRM can be sent to our PO Box or made online with any *charge* or *debit card* using the Paypal button on the left side of website page at: www.biblerelatedministries.org. It is so easy to use! Thank you for your faithfulness to this ministry! Be sure to use our name with **Amazon Smile** as well. **Bible Related Ministries keeps Church doors open and good men behind our pulpits! We are supported 100% by friends and church donations.**

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Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director

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"Therefore, if any man is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things have become new" -2 Corinthians 5:17

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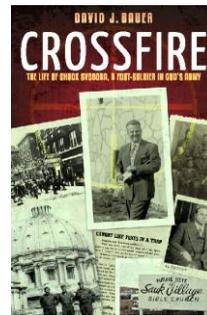
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Rev. David J. Bauer's January Itinerary



- Jan. 4 8:00 a.m. Parker Road Bible Church, Mokena, IL
Men's Breakfast
- Jan. 7 9:30 a.m. Oak Lawn Bible Church, Oak Lawn, IL
Ordination Council examination
- Jan. 12 10:30 a.m. Marion Hills. Bible Church, Darien, IL
- Jan. 16 12:00 noon Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago, IL
- Jan. 26 10:30 a.m. Merson Church, Gobles, MI

Twas the month after the New Year, and all through the house, Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse. The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste. All the holiday parties had gone to my waist. When I got on the scales there arose such a number! Then I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber). Away with the last of the sour cream dip, Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip. I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie, I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry. I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore--- But isn't that what January is for? Unable to giggle, no longer a riot. Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!



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 #1

There is a lot of year-end stuff to do around our office in December. Pastors are busy with church work and internal strife problems are mostly postponed until January. But sometimes there are emergency issues and things that have to be resolved immediately.

A young man wants to be considered for a senior pastor position which was recently vacated in his church. We encouraged him to submit a resume to the search committee, since he has had many successful ministry experiences and a good Bible education as well.

Another man, with a Bible school education in a different church wants to be considered by the search committee. Sometimes this works out in the home church. But unfortunately at times (as Jesus said) "A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country and among his own countrymen" (or in his own church?).

A couple of potential pastors are looking toward a formal ordination exam in the near future this year, BRM regularly instructs and prepares men for ordination councils. If the invited council volunteers three hours of their time for the exam, the least we can do is present a candidate adequately prepared.

Church members in a smaller congregation are considering dissolving the church, rather than face a lengthy pastoral search. BRM encouraged them to put the matter out before the Lord in prayer, to see what God would have them to do. I believe we were able to offer them some hope for the future. Dissolving is an option, but not always a best one.

Our BRM policy is to keep church doors open if at all possible. We have seen a number of "God moments" involving small churches and their need for the right pastoral leadership. Jesus Christ is still very much building His church today and it is not over yet! Needs of small churches are very important to our Lord. He is not looking for folks with great "abilities," but willing ones with "availability."

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer -Jeremiah 33:3