

The Beacon

January 2012

Pastor's Perspective

It's that time again! Time for New Years resolutions, or at least a rehash of the old resolutions that "this year I will really keep. No, I am serious this time!"

We all do it. We mean well but, alas, often fail.

I am glad there are some things that have become ingrained into my life to where I do not have to start all over on January 1st to try and incorporate them:

- Being committed to Julie. This is natural for me, and I do not struggle with that.
- Being faithful to the Lord and CKCC. Again, not something I must wrestle with each day.
- Bible reading and praying most every day. Also a given.

- And things like paying my bills, keeping up with most chores, and changing my oil as recommended. All things I do not struggle with.

This year I am going to keep on keeping on with the good things I am already doing. I may try again to add some of those annual things we all seem to resolve to do, but I am not going to get too worked up over them if I do not accomplish them. Life is good and heaven is better, so when it is all said and done, losing a few pounds is not all that big of a deal.

Enjoy 2012!

Pastor Ron



Prayer for the New Year

Thank You for the year behind us and for another new year and for new chances every day.

Forgive us for falling short this past year. We leave the irreparable past in your hands, and step out into the unknown new year knowing You

will go with us.

We accept Your gift of a new year and we rejoice in what's ahead, depending on You.

In Jesus name,

Amen

A View From the Pew

By Pat Miller

It's hard to believe that another year has come to a close. If experts' predictions are accurate, 2012 could prove to be a very trying year in many ways. I hear talk about the possibility that more banks will go under, foreclosures of homes will continue to plague families, the dollar will lose even more of its value, food prices and the cost of electricity will skyrocket, and our economy (and the world's) could collapse as so many countries struggle with mounting debt. To top it off, this is election year which has historically proven to have a negative impact on the stock market.

For a born worrier, this gives me quite a bit of fodder to work with. I have never seen such a division among people—citizens of the USA as well as residents of Wisconsin. Battles continue over religion and basic values of life. Family members can't agree on answers, and friendships break up because of differing opinions. I

have to admit that in the past I have had a naïve assumption that our government leaders would take care of our country's problems. Now I have come to the conclusion that only God can get us back on the path. Unfortunately, it seems that a large percentage of the population is determined to not let Him into certain areas of their lives.

As we enter into this new year, I know it is important to be prepared. We should all have an extra stash of food, blankets, and first aid supplies. Natural disasters have been plentiful in the recent years with snowstorms crippling states; fires and floods tearing through cities; and tornadoes dissolving towns. Living in Wisconsin has shown us that ice storms can leave us with no electricity and heat for days at a time. It's not always easy to be prepared for some unknown catastrophe; but I feel it's important to do what we can do.

Despite how important being prepared is, I still stand by the best



resolution being to hand our lives (and country) over to God. Only He knows what is coming down the path; and He is the one to guide us through whatever comes our way. As much as prayer is being ridiculed by a shockingly high percentage of our country, it needs to be an integral part of our daily lives. As always, it is exceedingly important to be on solid, faithful ground so there is no doubt about who we will follow. I like to think of God's followers as his warriors, and that we will not deny him when the time comes.

Psalm 37:28 states "For the Lord loves justice and fairness; He will never abandon his people. They will be kept safe forever; but all who loved wickedness shall perish." That one verse seems to be all the reason necessary to stand in His light.

Several years ago, Mark Lease stood on the altar to share some of his thoughts and he said something that will stay with me forever: "Don't live like the world; live like a citizen of heaven." Amen and Happy New Year!



Is a Short Term Missions Trip in Your Future?



How would you like to go to Honduras to see where Missie Christensen is ministering? I would like to have a team of us go there in 2012 to help with building projects or do some ministering. If you would like to go, you will need a passport so start the application process for one now as it can take some time to get one. Also, you will

need to start saving for airfare. A quick check on cost is around \$800 to \$1,000. For those of you who have never been on a short-term missions trip, they are eye-opening! Seeing how real people live in what can be a tourist destination can really alter one's perspective on our lifestyle here in America.

Special Speaker

David Witt from Spirit of Martyrdom Ministries will be speaking at CKCC for one service only, January 8th.

Pastor Witt is the author of *Fearless Love, In the Midst of Terror* and founder of Spirit of Martyrdom ministries. He has spoken in over 2,000 churches and Christian ministries in the United States, traveled throughout Canada and Mexico, visited fifteen countries in Europe, and spent three weeks in Israel at the Holy Land Institute for Biblical Studies. He has traveled to 46 nations total in his lifetime. He spent ten years as a mission representative for The Voice of the Martyrs.

His assistance to the persecuted church has taken him to 18 restricted nations. He has brought support and encouragement to believers in Laos, Sudan, Iran, Turkey, and Azerbaijan. He has preached in underground church meetings and taught in Bible schools



in Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia. In China, he met with house church leaders and personally witnessed their triumphant faith and courage. Most recently, he met with persecuted Christians in Mauritania, India, Egypt, Israel, Iraq, and Colombia. His heart has been touched, and his life changed, by their actions of love and faithfulness to Jesus, even when facing death. Pastor Witt desires to share their stories. He states, "The Church in America functions in greatest maturity when relationally connected to the persecuted family around the world. Jesus is not returning for an arm or leg but for the Bride of Christ."

Super Bowl Party

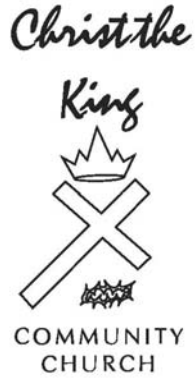
Packer Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 5th, at the church! Well, that is, if they make it and if we can get good reception on the church's large screen TV. We will keep you informed. Go Pack!



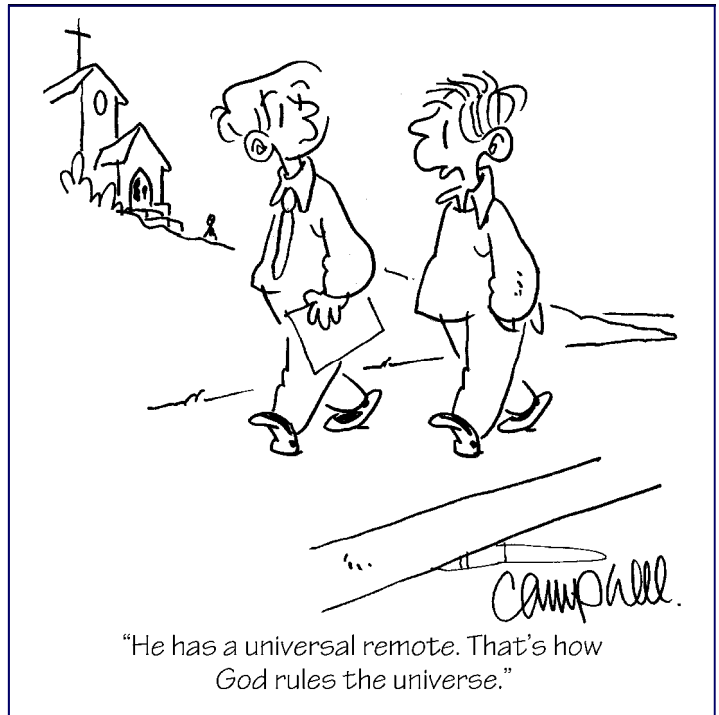
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"He's today's greeter."



"He has a universal remote. That's how God rules the universe."