

The Macedonian Call

January 2013

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR RANDY

One of the early explorers of the North Pole charted his journey hourly to ensure that he stayed on course

through the white wasteland. At one point a strange phenomenon began to occur. As he checked his position, his instruments indicated that even though he had been moving northward, he was actually farther south than he'd been an hour before. Regardless of the speed at which he walked in the direction of the Pole, he continued to get farther from it. He discovered that he'd wandered onto an enormous iceberg that was drifting in one direction as he was walking in the other. There's a world of difference between activity & progress. The Christian life is meant to be one of progress. As we enter into 2013, how can we determine that we're making real progress & not merely deceiving ourselves with a lot of "spiritual" activity? These questions may help.

1. Are you thirstier for God than ever before? (see Psalm 42:1-2a; Phil. 3:10)
2. Are you more aware of God's presence in your life? (see Rom. 6:11)
3. Has your love for others grown? (see 1 John 4:7-8)
4. Are you more willing to forgive others? (see Eph. 4:32)
5. Have you become more concerned with the Church & building up the Kingdom of God? (see Eph. 5:25)
6. Are Christian disciplines important to you? (see 1 Tim. 4:7b-8)
7. Are you aware of the presence of sin in your life? (see 1 Tim. 1:15)
8. Do you find yourself thinking more of being in the Lord's presence? (see Phil. 1:23)

~ Pastor Randy

YOUTH TRIP TO WILLIAMSBURG, VA
DECEMBER 30th - JANUARY 1st

Senior Adult Luncheon
Thursday, Jan. 3rd @ Noon in Fellowship Hall



Passages is an interactive, multi-media exhibition for all ages featuring some of the most exquisite & rare biblical manuscripts, printed Bibles, & historical

items in the world. The exhibit includes hands-on activities for children & adults & engaging films. We'll be going to the exhibit in Charlotte on Sat., Jan. 12. We'll leave at 9:00 am & eat lunch after visiting the exhibit. Group rates for 15 or more (Adult: \$12.95 & Children - ages 6-18: 8.95). Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Women who are interested in the *Woman-to-Woman Conference* in Hickory on Feb. 8th - 9th 2013 should sign up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, Jan. 6. The featured speaker at the conference is Anne Graham Lotz. Cost is \$49.99 each (includes a box lunch on Sat.). Money for tickets must be turned in to Denise Setzer by Sun. Jan. 13.

As January 1 approaches millions of people in America will make New Year's Resolutions. In fact, according to a study conducted by the University of Scranton approximately 45% of Americans will make a resolution for the New Year. Now there's nothing wrong with making a resolution. We should all have goals whether they are related to finances, health, family, or our Christian walk. However, this same study found that only 8% of those people who make a resolution are actually successful in achieving their goal. This is rather disappointing! As I think about the vision I have for the Youth at MBC for the next year I don't want us to fall into the camp of the 92%. So instead of having a set of goals for the next year I thought it would be best to go to Scripture to see what God has instructed us to do related to the church, and in turn what the vision for the Youth should be. Here are five commands God has given us to follow on the functions of the church.

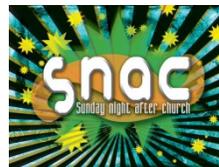
1. Make disciples (Matt. 28:19)
2. Model righteousness (1 Thess. 4:12)
3. Grow in knowledge (Eph. 4:11-12)
4. Grow in spiritual maturity (Col. 1:28)
5. Worship God (John 4:23)

Of course, there are many other commands that we can identify in Scripture on what the church should be doing, but I think this list is a great starting point. My vision for the Youth for the next 12 months, and for the rest of their lives for that matter, is to faithfully follow these five imperatives found in Scripture. I firmly believe that this will bring honor and glory to God. Secondly, this will lead to a spirit filled Youth group that is grounded in the word of God.



coffee Break

All women are invited to a "Coffee Break" at Nancy Rockman's home on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7:00 pm.



The Youth will go out to eat following their evening activities on Sun, Jan. 20. Bible study will start at 6:00 pm.

"Let It Snow Party" for children K-6 grade on Fri. Jan. 25 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Baptist Men's Meeting - Sat. Jan. 26 at 7 am in the Fellowship Hall. *Quarterly Breakfast* - Sun. Jan. 27 at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. *Baptist Men's Sunday* - Jan. 27 in 11 am worship service.