



THE VISION

January 2021

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”
Amen. Matthew 28:19-20*

“Never Give Up”

What a year 2020 has been and continues to be. First, and foremost, COVID-19 is and remains the world’s biggest concern. I have enjoyed reading our church’s Advent Booklet Devotions; I thank you for sharing the circumstances in which COVID-19 has affected you and your family. I am gratified to discover how we endure this sad and confusing ordeal and how many of you have said you know God is still in control.

in the grit and grime of courageous determination . . . not by a violent jerk now and then but a prolonged pull, day in and day out.” This was a portion from his speech, “We shall fight them on the beaches...”

Churchill made another uplifting speech to the boys at Harrow School on **October 29th 1941** (note the year); I’m paraphrasing, “Never, Never, Never Give up.” I think Churchill’s quotes are beneficial for moving us forward into 2021!

At the writing of this article, we have been dealing with this virus for 9 months! The virus STILL remains a health threat to us PLUS it is becoming a nerve-racking experience. It seems to me; people’s temperaments are becoming shorter with each other. I am experiencing, when humans do not have the knowledge to restore lives back to our understanding of normalcy, we tend to become more defensive of our opinions and our wants. Who do we think is the culprit of stressful temperaments? That’s correct, Satan! Satan is slithering around using our frustrations to devour and discredit our Christian demeanor.

Beloved, let us be mindful, as long as God permits Satan to exist, we will be in “Spiritual Warfare.” God uses traumatic times to grow us to be much more dependent upon Hm. On the other hand, Satan will use every taxing situation, like COVID-19, to turn our eyes off of Christ and back onto our self-serving wishes!

There have been many times of uncertainties in our own nation. At the outset of the American Revolution, author Thomas Paine wrote in **December 1776** (note the year), his thoughts called Common Sense. Paine believed, “These are the times that try men’s souls: the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country...”

Can we agree upon a solution to launch us reassuringly into the New Year? Pastor Chuck Swindoll quoted these stirring words from Winston Churchill’s speech on **June 4th 1940** (note the year), “Wars are not won by evacuations. Battles are won in the trenches,

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Happy New Year!

2021





Deacon's Devotional

I CAN

As we begin a new year, we celebrate ending the most difficult year many of us have ever experienced. We are all ready to move on and start a new and exciting year. However, we will still be faced with challenges. Just remember these two words: I CAN!

When you feel overworked, say I CAN manage my time more wisely.

When you feel financial burdens weighing heavily on yourself, say I CAN look for areas to cut, i.e. eating lunch out etc.

When you feel over commitment, say I CAN drop one committee.

If poor lifestyle has put your health at risk, say I CAN start eating more wisely and start moving more.

If you find yourself in a negative environment or around negative people, say I CAN separate myself from this, even if it means losing a friendship.

When arguments or disagreements develop, say I CAN settle this without getting upset.

Disagreements at church can happen; say I CAN work for reconciliation.

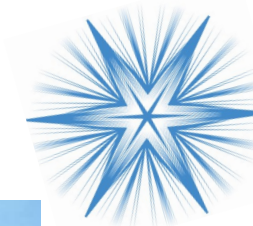
This country has gone through the most divisive political election. When you see negative reports and statements on TV, say I CAN rise above all of this.

The COVID-19 pandemic has isolated and touched all of us. I CAN trust in God and pray to God for guidance.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

I CAN do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

With Love and Blessings,
Sonya Anthony



A Prayer for the New Year

Lord,
Whether I leave behind
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,

I pause to *give thanks*.
Thank you for being with me
every day of every year.

Thank you for making all things **new**
and for giving me the grace of
fresh starts

and *new beginnings*.

Remind me of your presence in the days to
come,
even when I feel pushed and rushed by
busyness.

Be glorified in my life this year.

Amen

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How does this apply to us? We will forever be tempted by Satan “to evacuate, or to shrink from” serving Jesus Christ! What can we do? How can we begin right now to refocus our attention on the things of God?

Pastor Chuck Swindoll shared this passage of Scripture that lifted my soul, and I pray it will steady your soul as we journey jointly into 2021. ***1 Corinthians 15:58; 16:13-14***: “My dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. . . Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love.”

Pastor Swindoll encourages us with these sentiments: “Giving thought to giving up? Considering the possibility of quitting?”

Looking for an easy way out? Entertaining the idea of running away . . . stopping before it's finished . . . escaping from reality?

Don't! Instead, I urge you to draw near to God and to His people. Don't retreat, but rather surround yourself with loving, supportive friends. Let God be gracious to you. It's always harder to quit when a few friends stand with you.”

It will be my prayer that GPBC will continue to be witnesses for Jesus Christ and remain on guard, firm in our faith, courageous, strong, and act in love. Let us holdfast to our Lord's hand, then holdfast to each other, as we march together into God's New Year!

Happy New Year,
Pastor Bud Goude



Deacon of the Week

- 1/3—Sonya Anthony
- 1/10—David Crummett
- 1/17—Jimmy Diggs
- 1/24—Ted Fisher
- 1/31—Seth Gandee

Nursery Workers

- 1/3—H. Warren/TBD
- 1/10—L. Walton/B. DeRosa
- 1/17—Jaime/Bailey Moore
- 1/24—H. Warren/A. Zepeda
- 1/31—Beverly/Connie West

January Ushers

- Jimmy Diggs
- Amy Jacobson
- Gus Saunders

January Tellers

- Lynn Walton
- Amy Jacobson

Sun. Sch. Nursery
Sharon/Howard Warren



CHURCH WORKERS

Older Children's Church

- 1/3—TBD
- 1/10—J. Hall/S. McElfresh
- 1/17—M. McNeil & D. Gandee
- 1/24—Connie West
- 1/31—Allie Holman

Younger Children's Church

- 1/3—J. Lane/L. Walton
- 1/10—N. Dyson/S. Anthony
- 1/17—D. Goude/J. Marshall
- 1/24—R. Wells/M. Wagner
- 1/31—T. Greggs/Youth



Sunday Schedule
(during COVID)

Sunday School (All Ages)—cancelled
Worship Service—11:00 am
C.A.R.E. Ministry—cancelled
Youth Ministry—5:00 pm



January 2021



Wednesday Schedule
(during COVID)

6:00pm: Children's Ministry
Online Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
7:00pm: Choir Practice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year!! Office Closed	2
3 Youth Council Meeting 12:00 pm Deacon Mtg 3pm	4 American Heritage Girls Ministry 6:30 pm	5	6	7	8	9
10 Children's Council Meeting 12:00 pm	11 WMU Council Meeting 10:00 am	12	13	14	15 Vision Articles Due	16
17	18 American Heritage Girls Ministry 6:30pm	19	20 Business Meeting 6:30pm	21 Acree Circle 10:00 am	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January Birthdays:

Alice Smith 1/1
Chris Hutson 1/3
Katherine Hall 1/4
Betty Jean Duncan 1/5
Tim Owens 1/5
Lester Jenkins 1/6
Ronnie Lewis 1/6
Chase Mitchell 1/12
Janis West 1/17
Melissa Jacobson 1/17
Mike Crawford 1/24
Alice Oldfield 1/25
Jeannie Fitzgerald 1/25
John Oldfield 1/26
Ted Fisher 1/27
Charles West 1/29
Debra Wood 1/29
Howard Warren 1/30

Anniversaries:

Chris & Heidi Gibbons 1/6
Doug & Chris Blaylock 1/15
Ronnie & Judy Lewis 1/20
Don & Gail Mongold 1/28

