



WHAT TO DO IN 2021

Administrative Bishop Daniel Hampton

Twenty- Twenty has now passed and we are entering into another new year. Almost everyone you talk to is saying thank God 2020 is over. Certainly, last year was one we will not soon forget, especially with everything that we faced, but remember the same Lord who was with us there is going to see us through this New Year. As we look back over 2020 and reflect on all that happened it would do us well to give thanks to God for all He has brought us through. A world pandemic like no other, a nation in turmoil, an election filled with questions of fairness and integrity, our religious freedoms assaulted, our liberties attacked, the ability to move about as normal put on hold, our children not allowed to attend school, our nation shut down for a period of time and the list could go on and on. We do not know what 2021 will bring but one thing we do know is whatever we have to face this year God is still in charge.

I am reminded of the words of Job who experienced a year like no other before, who said; “But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives and He will stand upon the earth at last. And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! I will see Him for myself; yes I will see Him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!” We must take courage in the fact that our confidence is not in this world, not in our politics, not in our government but in the One and only One who has provided us with peace which passes all the understanding of this world.

As this New Year begins don't concern yourself with a New Year's resolution which most generally lasts only a few days, but be determined to obey the word of God and live in the peace of the Lord. Remember He said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14: 27)

I also want to encourage you to live a life of praise. I have learned that you can praise you way through anything. Praise in the good times, praise in the bad times, praise regardless of what is going on and watch God work through your praise. When you praise, God declares that you look really good to him in the garment of praise. The routine for most of us each morning when we get out of bed is to go into our bathroom and prepare ourselves for the day. We go to the closet and determine what we are going to wear; sometimes it is casual attire, other times it is more formal due to the situation we are facing. There are times, according to the weather, we wear certain garments. Whatever the circumstances we are facing determines the clothing we put on to accommodate the situation. With each day and regardless the circumstance we face there is one garment that fits in all situations and that is the garment of Praise.

I want to encourage you when you get up in the morning and your feet hit the floor-start your day with a praise in your heart to the Lord. Sing a song of praise, quote a scripture of praise, pray a prayer of praise and encourage yourself in the Lord. You will be empowered by the Spirit and don't be surprised if you are approached by the people you meet asking you why are you so joyous.

Joy is the companion of praise. Joy is contagious and I want to infect everyone I meet with it. We have and are experiencing through this pandemic people being quarantined to keep from infecting others around them with the coronavirus. We have been instructed to wear masks, cough into our elbow, social distance, wash our hands frequently and take extra precautions to keep from getting infected. I want to become so overcome with joy that everyone around me wants to catch what I have. That is the lifestyle we need to demonstrate now more than ever. This joy that I have did not come from the world and I refuse to let the world and all that is happening to take it away.

I have also learned that when I genuinely praise and live with joy, the spirit of worship enters into the arena of my life. Remember, we were created to worship and we will worship something. I choose to worship the only God who created everything that is and the God who loved us so much that He gave the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ our Lord. We just celebrated the birth of that gift and remember it is in Him that we live, move and have our being. As we begin 2021 none of us know what we will be faced with, but regardless what it is, I have made up my mind to live in genuine peace, praise, joy and worship. That is the lifestyle we, as His children, must follow so that men may see our good works but glorify our Father in heaven.

My prayer for you is that 2021 will be the greatest year of soul winning we have ever experienced. Remember, he that wins souls is wise.

Pastoral Appointment

Brian Wellman

Pie Church of God

Congratulations

*Wendy Terry
Exhorter License*

*Jaimie Hodges
Ordained Minister License*

**Please continue to check out our Facebook pages
and Website for updated information.**

BE WARM, BE KIND

We as the Church of God State Office are praying for each Pastor, Pastor's Wife, Minister and Lay member, or attender of our churches, that God will provide and keep you and your families safe during this time.

Mountaineer Ministries Prayer Requests:

(these requests come from the white envelope enclosed)

Our country; Our President and State Leaders; Military; Health Care Professionals; Health and Wellness; Finances; Job; Marriages; Family; The Church; God's hand of protection; Students, Teachers and Staff at Schools; A miracle healing for Joshua; The Homeless; Those who are sick with Covid-19; Unsaved family, friends and neighbors; My Pastor and Pastor's Wife; Church to resume.

Mountaineer Ministries Praise Reports:

(these reports come from the white envelope enclosed)

Waking me up this morning; My Pastor; For going back to church; New people coming to church; My Job; Souls saved; God protecting my children; God always providing; Our Church; God's grace on our country; Getting out of hospital; God healing my body; God's comforting presence that I feel; A Church on fire for Jesus; God's hand of protection; My family; My Health; My Husband; My friends; God saving my husband; God saving my children.

The Meaning of the *Snowflake*

Every new snowflake comes to the earth as a picture of our Saviors birth, because they are sent from up above and remind us of God's care and love.

Each one is so intricate and small because Christ sees the details of us all, and just as two are never the same, the Lord knows and calls us each by name.

Snowflakes gently cover the world in white and hide what's unlovely from our sight, showing us how He covers our sin and gives us His grace when we come to Him.

So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind and in every bit of white may you find a reason to celebrate anew and a reminder of His love for you.

Holley Goeth

New River Ranch Kitchen Necessities Project

Please visit our Web Page WVCOG.com or our Facebook Page at West Virginia Church of God State Office for the links to the online ordering for Amazon and Walmart. We have created a list of needed Kitchen items for each cottage. It has been a very long time since Kitchen Necessities have been purchased and this will be a tremendous blessing, to have the needed items.

Mark your Calendar

Please note that with the current Covid-19 situation these dates are tentative and subject to change.

April 16-17 West Virginia Church of God Women's Conference
April 24 Jr. & Teen Talent (location to be announced)