

January 2020



 Omega Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

BEACON

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

I Love It When a Plan Comes Together

I’ve been doing this long enough to have experienced several instances of certainty; knowing beyond a shadow of a doubt that I was doing something that God wanted me to do. This week was another instance.

For several weeks I have been planning to give a prayer challenge in the new year. Our association of churches has several 21 day prayer guides and one resonated with me since it fits in with the messages from December about Jesus. It also fits in with the series on 2 Peter that we recently finished. Here’s how.

The theme and ongoing challenge of 2 Peter is; grow in the grace and knowledge (experience) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Part of growing in grace and knowledge is prayer so the tie in is obvious.

The last message I have scheduled to deliver in December is the Julotta message, Jesus Is King. That title was scheduled weeks ago. The tie in becomes clear when you learn the title of the 21 day prayer challenge I proposed to the Deacon Board and they approved this week: Praying the King’s Agenda.

The plan is to begin on the first Sunday in January and wrap it up the last Sunday in January. That leaves one Sunday in between Julotta, Jesus Is King, and the beginning of Praying the King’s Agenda. Guest speaker Mike Swan from Green Bay will be here and this week he called to ask me about what he was planning to present to you.

At the end of his explanation I was so encouraged and blown away. I told him, “Mike,

this is a better transition between what we have been studying and what we will be studying that I could have ever dreamed. I’m just sorry that I won’t be here to experience it in person.”

I love it when a plan comes together and I get to be a part of what His plans are.

Here is a little information about Praying the King’s Agenda. In addition to the appropriate activity of making our requests of God, another one of the important functions of prayer is the alignment or realignment of ourselves with God. Praying the King’s Agenda aims to help us do just that. For each of the 21 days, Praying the King’s Agenda provides a short Bible passage, a brief explanation of the passage, questions to think about, a brief prayer, a few optional additional Bible passages related to the subject of the day and space to write a personal response. It could be done in five minutes or expanded quite a bit. I hope you will step up and take the challenge.

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney

JANUARY SERMON SCHEDULE

- 5 “Praying the King’s Agenda Challenge”
- 12 “The Two Greatest Commandments”
- 19 “Secure Investments”
- 26 “The King Will Return”





YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about the year 2019! Since it's January 2020 I'm willing to guess many of you have also looked back at 2019. What did you see? What did you learn? What did you regret? I don't believe in getting stuck in your past, but I do believe that you should look back. It's how you gain perspective. It's how you know if you accomplished anything you set out to do. It's how you see how far you've come in your walk with the Lord. I don't make New Year's Resolutions anymore, but I do reflect on where I've been and how far I've come, or not come.

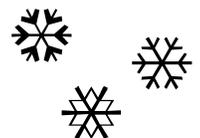
Recently in youth group we talked about "vision." In Ground Zero, Heather Reissner did an activity where the students had to cast a vision for their future. The questions she asked included, "Where do you see yourself in 2-4 years?" (Depending on grade level.), "Where do you see yourself in 10 years?", "What's one thing in your life right now you need to improve?", "What's one thing in your life right now you need to throw out?" I tried to answer these questions myself, but found it really hard to project my life 10 years out...when I'm 53! UGH! When it came time to talk about what we had written, Heather shared her answers from the perspective of when she was 17. That immediately changed everything for me. First of all, at 17 you would not have found me sitting in a youth group listening to anyone talk about God. Not only because that didn't exist where I grew up, but I was running the opposite direction of anything God wanted me to do. I clearly remember my 2 and 10 year plan from high school though...it was to marry Rick, have kids and work. And the only thing I knew about what I wanted for work was that I did not want to work in a restaurant.

That vision for my life was a far cry from the dreams of my childhood. As a young girl I wanted to either be a nurse or a teacher. I quickly discovered I didn't have the stomach to be a nurse so I focused on being a teacher. Whenever a group of us got together I would make them play school. I think I wanted to be a teacher because I always loved my teachers and in the second grade we got to color Smurf pictures!! I'm not really sure, but it was always something I wanted to do. Before third grade, I also loved church. I loved listening to missionaries share their stories. I loved talking about God and being at church. But as a teen things started to change. I clearly remember standing in a service somewhere and the pastor asking people to come forward to either accept Christ or to rededicate their life. To say "here am I Lord, send me!" I remember the feeling of wanting to go forward and gripping the pew in front of me in order to stay in my spot. No way was I going to go forward. God might send me into ministry! And at that point I hated it and all the pain it had brought to my life. At 17, I would never have even guessed that 26 years later I would be working in ministry.

Heather ended our talk that night by sharing that God doesn't want us to run away or to just sit on our hands and do nothing with our dreams. He wants us to make choices and to move forward with our lives. The vision or mission that God has placed on our hearts isn't going to happen smoothly if we do nothing. But as we step out to take a chance, we should do it with palms open wide and arms lifted to God and have the courage to say, "Lord, interrupt whatever I am doing, so that I can do whatever you want me to do." It took me longer than 10 years to finally have the courage to say, "Lord, here am I," but it was the best decision I ever made. That childhood dream of being a teacher, I got to do it. Not in a second grade classroom, like I originally thought, but in a business classroom, which helped me recognize my love of helping teens make plans for their futures. It also brought me people who would change my life and help me surrender to God. Make plans, go after dreams, but be open to what God does with them. God will fold and unfold, twist and turn your dream, just like He did mine, to line it up with His. In fact if you are too stuck in your plans, in your vision, you might miss that you are actually living out your dream. It just looks different than the one you started with.

...until next time,

Rebecca Anderson, Youth Director



Proverbs 19:21 "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”



Hebrews 4:16 NIV

“Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.”

Jeremiah 29:12 NIV

Ladies’ Bible Study Options Beginning in January

Monday mornings, 9:00—11:30, using Jay Seegert’s *Starting Point Project* resources. Contact Julie Jast or Karen Blomberg with questions.

Monday evenings, 6:30—8:30, discussing Jen Wilkin’s book “None Like Him.” For a book or to ask questions about this study, contact Christine Hallstrand or Kay Marschke.

Wednesday evenings, 6:30—8:00, studying Lysa TerKerust’s book “The Best Yes.” Contact Melinda Price with any questions.



“Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.”



Psalms 51:7b

January Birthdays

- 1 Cory Sorenson
- 3 Rick Davis
- 4 Maia Reissner, Maxwell Monroe
- 5 Nancy Bruner
- 6 Aimee Blomberg
- 7 Josh Isaacson, Heather Rustick, Sarah Rhody
- 8 Bobbie Adams, Lisa Rhody
- 10 Bill Ulrich
- 11 Marvene Bruner, Tonisha Hora
- 12 Jedediah Hallstrand, Adam Smugala, Emma Bauer
- 13 Joel Blomberg, Leah Lord
- 14 Kaitlyn Erickson, Zoe Price
- 15 Joshua Moore
- 16 Robin Scott, Cindy Mattson, Pastor Paul VanCamp
- 17 Alise Swan, Tony Smugala
- 18 Rachel Bauer
- 19 Pat Huber, Luke Stolhammer
- 20 Rich Blomberg, Eric Smugala
- 21 Delbert Gustafson, Lane Meier
- 22 Jerry Esterholm, Mandy Blomberg
- 24 Indya Mann
- 25 Adam Dielschneider, Paul VanCamp, Harry Gladwin
- 26 Bill Conrad, Martha Darosci
- 27 Vienna Jesunas, Bill Conrad
- 28 Barrick Jones
- 30 Brayden Blomberg
- 31 Stacy Smith



**Happy
Birthday!**

Men’s *No Regrets* Conference

Saturday, February 1

8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

At Victory Christian Center in Phillips

Cost, including lunch:

\$15 if preregistered by 1/27/20, or \$20 at the door

Get a group of your friends together to attend this event and build your faith.

Contact Matt Swan if you have any questions about this event.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family has an address change
 - You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
 - You would rather receive your Beacon by email
- Email: info@ogemabaptistchurch.org

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Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am
Sunday Worship - 10:15 am
Wednesday Youth & Ladies' Ministries - 6:30 pm
Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm



Whatever your age or stage in life,
YOU are WELCOME here!

"REJOICE ALWAYS,
PRAY CONTINUALLY,
GIVE THANKS in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you
in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Missionary Spotlight *Gene Grapa* *Belize trip & project*

The annual Belize Mission trip that OBC sponsors is scheduled for January 20 to February 2. Gene and his team plan to minister to the people of Belize in these ways:

1. At King's College, the only Christian residential high school in the country of Belize, they will have opportunities to teach students in many subjects, incorporating the gospel message.
2. Also at King's, they will participate in a building project to provide the campus with a new water tank.
3. They will visit people in the community in their own homes to encourage them, share the gospel message, and pray with them.
4. In a number of churches, they will present the leadership with evangelism, apologetic, or other training to help the local church be more equipped to make disciples.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20a

Let's keep this January mission trip and water tank project in our prayers, as well as the continuing work at King's and in the local Belizean churches.