

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BOB

Sunday, December 27, 2009

Good morning and welcome to Abundant Life! I am glad that you are here; I consider it an honor to worship the Lord together today. If this is your first time to worship with us please take a minute to complete one of our Welcome Cards located in the guest packet. If you did not receive a guest packet you can get one at the Information Center in the lobby. Once you complete the card either drop it in the basket during the offering or leave it at the Information Center. Again, I am glad that you are here today!

Everyone is excited this week, it is Christmas!!! The short work week, the thrill of visiting family and friends and the excitement of giving and receiving gifts with loved ones. It all works together to build excitement and anticipation; throw in some sugary Christmas goodies and everyone is really wired up. By the time we get to church on Sunday and read this article, Christmas is over for another year but the memories will last for a lifetime.

As I unwind from Christmas and look forward to the New Year there are two words that seem to be prevalent in my thinking this time each year: REFLECTION & ANTICIPATION! I try to take some time near the end of December and reflect on the past year, the victories, the successes, the goals that were achieved as well as the failures, the goals that weren't achieved and the things that did not go as planned or hoped for. I reflect on those things not with some false sense of success or failure but a realistic assessment of how I grew during the past year or failed to grow and trying to determine what I could have or should have done differently. It is usually a fulfilling and satisfying exercise as I look back and see what God has done in me and through me in the past year. I also like to take time to anticipate what God has in store for the coming year. For me as I celebrate the New Year I feel that the slate has been wiped clean and that there is a fresh start ahead. It is not a time of New Year's resolutions but it is a time to renew commitments, to get back on track doing the things that I know I should be doing, but more importantly than that it is a time for me to ask God, "Father God, what is it that You desire to accomplish in me and through me in the coming year?" As I listen I try to write things down, both the good and the challenging, making myself accountable to those things.

As I do these simple exercises of reflecting and anticipating I usually walk away with a fresh sense of God's calling, purpose and plan for my life. Why don't you try it – reflection and anticipation – a great recipe for a New Year! Blessings to you and may 2010 be the most fruitful year that you and I have ever experienced.

Pastor Bob

THANK YOU for giving in so many ways as we have *Shared the Gift of Christmas* with our community, with friends and with one another. During the holidays we have been able to bless seven different families with food, Christmas presents or with a Christmas tree. You have been a tremendous blessing! **THANK YOU!!!**

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS!

Wednesday Night Connection – There will be **NO** Wednesday Night service for due to the special holiday services. **MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!** New service time beginning January 6, 2010 is 6:30PM

New Year's Eve Celebration – beginning at 7:00PM and lasting until...after Midnight!!!

- Fellowship
- Food
- Fun
- Prayer

We will gather and share in games and fellowship and conclude the evening with a time of sharing and prayer for the New Year! Plan to arrive when you can if you can't stay until the end, feel free to leave early. Feel free to bring your favorite board or card game. We will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall.

Welcoming New Members - Sunday, January 10, 2010

We will be receiving new members into partnership at Abundant Life. Please see Pastor Bob for more details.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010, 10:30AM

We will be sharing plans for 2010 and ratifying the appointment of three church council members for two year terms. The meeting will be a part of the Sunday morning service and everyone is invited and welcomed to attend but only church members will be eligible to vote for church council members.

PRAYER REQUESTS / NEEDS

- **Aaron Compton** – recuperating at home from heart attack and surgery
- **Danielle Harris** – recuperating from surgery, cancer
- **Madison** – 9 year old cousin of Shannon Covington, cancer
- **Jenny** – Shannon Covington's aunt – cancer
- Remember those in our church and community who have lost jobs and those who are struggling financially

Upcoming Events

Dec 31 - New Year's Celebration/Fellowship
Jan 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
Jan 6 - Starting Wednesday Night Series – *Rebuilding the Real You* – 6:30PM
Jan 9 - Church Work Day – 8AM – Noon
Jan 10 - Receiving New Members – 10:30AM
Jan 12 - ALOFT – Ladies Ministry Meeting, 6:30PM
Jan 17 - Annual congregational Meeting – 10:30AM
Jan 17 - Church Council Meeting 4PM
Jan 17 - The Leading Edge 6-7:30PM
Feb 7 - Super Bowl Fellowship 6PM
Feb 13 - Valentine's Banquet