

The Testament

January 2024

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

Embracing God's Plans For Change

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future."

- John F. Kennedy

- by Bro. Dean Jernigan

Several years ago, in an article titled *Avoiding a Blockbuster Year*, I shared a few of the reasons why Blockbuster Video went out of business. Once our nation's largest video chain, Blockbuster Video stores appeared to be everywhere. Millions of people, myself included, carried a Blockbuster membership card and frequently rented movies to enjoy in the comfort of our homes. The revenue generated from these rentals made Blockbuster a highly profitable company that seemed destined to last forever.

At the height of Blockbuster's success, they were approached by representatives from a small startup company called Netflix. Netflix's strategy was to not compete directly with Blockbuster. In fact, they did not have any physical brick and mortar stores at all. Instead, they offered an alternative way to rent movies - through the mail. The Netflix representatives met with Blockbuster and proposed a partnership where they would offer Blockbuster's videos through the mail while Blockbuster simultaneously continued to offer them through their stores as well. The Blockbuster representatives laughed at the proposal and thought that it was foolish to think that individuals would rent videos through the mail.

Since we know how this story ends, we can fast forward. Undeterred by the limited vision of the Blockbuster representatives, Netflix moved forward with their business model. They grew and thrived as the general public warmly received this alternate method of renting videos. Meanwhile Blockbuster, focusing on their past and present, slowly watched their membership decline and their profits evaporate.

Eventually, Blockbuster filed for bankruptcy and went out of business.

Netflix, continuing to evolve with an eye toward the future, transitioned from renting videos through the mail and became a leader in the next form of video consumption - streaming them over the internet.

Blockbuster's demise provides a good example of why we can never stay comfortable in our present condition. We have to continue to move forward in our thinking, our planning, and most importantly - our actions. We have to prepare for change and seek God's divine guidance as we align our actions with His desire.

As odd as it may sound, change is actually one of the most constant occurrences that we encounter throughout our lives. Our bodies change as we grow. Our environments change as we venture into new opportunities of learning and employment. Our family structure changes as individuals enter and exit our lives and family circles. And, of course, the world around us changes through advances in technology, political manipulation, and social/economic challenges that influence our way of thinking and our opportunities for success in life.

For some, dealing with change can be an overwhelming experience. For others, like those of us rooted in God's Word, we are comforted by knowing that the changes that we experience have been put in place on purpose by God in His master plan for our lives and the lives of those who share time and space with us. Change will happen, and while it may surprise us and disrupt us, it will come as no surprise to God. *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)* Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us that *To*



Congratulations Bailee!!



Congratulations to Sis. Bailee Davenport on graduating from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in December. Bailee earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science. We pray for God's continued blessings on Bailee as she enters the next phase of life!

every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. Simply put - God plans for change, He welcomes change, and He directs that change. As Rev. Atkins recently shared with us: "God is in 100% control, 100% of the time, even when our life seems 100% out of control."

As we enter into a new year, let's make an effort to be more receptive to the changes that impact our lives, our families, our employment and our worship experience with fellow believers. Of course, we have to guard against the enemy's efforts to cause confusion and disruption during the midst of change. Doubt, distrust and disharmony are the tools of his trade, but working together as believers in the Word of God, extending respect and Christian courtesy to one another, and uniting our hearts and minds on our shared belief and trust in Christ, we can overcome the enemy's efforts to undermine our faith. *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)*

Happy New Year!

Around Lincoln...



Cherishing the moment, Sis. Myra Davenport celebrates with her daughter, Sis. Bailee Davenport following Bailee's graduation from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Congratulations Bailee!



Deacon Eugene Lofton, Chair of our Ushers Ministry, recognizes Bro. Lawrence Jones for his dedication and years of service to the Usher Ministry as a Greeter. Thank you Bro. Jones!



Deacon on Duty for the month of January:

*Deacon Joseph Hilliard
(919) 961-3710*

Only Jesus Can Do the Saving

When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (TLB)

For three summers in my youth, I was a lifeguard. And like every lifeguard understands, I knew that you can't save somebody as long as they're trying to save themselves. When someone's drowning, they're typically panicked. They're flailing around, trying to stay afloat. If a lifeguard tries to help them while they're still trying to save themselves, then they're going to take the lifeguard down with them. So a good lifeguard will often swim out and wait until that person is exhausted and gives up. When they stop trying and they start trusting, the lifeguard's job is easier. You just put an arm over their shoulder and swim back to shore.

You can't save somebody when they're trying to save themselves.

Some people are trying to save themselves spiritually. They may think they're going to get into heaven because of their good works. But God doesn't grade on a curve. Heaven is perfect, and we're not. We need someone who is perfect to get us in on his ticket, and that someone is Jesus Christ. If there were any way we could get into heaven without trusting Jesus as our Savior, then God would have done it. If we could go to heaven by just trying to be a genuinely nice person, then Jesus' death and resurrection were pointless.

There's no way we're getting into heaven on our own effort. That's why God came up with the plan for Jesus Christ to come to earth and die for our sins. But he can't save you until you stop trying to save yourself. Stop trying, and start trusting.

The fastest thing in the universe is the speed of light: 186,000 miles a second. If you don't believe it, try opening your refrigerator door before the light comes on. You can't beat it!

But there's one thing faster, and that's God's answer to you when you ask him to save you. It is instant. There's no delay. There's no waiting period. The moment you say, "God, help! I need you to save me," God's response is instant. Your salvation is secure. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "a new life has begun!" (TLB).

It will be the most life-changing prayer you'll ever pray.

*Pastor Rick Warren
www.pastorrick.com*

Black History Spotlight

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Series



Florida Memorial University

Florida Memorial University (FMU) is a private coeducational institution with the distinction of being one of the oldest academic centers in the state, and the only historically Black university in South Florida.

In 1879, members of the Bethlehem Baptist Association founded the school, then called Florida Baptist Institute, in Live Oak, Fla., to create "a college of instruction for our ministers and children." Amid racial tensions, then President Rev. Matthew Gilbert and other staff members fled Live Oak for Jacksonville, Fla., where he founded the Florida Baptist Academy in the basement of Bethel Baptist Church, with Sarah Ann Blocker as the main instructor.

In 1896, Nathan White Collier was appointed president of the Academy, a post he held for 45 years. J. Rosamond Johnson was recruited to teach music at the school, where he composed music for the poem "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," creating the song now known as the "Negro National Anthem."

Due to a growing student body, in September 1918, the school began its third incarnation at its new home in St. Augustine, Fla., as the Florida Normal and Industrial Institute. The students were encouraged to be industrious and self-sufficient, receiving hands-on training in the practical fields that would allow them to support themselves and their families. In 1942, the school merged with the still-operating Florida Institute at Live Oak and became Florida Normal Industrial and Memorial College. Florida native and writer of the Harlem Renaissance, Zora Neale Hurston, served as an instructor for the school during this time.

The advent of the civil rights movement brought change to St. Augustine. Florida Memorial students protested segregation by participating in sit-ins, wade-ins, and swim-ins, orchestrated in part by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In November 1968, the name changed to Florida Memorial College. In December 2004, the institution's charter was amended, and the name Florida Memorial University was adopted.

The FMU of today is ascending to excellence and stands in a position of great promise. It is a culturally diverse institution, transforming lives and helping to create a future for people from many races, ethnicities and countries

<https://www.fmu.edu/about-fmu/>

The Testament is produced monthly by our Newsletter Committee. Please send articles, photos or other items for publication to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Newsletter Committee

Reginald Davis • Willee Murphy
Joan Lofton • Marva Atkins • William Mayfield
Earleen Sharrock, Editor • Dean Jernigan, Chair

Layman's League

Continuing their ongoing display of appreciation for one another and the joy of Christian fellowship, the men of our Layman's League Ministry gathered recently for a "Chili Cook-Off". Ministry members enjoyed a delightful afternoon sampling delicious servings of love-inspired chili. Hats off to our Layman's League Ministry for their unwavering commitment to Godly fellowship.



Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

Happy Birthday to our

January Birthday Celebrities!

Leonidus Murphy (8th) • Joseph Eley (11th)
Enza Ellis (11th) • Charmaine Harris (14th)
Anissa Belcher (18th) • John Hodge, Jr. (20th)
Joan Lofton (23rd) • Faith Dobson (27th)
Lelia Ervin (29th)

Happy Anniversary!

None

Best Wishes For Many More!!

Deacons Christmas Fellowship

Joined by Rev. Linzie and Sis. Marva Atkins, the Deacons, Deaconess, Ministers and their invited guest gathered during the Christmas season for an afternoon of joyous reflection and fellowship. Buoyed by a spirit of love and showered by the grace of our Heavenly Father, those assembled celebrated the true reason for the most wonderful time of the year.



*The Fellowship of the Believers
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

Sounds of Joy Christmas Fellowship

Love was the order of the day as the members of our Sounds of Joy Youth Choir gathered for their annual Christmas fellowship. Celebrating with games, gifts and good food, laughter and excitement filled the air and brought smiles to the faces of our youth members. Let us continue to support our youth as they strive to minister through song to the Lincoln family each second Sunday.



The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:1-3 NIV

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

A SPIRITUAL INVENTORY

At the beginning of each New Year many types of companies, such as those that deal in retail, take inventory to know exactly the amount of goods for sale to ensure that merchandise is available that shoppers want, with neither too little nor too much on hand. That is a good practice even for the Christian! It is always a good thing for a Christian to take the time to reflect, to examine their heart, and to do a spiritual inventory. With the beginning of a New Year, how are you doing spiritually? Are you willing to allow the Lord to search you, to examine you, to turn His light of grace into every corner of your heart and life?

I cannot think of a better passage in the Bible to help us in this process of taking a spiritual inventory, than that which is found in Psalms 139:23-24. It is good for us as Christians to have a time of honest introspection, and to evaluate our walk with the Lord. This passage should lead to introspection: a) Self-analysis; and b) Soul searching. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting." -- Psalms 139:23-24 KJV

Here are some spiritual inventory questions to determine if you are living in complete obedience to the Lord:

1) What comes into my ears?

Whatever enters my ears will ultimately influence my mind, my heart and my decisions, so I'd better be careful what I listen to. When unbelieving friends engage in obscene talks, it is wise to walk away. What about the people we should seek counsel from? Psalm 1:1 tells us to avoid ungodly counsel. Christians must seek advice only from Christians who hold to the Bible as the final authority.

2) What is within my heart?

It isn't easy to keep or guard one's heart for there will be many opportunities to give our heart to a person or path that we are warned against. Whatever the heart loves, the ear will hear, and the eyes will see. The things that occupy the attention of your heart will determine the course of your life. The Bible further warns us to avoid a double heart (Psalm 12:2), a hard heart (Proverbs 28:14), a proud heart (Proverbs 21:4), an unbelieving heart (Hebrews 3:12), a cold heart (Matthew 24:12), and an unclean heart (Psalm 51:10). To live in obedience to God and not sin, remember to always keep God's Word hidden in your heart (Psalm 119:11).

3) What is upon my lips?

Whatever is in the heart will ultimately come out of the mouth (Matthew 12:33-34). Solomon warns us about perverse talk and corrupt speech (Proverbs 4:24), undisciplined talk (Proverbs 10:19), lying lips (Proverbs 12:22), gossip (Proverbs 20:19) and deception (Proverbs 24:28). In fact, "he who guards his mouth will preserve his life but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction" (Proverbs 13:3).

4) What is before my eyes?

Outlook determines outcome. Out of distraction, we can often depart the path of righteousness. To be fit for His kingdom, Jesus said we must not look back or around (Luke 9:62). Instead, we must keep our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) as we walk the path of life.

5) What is the direction of my path?

It's necessary for us to consider the destination of our present path as it would lead us to wise living. Carefully pondering where we are headed will help us to establish our direction and help us to not turn to the left or to the right. If we're walking in the way of wisdom, God promises to protect, direct and perfect our paths.

After going through this spiritual inventory checklist, we must realize that there is room for spiritual growth! There will always be a new step to take towards "Christ-likeness". As you begin a New Year, do some soul searching! Have you become what Jesus called you to become? If not, discover the things that are keeping you from it, and rid yourself of them. Set some new goals, and head for higher ground this year. One of the marks of a true Christian is OBEEDIENCE. If you claim to have placed your faith in the Lord Jesus but you're still living like the rest of the world, you're not fooling God but fooling yourself. Let us continually ask God to examine our heart and mind, and reveal to us any area of our life that is not yet fully submitted to Him.

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock



**SCRAMBLED
SCRIPTURES**

FAMILY FUN FROM CREATION MOMENTS

Psalm 139:23-24

R D N A W N R E D N W V B I G
F I G G O D Q O E W I A O T R
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GOD	AND	THERE	AND	
AND	KNOW	BE	LEAD	
KNOW	MY	ANY	ME	
MY	THOUGHTS	WICKED	IN	

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January 2024

“Building the Church in the Community and the Community in the Church”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year!	2 6:30pm Mass Choir	3 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	4 6:30pm Mass Choir	5	6 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Trustees 12:00Noon Women of Faith 1:00pm Missionary Min.
7	8 7:00pm Music Ministry	9 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	10 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	11 6:00pm Christian Education 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	12	13 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Deaconess
14 Deacons	15 Holiday Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	16 6:30pm Male Chorus	17 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	18 7:00pm Church Conference	19	20 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) TBA Laymen’s League
21	22	23 6:30pm Voices of Praise	24 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	25 6:30pm Voices of Praise	26	27 Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)
28	29	30 6:30pm Mass Choir	31 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>*Conference Call Prayer Line: Dial (605) 475-3235 and enter the pin - 20396# after the prompt.</i></p> <p><i>To add an event to the church calendar, please contact Sis. Janice Campbell by calling the church at 919-688-1886. You may also reach her at churchcalendar@mylmbc.org.</i></p> <p><i>Please send articles, photos or information for The Testament to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.</i></p> </div>		

Photos Taken/Submitted by Sis. Myra Davenport, Sis. Pamela Jernigan, Deacon Eugene Lofton, Bro. James Ellis and Bro. Dean Jernigan