



# IT'S A NEW YEAR AT COC



## David & Goliath

The new year was kicked off with great success after our recess for the holidays. We had around 40 children show up for our first meeting of the month, including some new faces. Pastor Tim opened with a new message out of 1 Samuel 17:26-32, focusing on the topic of fighting. What does the Bible have to say about it? We should never fight against one another, but we should fight to uphold the good message of the Gospel, while loving and being good to one another. Just as Romans 12:9 says, "Never take

"Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. 'But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' It is our job to love one another, God will take care of the rest.

We also wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to First Christian Church of Seminole for the beautiful stockings they made for our kids for Christmas. The incorrect church was named in our last newsletter by mistake and we wanted to let those from First Christian know how much we appreciate their gifts to the kids!

## Remembering Rob

We'd like to dedicate this opening letter of 2023 to an extremely special person. It is with great sadness that we share the following news with our supporters. In early January, Rob Bartles, a beloved part of COC, passed out of this life to be with the Lord in heaven. Rob was a vital part of the ministry at COC over the past two years. He rode on the bus every Saturday morning to pick up the kids from their homes and was always seen playing games, helping the kids with memorization verses, or sitting with them in service. He was a friend, a mentor, and a Godly fatherly figure to so many. What I remember most about Rob was how funny and kind he was, and how his spiritual perspective was so real and refreshing. He always had a calm smile and peaceful demeanor, and was a pillar of strength and fortitude. With three grown children of his own, and multiple grand kids, Rob was always so great with the kids at COC. He served as an Elder at Pastor Tim's the House of Hope Church in Saint Petersburg, and was a wealth of spiritual wisdom. To say he will be incredibly missed is a true understatement. We forge ahead with love and gratitude in our hearts for all that Rob brought to our lives and honor him in our continued work for God's kingdom. I imagine now that Rob is part of that great cloud of witnesses, spoken of in Hebrews, cheering us all on in our race of salvation. Thank you Rob, and we will see you again. We love you.

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12: 1- 3*

*Thank you for giving to COC in the new year.*



**CONTACT PASTOR TIM MARSHICK to find out how you can contribute to this vital ministry.**

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