

A Word From the Publisher

Welcome 2022 and Happy New Year to you all! What a wonderful Christmas season we had. We enjoyed lots of family celebrations throughout December and were blessed with good weather for all of them. Now how many people love to live in Florida? We certainly cannot complain about our winter weather. God provided beautiful days and nights!

Last week, we took a week off from publishing. I was questioned a couple of times of where the paper was this week. This has been a tradition since the paper began. It not only gives us a down week to refresh our minds but also gives a break to our many faithful advertisers. I just want to again thank the many advertisers we have for their continued support of our paper. As for our readers, I encourage you to not only enjoy reading the paper but look at the many advertisers and use them. They are the only reason we can continue to do what we do. I'm so thankful for each and every one of them. All are extremely important. You may not need a particular service now but in two months you may. Please continue to support them and their businesses.

I am so blessed beyond what I deserve. I'm so thankful for a loving, merciful God that continues to reel me back in when I start thinking on my own. Does anyone else ever do that? Sometimes I think I've got it all together with a plan in mind. That's when God reminds me that He is in control, not me. Sometimes I think we all begin to 'think' a little too much when a New Year rolls around. I need to eat better; I should exercise; lose weight; join a gym; change my hair color, etc.

There are so many things that can fill your mind. The one most important thing we can do is do a check-up on our salvation. After all, that truly is all that matters. I've shared many times that publishing a newspaper can be time

consuming and stressful. I lose focus of what is really important. That's when I look up. God continues to be on His throne and He brings the calm back into my life. Oh my...in this head of mine, it's so easy to be distracted by this or that especially when I lay down to go to sleep. It seems my head begins thinking and planning and figuring... it's so aggravating. Roger says I get that from my dad! Recently, I've tried to find a solution. After about an hour of thinking (I hope to bring that down to about 20 minutes), I start praying and saying Bible verses. Amazing how that brings my calm. Thank you Jesus!

Roger made a sign for a special friend on a piece of cedar wood she purchased. She told him to keep the rest of the wood. He surprised me at Christmas with a sign he made for me that says, "Thank you Jesus." It is so pretty and smells so good. I didn't realize how much I say it until one of my granddaughters said it about something. You know just saying, Thank you Jesus, seems so simple. But when you really mean it from the heart it goes a lot further.

I had someone ask me (or really Roger), "What can we do as Americans in this world?" A wise pastor shared recently that we are in a spiritual war in this world. We have been for a long time. The best things we can do as Christian Americans is make sure your family and friends are saved. The next, put on the full armor of God. "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes," Ephesians 6:11. To learn the full armor of God read Ephesians 6:10-18. There's one thing that the devil despises: When God's people stand up for God! In 2022, let's suit up and be an Army of God Almighty! Stand strong!

Happy New Year!

Dawn S. West