

Full Gospel Fellowship

of Churches and Ministers International of Oregon, Inc.



A Newsletter of Faith, Fellowship & Vision

January 2012



PRESIDENT LEON WILLIS

A new year, a new day, a new start. What is new in your life without you first making a conscious decision to make it new?

It is easy to just 'carry on' and use the word 'new' without making any changes. It's easy to say a date makes things new, but in reality, it does not. To really make things new takes you, purposefully, taking a step closer to Christ and accepting the outcome of that Closer Fellowship with Him.

Looking ahead to 2012

By Leon Willis

Over the last three years the global economy, that has touched the lives of the majority of the 7 billion people that live on the planet, has been one of loss, despair and perplexity. The USA has not been an exception in avoiding this dreadful and painful scenario. The downturn has scared the landscape of almost every community within its borders. Passing through the cities of my state, Oregon, I see factories idle, vacant buildings galore, for sale signs on houses, the homeless standing on busy intersections, and food stamps being used instead of currency.

The unwillingness of our political leaders to make the tough choices to meet the challenge of halting spending borrowed dollars will propel these serious problems into 2012 and beyond. Having stated the dismal global economic situation, knowing how it affects families, I want to refer you to a passage of scripture relevant to the present time.

"I count all

things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...and may be found in Him...(and) that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings... in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (PHILIPPIANS 3).

"I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Knowing Christ superseded anything of value in Paul's past. (AND HE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL) Whatever his record of profit, promotion, or accomplishment in the past did not come close to his evaluation of having an intimate relationship with Jesus.

His mind was not dwelling on the past,

good or bad, but on the quest of knowing Jesus, the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. With Jesus at his side, walking in His power of life over death and sharing His struggle assured him of attaining the resurrection from the dead. Paul's goal was to experience in this life **resurrection life and power**. The word translated "resurrection" is preceded by "ek" or out of. The only place it is found this way in the Scriptures. The aim of Paul was to have an "out of" resurrection in this life, otherwise walking in total faith and power of the Holy Spirit. The value of this experience would nullify any negative circumstance in his future.

His "walking after the Spirit" was to lead him into the power of resurrection being manifested through his natural life. He clearly stated, "I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet." He had not arrived at his goal, demonstrating he was talking about a manifestation of resurrection in his

life before physical death, and not talking about a resurrection after a physical death. *"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you"* (Romans 8:11). The resurrection life of Jesus living within and by *"walking after the Spirit"* it (RESURRECTION LIFE) will manifest. In Jesus was life and this "zoe" or God's life is in the believer.

Paul was pressing toward this manifested resurrection life: *"And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall*

not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover" (MARK 16:17-18).

I am writing this



article to redirect believers from looking backward on their dismal trail of loss and despair, readjust their value system, and turn their eyes toward their future in Christ, wherein anything negative in the world's system cannot subtract from their reward reserved in heaven.

Does this quest

come easy? *"I press,"* Paul declares and *"completely forgetting"* the past as a Greek runner completely forgets

his opponents whom he is leading in the race. Just as a runner's speed is slackened should he think of those behind him, and the pounding of pursuing feet, he determinately looks ahead toward the finish line. *"Reaching forward"* or extending the hand with his stride as in a sprint toward the finish line.

2012 will be a

time of "pressing" through the maze of challenges, and not looking back as did Lot's wife, but forgetting the negatives of the past, and continue to believe in the mission that Jesus has given to the church, that is, preach the gospel unto all the world and make disciples of all the nations. I urge you not to be "whiners", but overcomers, and not become "impatient" with the journey as Israel was on their way to their land of promise.

We believers are being changed into the image of Christ so that we might shine in the pressure moments ahead.

Shalom (prosperity and peace) be upon you in 2012!

Leon Willis

FGF Annual Convention 2012

June 12th—15th

In Walker, Louisiana

Hosted by New Day Christian Centre

9841 Florida Blvd.

Walker, LA

Pastor Herman Holland

FAMILY

By LaTena Willis

There are two institutions which are not only ordained by God but were invented by Him—the Church and Marriage.

The church is a collection of families and the Church is blessed to the extent that the families in it are blessed!

Unity and oneness comes to the Church when unity and oneness comes to the homes.

When there is love, tolerance, patience, forgiveness, etc. in the home, there will be love, tolerance, patience, forgiveness in the church. It is not pleasant to be in homes that are out of order. If Satan can destroy God's plan for the home, he can destroy the Church. In our day we are seeing an all out assault on the family. It is coming from many different sources. We must be aware of these sources so we may wisely build a spiritual wall of protection around our families. We need to fortify our homes.

Our worth to God in public is what we are in private! In the privacy of our own

home, we must practice the word of God until it becomes a part of our very nature. He can turn our weaknesses into HIS opportunities. Habits are formed and we are changed as we practice the word of God!

Ephesians 5:15: *"So be careful how you act, these are difficult days. Don't be fools, be wise: make the most of every opportunity you have for doing good"* (Living Bible).

Ephesians 5:19-21: *"Talk with each other much about the Lord. Always give thanks for everything to our God and Father ...honor Christ by submitting to each other."*

God puts opposites together so we can complete or compliment each other and you can't be more opposite than MAN and WOMAN. I



think that in the beginning, when God made man, he was made in the image of God and since God has both male and

female attributes, He made Adam in that fashion. Eve was a part of Adam and when God put Adam to sleep, He took more than a rib out. He took out the female part and created Eve. Adam recognized



her as a part of himself. We are not only different physically, but emotionally and mentally. A woman does not even process information the same as a man. A man is known for his strength, determination, aggressiveness and focus. A woman is sensitive and has intuition and insight. She can do multiple things at the same time and change steps in mid-stride, whereas a man is usually focused on one thing at a time. It is so important that we learn to embrace and appreciate our differences! Apart, men and women are incomplete because we are designed to become one

unit. Ephesians 5:31.

Galatians 5:14-16: *"The whole law can be summed up in this one command: 'Love others as you love yourself.' But if instead of showing love among yourselves you are always critical and catty, watch out! Beware of ruining each other"* (Living Bible).

The Church is not reaching its potential because of FLESH. We are being controlled by feelings.

I do not have a problem with the "biggies"—lying, stealing, hatred, murder, lust, adultery, idol worship. It is the little things. Things that affect my feelings or my rights (being sure that no one takes advantage of me or my family)—criticism, jealousy, evil imagination, outburst of anger, moods, hurt feelings, egos, personality conflicts, pride!

Satan can not touch our spirits because when we are "born again", our spirits are united with God's Spirit, however, Satan can sure play havoc with our five senses, what we feel, see, hear. . . We →



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REMINDER

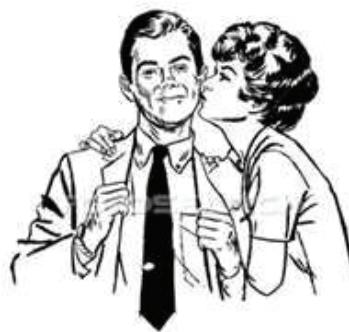
Don't Forget to work toward reaching your full potential in Jesus Christ today.

have been programmed to react to feelings! FLESH! Let's refuse to allow flesh/relationships to disqualify us from receiving God's best. Satan has used the "weakness of the flesh" to weaken the church and destroy homes and friendships.

As we begin to reach out to our spouses in understanding ways and appreciate and embrace our differences, a balance differences, a balance can be achieved in marriage. Then we can survive all the storms and stresses of family life. Nothing in the world can bring so much happiness and so much joy as a

good marriage!

"Whatever we ask we receive of Him because we keep His commandments and DO those things that are pleasing in His sight" (1st John 3:22). His commandments were not given to appease our feelings, our five senses....but to change us.



Husbands, you have been instructed to love your wives. Ephesians 5:25

Wives, we have been instructed to respect our husbands and to submit "as unto the Lord" Ephesians 5:22

We must forgive one another. Ephesians 4:32

Three types of love:

Phileo - friendship love.

Eros - sexual, physical, marriage love.

Agape - commitment love. This love is not based on feelings and takes us through the difficult times. This is God's kind of love. He died for us while we were sinners!

My prayer is that our homes and churches will be blessed!

Latena Willis

What's in a Word?

fel-low-ship (fel'ō ship') *n.* 1. the condition or relation of belonging to the same class or group. 2. friendly relationship; companionship; camaraderie; *the fellowship among old friends.* 3. community of interest, feeling, etc. 4. friendliness. 5. an association of persons having similar interests, occupations, enterprises, etc.

METOCHE (ueroxr'), partnership. Ps. 122:3 "Jerusalem is built as a city whose **fellowship** is complete."

WE ARE ON THE WEB
www.WorldWideFellowship.org



Have you Checked Out the FGF Website Lately?

www.WorldWideFellowship.org