



### Happy New Year!

2008 is GONE! A fresh new year is upon us. What shall we accomplish in the next 365 days, 52 weeks or 12 months. Probability is not more than we plan to. Real accomplishments are the result of directed intentions. Seldom do we accomplish more than we "intend" to accomplish. Intention lends itself to planning. Planning precedes actions and actions lead to accomplishments.

This reality is applicable to our spiritual growth as well as any other aspect of our lives. We must intend to grow in our faith, plan to grow in our faith, act in a way conducive to spiritual growth in order to experience real progress. Spiritual growth is more closely tied to our commitment than to happenstance. If we are committed to grow in our faith we will "plan" growth opportunities in our calendar, prioritize activities that lend themselves to our maturation and monitor those activities that sap away our strength and energy.

Without intention, planning and commitment growth will likely be minimum if not negative. Complacency is offensive to Almighty God because it robs God's children of their potential and opportunities to flourish into full fledged disciples of Christ.

What will 2009 hold for you? No more than you intend to accomplish. Make 2009 the year that you can look back on and state that you accomplished more than you thought you ever could because you 1) intended to grow, 2) planned to grow, 3) participated in growth activities and refused to allow lesser activities deprive you of sapping your strength and 4) remained dedicated to the Lord by accepting no limitations on whatever God brought into your life.

Christmas is over, a New Year has begun. Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Use it for HIS glory.

See you Sunday,

Bro. Randy

### UPWARD BASKETBALL/ PRAISE BAND FUNDRAISER

On Sunday, January 18, 2009, there will be an Upward Basketball/Praise Band Fundraiser. Dinners are \$7.00 each and include a bowl of gumbo, bread, dessert and can dine at the church. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer. For more information contact Mary Watkins or Jimmy Tolar. (Upward will donate a portion of funds to buy drums for the Praise Band)

### January Bible Study

Dr. Hawley is having surgery so the Winter Bible Study will not be conducted as scheduled. Watch for updates concerning this study.

### "Flip"

2009 Student Life Mission Camp  
June 27—July 1  
Lee University, Cleveland, TN.  
A \$50.00 deposit will be due by  
January 25, 2009.

Baptist Message

## THE ENCOURAGER

(Ebenezer— "the helping rock"; I Samuel 7:10-13)

Ebenezer Baptist Church  
211 Ebenezer Church Road  
Jonesboro, LA 71251  
Phone: 259-8889  
myebenezer.com

Bro. Randy Lee.....Pastor  
Tom Williams.. Min/ Music  
& Education

January 1, 2009



### SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009

- 9:30 a.m. Prayer Time
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:55 a.m. Morning Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Discipleship Training
- 5:00 p.m. AWANA
- 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Braise Band Practice

### MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009

- 5:30 p.m. Faith & Fitness

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2009

- 2:00 p.m. Young at Heart Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Young Women on Mission
- 6:00 p.m. PowerHouse for Youth
- 6:00 p.m. New Song Choir Practice
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Giant Slayers Club
- 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2009

- 9:30 p.m. Youth 5th Quarter

### VOLUNTEERS FOR 1-04-09 USHERS

Roby Surber Jimmy Walker  
David Brown Johnathan Self

### GREETERS

Delwyn Peters Jo Hicks  
Robert Moore James Chatham

NURSERY - Sharron Mosley  
EXTENDED CARE - Eileen Taylor

### MEASURING OUR MINISTRY

Week of 12-28-08

Sunday School	162
Morning Worship	217
Evening Worship	110
General Fund Offering	\$14,521.35
Building Fund	\$ 4,248.00

## January Schedule of Events-

Upward Basketball begins this month with practice on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. The first weekly game will be Saturday, January 17, 2009.

January 18 - 19, 2009 - True Love Waits Weekend

Acteens wrap gifts for  
needy families

### Tom's Tunes

Youth, a "True Love Waits" weekend will be coming up on January 18-19. We will start the study during Discipleship Training on Sunday night, then after the evening service, we will spend the night here at the church completing the five studies. Bring your sleeping bags and games with you and we will have a great time. We will finish up around noon on Monday. This is a long holiday weekend for the youth with Friday and Monday out of school.

Also, start getting ready for the 2009 Student Life Mission Camp at Lee University. In January, there will be \$50.00 deposit due. The cost of the camp will be \$290 plus white water rafting, one night in a hotel and the cost of food while traveling and while at camp for snacks. We will do fund-raising to help with the cost. The \$290 covers the cost of camp and transportation.

In January, we will be having 5th Quarters after Weston home games on Friday night. The 5th Quarters will be January 2nd, 9th and the 23rd. Come to the gym after the games are over and we will have some food and games for you and the praise band will be playing for some of them. Invite your friends to join you for a good place to hang out after the games.

The New Song Choir will resume practice on Wednesday, January 7th. I again want to thank you for the hard work you put in for Christmas and hope you enjoy the time off and come ready and refreshed. I am ordering some new music and looking at cantatas for next year. It will be a great time to join the choir as we start a new year!

Children, also stay tuned for more information about Children's camp. You may have a deposit due in January for your camp also. We are looking at a camp in Texas and one in Arkansas.

Brother Tom

