

# *Los Altos Church of Christ*

*"...being of the same mind, maintaining the same love,  
united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Philippians 2:2*

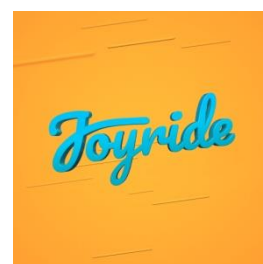
Volume XLIII, Issue 2

January 12, 2022

***Bringing Our Gifts To Jesus...*** This year we collected \$845 for the Albuquerque Christian Children's Home and Mountain States Christian Home!

## **This Sunday...Hope**

If you were putting together a resume of your life, what would you put on it? What honors have you received? What achievements are you most proud of? Paul felt his resume was a pretty impressive one. He even called himself a "Hebrew of Hebrews." Yet he says in Philippians 3:7, "But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ." What a powerful statement. Would you be willing to say the same?



**Wednesday Night Fellowship**...Dinner at Terrie's 6:30 and at 7:00 the video series, "Message of Hope" by Jeff Walling.

**PRAYERS** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

**Continue to pray** Allan Rogers...Jeff's mother...Patti... Jill's recovery...Jennifer and John... Judy McClure... Amber's step-father and sister...Lu... Peggy Spivey's back problems...Autumn and Brooke...Christine's mother... Berry... Barbara... Gwen and her son Caleb... City of Children... Healing Hands International... Japhet's work in Zimbabwe...and New Hope Uganda.

## **New Year's Resolutions start with Forgetting the Past By Steve Ridgell**

It is hard to move forward when you spend your time looking backward.

This is the time of year when people make New Year's resolutions. Most of these center on things we want to be better. So we resolve to stop doing certain things. And we resolve to start doing certain things. Almost every one of them is related to something we want to change.

So you start your resolution list by focusing on all the things you are not satisfied with. Looking the wrong direction.

Here is the first resolution. Let the past go.

Full disclosure: I stole this idea from the apostle Paul in Philippians 2. But it is really good advice.

I am Christian so that influences my thinking about everything. If you too are a Christian, your past is forgiven. It is as if it never happened. I know there are consequences to deal with, but forgiveness is real. Some of your resolutions may involve things that help you stay on a different road than the one you used to travel. That's fine, but do not dwell on where you have been.

If Satan cannot keep you living your past life, he will make you obsess over the consequences. He will try to get you to dwell on your previous sin. Don't let him.

Live the new you.

But some of you may be thinking that you don't really have a past to forget. You actually did pretty well last year. And if you keep looking back at what you did, it will be easy to stop doing in the future. Rest on your laurels as it were.

Satan will then get you to start thinking about why you may never again do what you did. So why even try? Bask in the glory of days gone by. That way you won't do anything going forward.

So let the past go.

If it was not what God wanted, then live your forgiveness going forward.

## **First Things First** **By Matthew West**

Recently, I interviewed Super Bowl champion and Hall of Fame quarterback, Kurt Warner on my podcast. In preparation for the interview, I went back and watched some highlights from his playing days and stumbled upon a post-game interview he gave immediately after winning the Super Bowl. I expected him to talk about his play on the field, or maybe shout something like "I'm going to Disney World!" But instead, with the whole world watching he shouted, "First things first, I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for his love and blessings in my life!"

The phrase "first things first," has been ringing in my ears as I've thought about ringing in another new year. And perhaps for good reason. We often make new year's resolutions about career or financial goals. We resolve to exercise more and eat less junk food. We make plans and dream dreams about the future we want to create for ourselves. And while those might be worthy pursuits that can better our lives, I'm feeling challenged to take care of first things first.

What if in the first weeks of 2022 we set out to focus on the truly essential firsts? The worst way to start a new year is to get ahead of ourselves or worse, get ahead of God. The Bible has clear instructions regarding who and what should always come first in our lives. Jesus said, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:33 NIV)."

I'm asking God to show me what it looks like to really seek *His* kingdom first, not my own. How can I keep Jesus first above all other pursuits, priorities, passions, or plans? Because the promise is that when we seek Him first, all the things we need "will be given" to us! It's time to take care of first things first!