



## NEWSLETTER

The voice of those who escaped from the iron curtain

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**Need Prayer? Call us at 530-520-2717**

Dear Partners,

Happy New Year 2021! We're excited and ready for everything that God has in store for this New Year! Our plans might have changed, but our vision hasn't. Our vision still remains this: to win more souls for the Kingdom of God, depopulating hell and populating heaven for His glory! Just because our plans were changed in 2020 doesn't mean that our goals and visions did. We want to encourage you as we begin this New Year to hold fast to the visions and dreams that the Lord has put in your heart and not be dismayed by everything going on around you. This is a time to be obedient to the Lord's instructions and more flexible than **ever** before if He asks us to do something differently than what we had in mind. It's a good idea to begin a New Year by writing down new goals and visions and reminding ourselves of the ones the Lord has placed in our hearts years ago. There is nothing wrong with taking some time to reevaluate our personal lives, businesses and Ministries but what happens most of the time is that people give up hope because sometimes things don't go according to our timeline. The enemy wants nothing more than to sidetrack and distract us from reaching and achieving our goals. We are all bombarded with one thing or another, and it's not always easy to stay focused. Nevertheless, we must give God permission to take over. How can we allow God to take full control? By constantly feeding on His Word and spending time in prayer with Him. This is what the Lord has been speaking to us as we enter into the New Year: to seek Him and His Word like never before.

We're definitely living in uncertain times. We receive phone calls from people all over the world who are wondering when this pandemic will end and when their lives will go back to normal. But for the believer, all the events taking place shouldn't surprise or catch us off guard because they are Biblical. Uncertainty, fear, hopelessness and discouragement are plaguing the world. As followers of Jesus, our hope is in Him. We are steadfast and sure because we know the end of the Book. When we set goals and write down our visions and dreams as the Lord instructs us, we are not to be distracted by what's going on around us or get discouraged. We "*press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called*" us in Christ (Phil. 3:14). How exactly do we press on? We feed our spirit with the Word of God **daily** and remain in constant communication with Jesus through the Holy Spirit (prayer).

It's easy to say that we should "feed our spirit" and spend time with the Lord, but putting it into practice is an entirely other thing. There's always something that comes up. You didn't wake up on time, you're too tired at the end of the night, there aren't enough hours in the day to make time for the Word or you just simply don't feel like it. Last week our grandkids started school again and in their morning Bible class they were reading a devotion about spending time with God in prayer. One thing led to another and there was a discussion about how hard it can be to make time for the Word and prayer. Our grandson, Ezekiel, flat out looked at his mom and said, "But sometimes I just don't feel like doing that. It's so boring." His honest answer is probably what many believers experience when their spirit is dry and depleted. This is a kid that loves to read the Word! He wanted a 365 day devotional for his birthday last year, and he enjoys reading the book of Revelation before bed at night! But the kids had a two week break from school and they hadn't been doing their daily devotions, so their spiritual life wasn't being fed daily.

This is a prime example of how we grow spiritually dry when we don't spend time in the Word and in prayer **daily**. We lose our desire to pray and our hunger for the Word isn't as strong anymore. When our spirit is drained, our goals, visions and resolutions seem unattainable. They may seem so far out of our reach that we start thinking, "*Did I really hear from the Lord? or I might as well give up now.*" The enemy won't stand by and remain silent, especially now in the times we're living in. He will bring thoughts of defeat in **every** area of our life. He'll try to take us down a road where he shows us everything in our life that is going the wrong direction. He'll manipulate us to believe that our loved one will never commit their life to the Lord or our hours at work will be cut or we'll lose our job. He'll tell us our business will never grow or we'll never achieve our goal of being out of debt.

The lies are never ending. We can easily fall into a lethargic state of mind and cease living in victory and, ultimately, in the calling God has on our lives. But be encouraged! God is for you! He is your Buckler and your Shield. **He is your very present help in times of trouble** (Psalm 46:1). So even though we're just one week into January, we're here to encourage you not give up hope or become discouraged as the year goes on. Just like our natural man needs to be fed with real food, our spirit man must be fed with bread (the Word) **every day**. When the enemy came to Jesus in the wilderness to taunt and tempt Him to turn stones into bread, Jesus responded back by saying, "It is written, '**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.**'" When we feed our spirit man daily, the natural man submits to the will of God in our lives so that we can accomplish everything we set our minds to do. **The spirit man must be fed more than the natural man so the spirit man can rise above (2 Corinthians 10:5).**

We want to encourage you this month because it's easy to become disappointed when our plans are canceled or our goals aren't met especially now when things are rapidly changing in this world. We, as a Ministry and family, could have easily been overcome with discouragement last year when all of our overseas travel plans were canceled. But God showed us *how* to use the resources that were in front of us the entire time for His glory. We listened to the still, small voice (1 Kings 19:12) and John started doing Facebook lives several times per week. From there, his Facebook audience grew exponentially, and countless people were saved and impacted through our Ministry. Besides Facebook Live, the international network INDTV opened up more air time for our television programs which increased our viewing exposure immensely. Many Orthodox Romanians were saved and are planning to be baptized in water this year! The year 2020 brought in one of the greatest harvest of souls that this Ministry has ever experienced! This all happened simply from our home and not traveling like we usually do. We give God all the glory for that in Jesus name! We will continue to follow our vision for our Ministry and in our lives by allowing God to guide our footsteps every step of the way. **A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps**, Proverbs 16:9. YOU are the reason we are able to continue this great work! Your support is so important in this Ministry and we are so honored to be part of this GREAT HARVEST *alongside* you. We are winning souls together *with* you!

We leave you with an encouraging testimony from one of our viewers from Europe. Over a year ago, a gentleman contacted our Ministry and asked John to pray for his father who was paralyzed. John asked this gentleman if his father was a believer and his response was, "no." John prayed in agreement with this man that his father would accept the Lord because his salvation is most important. On Christmas day 2020, this gentleman called us back to give us an update on his father. His father had a dream of Jesus with His arms wide open saying to him, "I have been waiting for you for such a long time with open arms to accept Me in your heart." His father was so moved by that dream that he immediately accepted Christ and was baptized in water shortly after! He has not been healed in his body yet, but his son tells us that his father is full of joy and peace every single day and is still believing God for his healing. We give God ALL the glory for his miraculous vision and this new soul that was transferred into this Kingdom of heaven!

Just like we mentioned earlier in this newsletter, don't be discouraged by what you see and hear around you. We encourage you to turn everything off and turn up your communication dial with the Lord, so you can hear His voice clearly. Do not allow your emotions to dictate your thoughts. Don't be moved by what your carnal eyes see and what your carnal ears hear. Keep your mind focused on Jesus and His Word and remember that our ultimate calling on this earth is to bring people to Jesus!

In His Service,

*John & Alexandra*