



**OAK GROVE BAPTIST
NEWSLETTER**

**Sponsored by the Women's Ministry
JANUARY 2012**

PASTOR'S CORNER

By Rev. Albert Downing

EXCEL IN 2012

Do you want to excel in every area of your life? The word excel means: to be superior, surpass in accomplishment or achievement, to be distinguishable by superiority, to surpass others. So, I ask you again, do you want to excel in every area of your life? If you do, God has a plan to help you rise higher and go further if you're willing to develop a spirit of excellence in all that you do. It has nothing to do with your background, status in society, your current situation nor your ethnicity.

There are many in the Bible that epitomizes how to excel, however I want to look at two that stand out in my mind. Then I want to talk about two not in the Bible.

The first is Daniel. Daniel went from slavery to a royal position; as a matter of fact he was placed over the whole realm. Why? Because, he had an excellent spirit. ¹It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; ²And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

³Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, **because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.** ⁴Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him." (Daniel 6:1-4 KJV).

Notice, Daniel wasn't a citizen of that country. But, because of his excellent spirit and the favor of God he was promoted over those who were citizens of the country. You have a slave ruling over princes and presidents.

The second person I want to look at is Joseph. Joseph rose from a pit, from being sold into slavery to be second in command. Joseph had the favor of God upon his life and it caused everything he did to prosper. ²And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. ³And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. ⁴And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. ⁵And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. ⁶And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured" (Genesis 39:2-6 KJV).

As a matter of fact he too was over the entire realm of Egypt. ⁴¹And Pharaoh said unto

Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt” (Genesis 41:41).

The third person I want to mention is **YOU**. This is your year to excel. If you want to excel this year refuse to compromise your loyalty or to yield to temptations. Temptations will come, but you can overcome them by being faithful to your word and commitment. Meditate on God’s word and allow it to have first place in your life. Develop a time of prayer to Him and a time of waiting on Him. The only thing Daniel’s accusers could condemn him on was his devotion to prayer.

The fourth person I want to mention is **US** at **OGBC**. We at OGBC are and will commit to having an excellent spirit. As we look back over the year. We have witness God’s miraculous power in our services. We have seen the manifestation of the healings, promotions, increases and so much more. But, this is our year to really excel as never before. Let’s get excited about what the Lord is going to do this year. Let’s develop and excellent spirit and do everything in excellence. Make up in your mind, no matter what, you’re going to and we’re going to EXCEL in 2012!!

Let the Lord take you Higher and farther than you ever thought or imagined.

Read Genesis Chapters 39-45 and Daniel chapter 6 for a better understanding of this newsletter.

Be Bless

Dr. A. L. Downing

HAPPY NEW YEAR



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 5th Quarterly Church Meeting
7:30 P.M.

January 7th- Women’s Ministry
Meeting_10:00 A.M.

January 7th-Christian Education
Workshop at Benedict 9:00 A.M.

January 8- Pastor’s Aide Anniversary

January 13th- Joy Night Service
7:30 P.M.

January 29th – BTU 3:00 P.M.

RESOLVE TO:

Before the week is over someone will ask you what is your New Year’s resolution. Normally people resolve and then they unresoloved. New Year is a good time to begin some new habits. Let’s resolve to put God first in everything. Let’s resolve to eat healthy and exercise. (You are never too young or too old to exercise.)



January

Birthdays

Demetric Gray	
Brother Carl Dean	1
Sister Latoyer Thomas	1
Brother John Ervin	3
Sister Morgan Howard	4
Sister Lola Bannister	5
Sister Cheryl Woods	7
Sister Nycole Adams	8
Brother Marion Houston	8
Brother Stepphon Jacobs	11
Deacon Roosevelt Blanding	12
Brother Kentrell Samuel	12
Sister Zeathia Strong	13
Sister Lillie Joseph	14
Sister Karen Hildebrand	15
Brother John D. Hayes	16
Sister Laura Smith	16
Sister Rashandra Hayes	21
Brother Frank Gibbs Jr.	26
Sister Frances Miller	26
Sister Evelyn Jones	27
Sister Rebecca Goodwin	28
Brother Isaac Jacobs	28
Minister Louise Custard	29
Sister Katrina Dreher	31
Sister Edna Davis	31

Congratulations to those couples celebrating wedding anniversaries in January.

TO OUR YOUTH

Half of the school year is over. If you didn't do so well the first half, you have an opportunity to do better this second half.

If you did good the first half keep it up. Encourage others around you to try harder.

“And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

“**Remember ye not the former things,** neither consider the things of old. **Behold, I will do a new thing;** now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19

“Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.” Isaiah 42:9

As we begin another year there are some things we need to leave in 2011. We need to leave hurt feelings that led to unforgiveness. We need to leave doubt and fear of the future. Anything that caused us to stumble at the word of God we need to leave in 2011. We need to leave any negative thing in 2011. God said remember not the things of the pass. God has promised to begun a new thing. Start 2012 looking forward to new things, leave the past in the past. Don't think on those things that troubled you in 2011.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Bible Study and Sunday school is for everyone. Come join us at 7:15 pm on Wednesdays and 8:45 am on Sundays.

Classes are as follows:

Kindergarten- ages 2-5

Primary – ages 6-9

Junior – ages 10-12

Teen- ages 13-18

Adult ages 19 and above

If there is enough interest we will add a young adult class (ages 19-30) See Rev. Ball if you would like to attend a young adult class.

We also need additional teachers for all classes. If teaching is your gift and desire see Rev. Ball. There will also be classes to help you refine your teaching gift.

BOOK REVIEW

I want to introduce you to two new books. The first one is a fiction novel written by Serita Jakes. The book is titled “**The Crossing**”. I begin reading it the first part of December, but because of work only read about three chapters. I started reading it again Christmas night by the afternoon of the next day I had read thirteen chapters and completed the book. It is an easy read and the story line is really good. The book is basically about how a tragedy that happened ten years before is still affecting the lives of those involved.

The second book is by Billy Graham. The book is titled, “**Nearing Home**”. In this

book the man of faith—now in his nineties – explore the challenges of aging while gleaning foundational truths for Scripture. Billy Graham invites us to journey with him as he considers the golden years while anticipating the hope of being reunited with his wife, Ruth, in his heavenly home that eclipse this world.

Crown Financial Ministry

This letter is a reprint from last month.

Last week we finished up with our 10 week Crown Financial Bible Study. We had a great time with the class and enjoyed everyone’s participation in the bible study. We had a total of 8 participants and have seen each one grow so much during this study. Each week we received praise reports from prayer requests that were given. The Crown class helps participants really see what God’s word says about finances. The class is about accountability to God and putting God first in every situation. If anyone has questions about why we tithe, give, invest, and work you will get your answers by attending the Crown class. We look forward for the next crown participants in 2012.

By Dolores Ridgell

There is a new class beginning in January, if you have not signed up yet see Brother or Sister Ridgell.