

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR NEW YEAR?

Do you get tired of all the cutesy New Year's resolutions articles, and all of the "2019 in Review" programs that bombard us at this time of year? I do! They are mostly shallow and useless,



time- and space-fillers and little more. And to add to that, they are put forth by purveyors of fake news and fake culture, who are the last people we should trust for ANYthing.

So what should we make of our New Year? Certainly we have 365 days, oops, 366 days labelled "2020" (it's a Leap Year), empty shells waiting to be filled with – what? Will we rock along with our heads down, paying attention only to our daily activities, some frivolous and some dealing with life and death issues, calling our own shots and attempting to run our own lives best we can in our varying circumstances?

Do we live for that next weekend of camping and racing around in the desert, or for the next big game on TV, or for the grandkids, because there's a new one on the way, and oh, well, so what if the father is a different baby-daddy than the brothers and sisters? Are we sunk in alcohol and/or drugs so that life is literally nothing more than a blur?

For this New Year, how about looking up instead of down? How about giving up your grip on the steering wheel of your life and turning it over to the only One who knows how to drive?

How about facing the mess this world is in, or the battle for the soul of this country that is trying to push us all to spit in God's face, or the realities of your personal life? How about contemplating your own ultimate end? Where will you be when this painful chapter of your life ends? Yes, it's only a chapter. There is more in store. Where will you be when that "more" happens?

Several months ago, near the beginning of summer (2019), I received a letter from a local LV resident asking if he, his family, and another couple could get together with Bill, Jan, Debbie, and me, to ask God for revival of His Spirit in Lucerne Valley and beyond. We were somewhat

skeptical, since we too have a comfort zone that we don't want messed with. We like to ask God to do His will, while hoping that it doesn't disturb our routines too much. (Talk about games we play! Even with our Father, Creator of the Universe!)

None of us knew what to expect, and none of us knew each other, but we decided to meet together once a week and ask God for revival. Then we started meeting twice a week, to get to know each other better and because it seemed God was pushing us together despite differences in background and practice. But you know what? The differences faded into insignificance, and the common Holy Spirit bound us together into a close warmth and shared desire for our Father to do WHATEVER is on His agenda and use us as He desires. It's been an amazing experience, especially for someone like me who can hide in (self) righteousness, rocking along in my life, trying to be on a God-track, not a worldly-track.

At the same time, God introduced to us the (internet streaming) drama series called "The Chosen", which I described in this space a short time ago. It's based on the gospel stories of the Bible, but focuses on those around Jesus, how they related to Him, and what their personal lives might have been like. The impact has been huge. All of us in our new "family" are tremendously excited and



enlivened by it, wanting to share it as much as possible with any and all, as we have the resources.

"The Chosen" brings the story and person of Jesus of Nazareth to life like nothing I have ever read or seen before. All my life I have complained to God that I really had little feel for who Jesus is. Yes, you read about Him in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, but with all of the distortions of churchianity over 2000 years, what comes through is a cardboard cutout or a stick figure. I LOVE "The Chosen", because it has broken through that barrier for me. I am excited about who Jesus was and what He came to do and how important it is that we surrender to His call to follow Him and thus save our lives for eternity.

Two sub-messages from "The Chosen" are particularly meaningful. First, "Get used to different", says Jesus to His followers, as they gape and gawk at His miracles, His messages, and His upside-down approach. He is not a trained rabbi or officer of the synagogue. He picks His followers, not the other, more conventional approach where a disciple picks the teacher he wants to learn from. "The Chosen" itself is different: distributed by social media, streaming video, and DVD's, and funded by those of us who buy their episodes and contribute to their effort, completely independent of movie-making industry. Yay!!!

The second is their slogan "Against the Current", expressed in one of the logos, which shows a school of fish all swimming the same direction in a circle. But amongst them are a few blue-colored fish swimming the opposite direction, against the current that is sweeping all of the other fish along.

Wow! That is how we who follow God in the hope of spending eternal life with Him must be on this earth: Different!! Against the Current!! Unconventional! Out of step with this broken world, thank God! Headed in the op-



posite direction from the stream of humanity heading toward the falls and destruction!

So back to you and your life: will you continue on in your comfortable rut, painful or difficult as it may be, or will you be "Different", swim "Against the Current", and follow God wherever He takes you, knowing that joining the ranks of His Chosen now will ultimately save you from the falls and bring you into His House to live with Him eternally?

Will you allow Him to revive your spirit, receive His Holy Spirit, and turn your life upside down? How's that for a New Year's resolution?

Linda Grimmel

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living.

Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck – the bartender was almost crushed to death.

SERVICES AT CROSSROADS CENTER

LUCERNE VALLEY MARKET & HARDWARE 248-7311

WASH N SHOP COIN LAUNDRY 248-7311

FIRST FOUNDATION BANK 248-2717

DR. ASHOK MELVANI M.D. 248-1070

ECHO RECYCLING 760-617-5404

AT THE SERVICE COUNTER In the store

• COPIES • FAX SERVICE
• PACKAGE EXPRESS – UPS only
• PAYMENT STATION SCE, Frontier & Verizon

PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY 242-4900

Rancho Drugs – Tues. 11AM, **Wed. & Fri. 2PM**

ST. MARY HEALTH VAN 760-946-4240

Every Tuesday except December
8:30AM - 3:30PM in our parking lot.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

TUES. JANUARY 7, 5 PM.
at the Senior Center

- Local Census rep. Cherde Crane will explain how to set up the (required) Lucerne Valley "Complete Count Committee" and the benefits of a full count for federal funding (getting our tax dollars back).*
- Discussion with Bill Lembright on The County's approval of the massive Daggett Solar project and how it relates to pending hearings on our industrial scale solar projects.
- Update on our "Disaster" planning and facility sheltering.
- LVEDA's priorities for 2020.
- Animal (cats, etc.) hoarding and rescue issues in town.

L.V. School Board Meeting

Thursday, January 9, starts at 5:30PM.
At the Alternative Education Center,
8560 Alianto Rd up Highway 18.

* "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help."
Yeah, right. --LG

Congratulations to the winners of our Christmas Drawings

- Sherry Elwood -- Schwinn Meridian
- Lisa Varela -- Schwinn Mountain Bike both from Lucerne Valley

LIMITS & MULTIPLE PRICING

Please, unless otherwise indicated, ON AD ITEMS NO MORE THAN 6 TOTAL (including all flavors or varieties) OF ANY ITEM, PER FAMILY, DURING THE AD PERIOD, AT THE SALE PRICE, except in produce and meat, which are limited to normal retail quantities, or which carry limits specifically stated. Sorry, we must reserve the right to further limit or refuse sales.

ON MULTIPLE PRICING, when purchasing items in quantities more or less than the multiple stated, the register is built automatically to charge the "each" price times the quantity. (Example: Price of item is 3/\$1. The price of: one = 34¢, two = 68¢, three = \$1, four = \$1.34, five = \$1.68, six = \$2.00).

ECHO RECYCLING

760-617-5404
On the Northeast side of the parking lot.
Open Mon. - Sat. 9AM - 4PM
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1PM.
Closed Sunday

Aluminum CRV **\$1.70/lb**

#1 Plastic CRV **\$1.29/lb**

Pricing good thru January 8, 2020