



Happy Birthday!

January Birthdays

Tony Clark - Jan. 28



# FOLLOW

Some of our youth group got to attend the Follow '12 Wesleyan Conference in Louisville, Kentucky (December 27-December 31). We enjoyed praising God and learning about to grow closer in our walk with Christ. The main theme of the conference was becoming a follower of Christ. We traveled eight hours on the church van, weathered snow, enjoyed music by various Christian artists, played cards, listened to our Ipods, and learned just how "old school" the youth leaders really are! ☺

Overall, we came back being renewed in our walk with Christ. A New Year's resolution for our youth group is to start or continue our walk with Christ. Our goal is to become close FOLLOWERS of Jesus!!

## Challenge for the month of January:

Invite three friends to youth during this month.

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## Follow Up Initiative

During the conference, we received something called the "Follow Up Initiative." This is a challenge that our youth group needs to complete over the year as a way to FOLLOW Christ and serve the community. The youth members that attended the conference chose the following activities. We will be working to complete these activities before the end of the year.

1. Complete 5+ hours of volunteer work at your church
2. Go on a missions trip
3. Raise \$4,500 to help with the anti-trafficking movement

As a youth group, you will have to decide how you want to raise money for these activities. You will have to work together to complete these tasks!! We will get the church on board!! Go ahead and start praying for God to have his hand in our work towards meeting these goals! We have a lot of work ahead of us, but with God: ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!!!





## Looking Back at 2012

By: Paul Asay

### What Happened:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. So said Charles Dickens in his book *A Tale of Two Cities*, but he might've been just as well referring to the year 2012.

The world saw the best athletes in the world compete in London during the 2012 Olympics, which saw American swimmer Michael Phelps become the most decorated athlete of all time. Democrats were excited to see President Barack Obama elected for a second term.

However, the nation suffered more than its share of tragedy. Hurricane Sandy ravaged the east coast of the United States, and we all mourned the horrific killings that took place in Aurora, Colo., and Newtown, Connecticut.

In a *USA Today* poll, the biggest stories of the year were:

1. Mass Shootings
2. U.S. Election
3. Superstorm Sandy
4. Obamacare
5. Libya
6. The Scandal at Penn State
7. U.S. Economy
8. Fiscal Cliff
9. Gay Marriage
10. Syria

While these national stories were important to many of us, they probably weren't nearly as important as what happened in our own lives, and those of our own families and friends. The stuff we experienced—whether who we met, where we went, what we lost or what we found—had the power to rock our worlds to their very foundations.

### Talk About It:

Nationally, what was the story that impacted you the most? Was it the shooting in Newtown? The Olympics? Were you personally impacted by Hurricane Sandy? Who were you hoping would win the election? Do you think the world will change because of what happened this year? How?

What was the most important event to take place this year for you? What made it special? What was the best thing to happen to you this year? What was the hardest thing you had to experience? Do you think something this year has changed *you*? How?

Was 2012 a pretty good year for you; or was it, overall, a year you'd rather forget? Why? What made it good or bad? What do you hope will be coming your way in 2013?

Were there times in 2012 when you felt the presence of God? Was He there during a particularly rough time? Was He behind something really cool that happened? Did you ever feel God was with you?

### What the Bible Says:

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" ([Rom. 8:38-39](#)).

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" ([Josh 1:9](#)).

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*"Was 2012 a pretty good year for you, or one year you'd rather forget?"*



## I Resolve...

By: Paul Asay



### What Happened:

It's a new year now, which for many Americans means a lot more than buying a new calendar. Many of us decide to turn over a new leaf at the turn of the New Year, promising ourselves that we're going to be healthier, kinder, slimmer. Yes, it's time for the infamous New Year's resolution.

According to the *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, about 62 percent of Americans usually or sometimes make New Year's resolutions. The most popular resolution? To lose weight. Getting organized was second, while becoming more fiscally responsible was third. Helping others? That ambition was way down the list.

Sadly, only 8 percent of people were successful in any given year in achieving their resolutions—perhaps because resolutions are, by their very nature, individual goals: Not everyone gets a lot of moral support to follow through.

On the flip side, those who make specific resolutions are 10 times more likely to change their lives in a significant way than those that don't. There's something about publicly resolving to do something that increases your odds of success.

### Talk About It:

Have you ever made any New Year's resolutions? What were they? How did it work out for you? Have you known anyone else—family or friends—who have done so?

If you were to make a resolution this year, what would you resolve to do?

Exercise more? Study more? Spend more time with family or friends? Get more involved with your church or community?

Have you ever thought about making a resolution with a group of friends? Your youth group? If you resolved with your friends to make a difference somehow—feeding the homeless, picking up trash, petitioning for a worthy cause—do you think you could make a real impact in your community?

If you were to make such a resolution, what would you do? Is there something your church desperately needs? Your school? Your neighborhood? Can you think of a creative way to help? What would be your goals? What would be your first step?

### What the Bible Says:

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" ([Rom. 12:12-13](#)).

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy" ([Prov. 31:8-9](#)).

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" ([Luke 6:38](#)).

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*"Only 8 percent of people were successful in a given year in achieving their resolutions."*

## Make a New Year's Resolution to Help Someone Else

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FOLLOW OUR YOUTH  
GROUP ON TWITTER!!

@LIVEITFORJESUS

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.hollyhillwesleyanchurch.com](http://www.hollyhillwesleyanchurch.com)

## NEW YEAR CHALLENGE

Some of you may have already made your New Year's resolutions, and some of you may not know what you want to change/commit to do. I challenge each of you to try to complete one or all of the following resolutions to help you to FOLLOW Jesus in your everyday life!!

1. Read through your Bible in one year (see reading plan for January below)
2. Pray for someone other than yourself EVERYDAY!
3. Talk to at least 10 friends about your walk with Christ/invite them to church
4. Pledge to do something for someone else (at least once a week)
5. Find a prayer partner to pray with for at least 30 minutes each week

### January Reading Plan

Jan. 1: Genesis 1:1-2:25, Matthew 1:1-2:12, Psalm 1:1-6, Proverbs 1:1-6	Jan. 2: Genesis 3:1-4:26, Matthew 2:13-3:6, Psalm 2:1-12, Proverbs 1:7-9
Jan. 3: Genesis 5:1-7:24, Matthew 3:7-4:11, Psalm 3:1-8, Proverbs 1:10-19	Jan. 4: Genesis 8:1-10:32, Matthew 4:12-25, Psalm 4:1-8, Proverbs 1:20-23
Jan. 5: Genesis 11:1-13:4, Matthew 5:1-12, Psalm 5:1-12, Proverbs 1:24-28	Jan. 6: Genesis 13:5-15:21, Matthew 5:27-48, Psalm 6:1-10, Proverbs 1:29-33
Jan. 7: Genesis 16:1-18:15, Matthew 6:1-24, Psalm 7:1-17, Proverbs 2:1-5	Jan. 8: Genesis 18:16-19:38, Matthew 6:25-7:14, Psalm 8:1-9, Proverbs 2:6-15
Jan. 9: Genesis 20:1-22:24, Matthew 7:15-29, Psalm 9:1-12, Proverbs 2:16-22	Jan. 10: Genesis 23:1-24:51, Matthew 8:1-17, Psalm 9:13-20, Proverbs 3:1-6
Jan. 11: Genesis 24:52-26:16, Matthew 8:18-34, Psalm 10:1-15, Proverbs 3:7-8	Jan. 12: Genesis 26:17-27:46, Matthew 9:1-17, Psalm 10:16-18, Proverbs 3:9-10
Jan. 13: Genesis 28:1-29:35, Matthew 9:18-38, Psalm 11:1-7, Proverbs 3:11-12	Jan. 14: Genesis 30:1-31:16, Matthew 10:1-23, Psalm 12:1-8, Proverbs 3:13-15
Jan. 15: Genesis 31:17-32:12, Matthew 10:24-11:6, Psalm 13:1-6, Proverbs 3:16-18	Jan. 16: Genesis 32:13-34:31, Matthew 11:7-30, Psalm 14:1-7, Proverbs 3:19-20
Jan. 17: Genesis 35:1-36:43, Matthew 12:1-21, Psalm 15:1-5, Proverbs 3:21-26	Jan. 18: Genesis 37:1-38:30, Matthew 12:22-45, Psalm 16:1-11, Proverbs 3:27-32
Jan. 19: Genesis 39:1-41:16, Matthew 12:46-13:23, Psalm 17:1-15, Proverbs 3:33-35	Jan. 20: Genesis 41:17-42:17, Matthew 13:24-46, Psalm 18:1-15, Proverbs 4:1-6
Jan. 21: Genesis 42:18-43:34, Matthew 13:47-14:12, Psalm 18:16-36, Proverbs 4:7-10	Jan. 22: Genesis 44:1-45:28, Matthew 14:13-36, Psalm 18:37-50, Proverbs 4:11-13
Jan. 23: Genesis 46:1-47:31, Matthew 15:1-28, Psalm 19:1-14, Proverbs 4:14-10	Jan. 24: Genesis 48:1-49:33, Matthew 15:29-16:12, Psalm 20:1-9, Proverbs 4:20-2
Jan. 25: Genesis 50:1-Ex.2:10, Matt. 16:13-17:9, Psalm 21:1-13, Proverbs 5:1-6	Jan. 26: Exodus 2:11-3:22, Matthew 17:10-27, Psalm 22:1-18, Proverbs 5:7-14
Jan. 27: Exodus 4:1-5:21, Matthew 18:1-20, Psalm 22:19-31, Proverbs 5:15-21	Jan. 28: Exodus 5:22-7:25, Matthew 18:21-19:12, Psalm 23:1-6, Proverbs 5:22-23
Jan. 29: Exodus 8:1-9:35, Matthew 19:13-30, Psalm 24:1-10, Proverbs 6:1-5	Jan. 30: Exodus 10:1-12:13, Matthew 20:1-28, Psalm 25:1-15, Proverbs 6:6-11
Jan. 31: Exodus 12:14-13:16, Matthew 20:29-21:22, Psalm 25:16-22, Proverbs 6:12-15	

Whoever claims  
to **live** in **Him**  
must  
**walk**  
as **Jesus** did.

1 John 2:6

### January Schedule

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| January 2  | - Soul Surfer- "Searching for Something Bigger"  |
| January 9  | - Soul Surfer- "Searching for Something Bigger"  |
| January 16 | - Soul Surfer- "Trusting God in the Impact Zone" |
| January 23 | - Soul Surfer- "Trusting God in the Impact Zone" |
| January 30 | - Soul Surfer- "Getting Back in the Water"       |

### February Schedule

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|-------------|---|
| February 6  | - Soul Surfer- "Getting Back in the Water"      |
| February 13 | - True Love Waits                               |
| February 20 | - Soul Surfer- "Catching the Ride of Your Life" |
| February 27 | - Soul Surfer- "Catching the Ride of Your Life" |