

The Communicator

January-February 2011



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What will 2011 hold for you and your family? Will it hold blessings and joyful times, or will it bring more difficult and painful memories? I tend to be an optimist, so I always anticipate the blessings a new year will bring. But, as we all know, an optimistic outlook doesn't guarantee that it will become a reality. We cannot know – or control what the next year will bring us, but we can control how we respond to life's twists and turns, and we can control our own actions in the New Year.

However, I can tell you what I intend to do this year. These things are not New Year resolutions, but they are things I am already working on and I intend to continue keeping these things as a focus in my life. The first grouping is focused on my family. Kim and I have been married 21 years, and God has blessed our marriage in many ways. I'm more intentional than ever about spending time with her, building her up and encouraging her, and spending time praying with her. The other focus on the home front is our kids. Brian is 14; Jessica turns 12 in February. As many of you know, life with a teenager and a 'soon-to-be' teenager can be "interesting," and very challenging – and very humbling. But, it can also be full of joy, good times, and significant growth in all areas of life (*physical, emotional, spiritual*). Two books that have influenced me in this area are "Wild at Heart" and "Modern Day Knight." 2011 will be a significant year in our home as it relates to my job as a father – and I pray that God will bless my efforts here.

The second grouping has to do with CDOBC. I am so thankful for the rich spiritual heritage and the devotion to God's grace and truth our church has. These things are not the experience of many churches, so we need to be thankful to God for the blessing we have inherited, and also realize the responsibility we have to continue in like manner. As your pastor, I will continue to read and study God's Word so that I can preach and teach what it says with accuracy and passion each Sunday. We will continue to develop ministry that touches Oro Valley where it hurts the most – with our Grief Support and Step-Family ministries. In addition to these ministries, I will be encouraging you to be more intentional about sharing your faith with people

in your life – people within your circle of influence. In each newsletter this year, I will be encouraging and helping you to make this a regular part of your life.

So, what will 2011 hold for you and your family? I pray it will hold many blessings and joyful experiences. But no matter what this year brings, I pray you will be faithful to God and remain confident in His goodness, love, and truth. If you do that, then it will indeed be a great year!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Steve

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS:

Director: Jerry Drobinski (jjdski@aol.com)

Men Under Construction for Christ (MUCC): All men are invited to join us for fellowship and study in the Book of Jeremiah every Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. in room 2. For more information, contact John Durako at 419-0535 or muc4c@msn.com.

Men's Breakfast: Come the second Saturday of each month at 7:00 a.m. (doors open at 6:45 a.m.) for a free delicious breakfast, fellowship and Bible study—"*Living with Confidence in a Chaotic World.*"

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS:

Director: Kim Berko (kim.f.berko@gmail.com)

We are excited to announce that there will be some new opportunities for the women of CDOBC! We hope to launch the following 5 different areas of ministry during the new year:

1. **Social:** planning parties/get-togethers for fellowship
2. **Outreach:** organizing ways for women to serve the community
3. **Service:** helping meet the needs of people in our church body
4. **Single Moms:** helping support single moms
5. **Mentoring:** connecting those who are older in the faith with those who desire to grow in their relationship with the Lord.

We would love to see the women in our church grow in their relationships with one another and with the Lord. For more information, visit CDOBC's website: [www.cdobaptist.org/women's ministry](http://www.cdobaptist.org/women's_ministry), or, contact Kim Berko (see above).

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Join the ladies at 9:45-11:00 a.m. for prayer, fellowship and a study in Genesis, chapters 1-11, "*Before Abraham,*" a John MacArthur study on creation, sin and the nature of God taught by Beth Kolbuss (818-1297) beginning January 11th for 12 weeks. Cost: \$9.00 for workbook.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: You believe in God but do you *believe God*? All ladies are invited to join us in studying "*Believing God*" by Beth Moore. We will begin on January 11th from 6-8 p.m. for 10 weeks. Led by Debbie Randels (297-3900). Cost: \$15 for workbook. Childcare will be available.

Church Calendar

To view the church calendar, visit www.cdobaptist.org, then click on [events](#) and follow to calendar.

CDOBC Lay Leadership

Elders

Lew Backer
Ken Cottrell
Kyle DeFoor
Corey Edmond
Dale Haralson
Tim Knodel
Russ Tronstad

Deacons

George Ballesteros
Noel Delgado
Tony Greco
Lou Hall
Donald Horton
Kyle Randels
Tom Trappman
Bill Updike
Brian Wilson

Deaconesses

Sheryl Cottrell
Meghan Davidson
Tonya Haynes
Shirley Horner
Beth Kolbuss
Beth Silveira
Leona Williams
Debra Wylie

By Pastor Joseph Berko

It's that time of the year. Time to "close the books" on 2010 and to look ahead to a new year. I've been bitten by the New Year resolution bug recently, and have already spent some time thinking through my personal, family, and work life. Some of my goals for this next year include eating healthier, becoming a better listener to my wife Kim, and getting up at the same time every morning to read my Bible and pray. Lately, God has been impressing on me the need to be "filled" with His Word. As Christians, we *all* need to be reading our Bibles in order to get to know who God is, and how He wants us to live. This is our "life blood" and without it our faith will be weak. This month, I challenge myself as well as you to evaluate how God would say we are doing in this area, and what adjustments can be made for this next year.

We live in a society where information is widely available, and we can easily (and usually instantly) get an "expert" opinion on anything from making an omelet, to raising a child, to building an addition on our house. One of my favorite experts is "Cesar the Dog Whisperer." In spite of his goofy nickname, his book was #1 on the New York Times bestsellers list and on Amazon.com the average rating from 776 customers is 4 out of 5 stars. Why *wouldn't* you trust a guy like that to tell you how to train your dog? It's easy for us to accept the authority of such an expert and to seek out their opinion because they have a proven track record, and a wide following. But here is a humbling question: How quick are we to turn to God's Word when we need an answer to something? Does He quickly pop into our minds as the go-to authority when we have questions? We have all likely heard this familiar verse: "All Scripture is inspired by God..." But isn't it easy to quickly breeze past that opening phrase, and to miss the point that "God's Word" is God's Word? This is the first reason we must read God's Word--because it was written by God. He is, after all, the Creator of the universe, the Maker of life, and the Author of time (and those are just a couple of His titles). The big question here is not why we would read the Bible, but rather why *wouldn't* we read the Bible! Because God is truly all-knowing, all-present, all-powerful, and He has spoken to us, we need to know what He has said.

The fact that God Almighty wrote the Bible should alone be enough motivation to read it, but in our humanity, we subconsciously wonder, "What's in it for me?" We are self-motivated creatures, and in our fall-*enness*, it can be hard to stay motivated as we battle pride in our hearts. I recently bought a gas grill that came completely unassembled. When I pulled the 300 pieces out of the box I had 2 choices: 1) I follow the instructions provided, or 2) I rely on my superior male instincts and powers of deduction. Not reading God's Word is similar to not reading the instructions of how to assemble the grill, but it is also much more serious. To not read His Guide is to essentially say "I can figure life out by myself, and I don't need any direction." That's called pride. We read God's Word, because "it is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right (2 Tim. 3:16)." God not only is the ultimate "expert" and the One whom we should seek out first, but He has also given us a guide by which we can know truth and how to live.

We should read God's Word first, because of it's Divine Authorship, second, because it is God's guide for our life, and finally because it is the tool by which God works through us. 2 Timothy 3:17 says this: "God uses it (His Word) to prepare and equip His people to do every good work." God's Word should be the basis for everything that we do. If you want to be used by God, you have to be in His Word. It's that simple.

Over the years, I have learned that I need an uncomplicated and concrete plan by which to accomplish a resolution. Take for example my desire to eat healthier this coming year. For that to happen, I knew I would need to be more specific, and came up with 2 ways that I could accomplish that goal--limiting my soda consumption to once a week, and not eating candy. This coming year, there is an opportunity for our church to come together and read through the entire Bible in a year. If God has spoken to you, and you know that you need to get more consistent with the time you spend in His Word, committing to this reading plan is an important step that you can take towards meeting that goal. Be forewarned--this will not be easy. There will be times you do not feel close to God, and will be uninspired to read His Word. There will be other times when business, and the cares of this world threaten to crowd out your daily time with God. But take encouragement from Paul, who said this in 1 Corinthians 9:27: "I discipline my body and make it my slave so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."

The Edge

Be Holy

By Scott Nichols

The word *holy* gets tossed around quite frequently in church circles and even in non-church circles. It is used to describe an attribute or perfection of God. It's used to describe the behavioral patterns that believers are to conform to. It's even used (and probably most frequently) as a condescending remark, "Stop acting so *holier* than thou...," when people are told to stop acting in a self-righteous manor. To truly understand what *holy* and *holiness* means to us as Christians, we have to start at the source of *holiness*...*God*.

Many verses in the Bible describe God as being a *holy* God. Joshua 24:19 states, "Then Joshua warned the people, 'You are not able to serve the LORD, for He is a *holy* and jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins.'" I Peter 1:15 states, "But now you must be *holy* in everything you do, just as God Who chose you is *holy*." Finally, Leviticus 11:44 says, "For I AM the LORD your God. You must consecrate yourselves and be *holy*, because I AM *holy*." *Holiness* has the meaning that not only God is separate from all that is unclean and evil, but also, the He is positively pure, and thus, is distinct from all others. A helpful analogy to understand this concept is: What does it mean to be healthy? It is the absence of illness, but also, you body working as it was designed to do. The very nature and being of God is *holy*. The *holiness* of God means that sinners have to be separated from Him unless a way can be found to constitute them *holy*. That way has been provided by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. If you want to learn more about the *holiness* of God, a helpful resource is R.C. Sproul's, The Holiness of God.

Notice though, in these verses that talk about the *holiness* of God, that it just doesn't stop there. These verses also call for the people of God to be *holy*. They state very clearly God is *holy*, but He also expects us to be living a *holy* life. This is a concept that is present throughout both the Old and New Testaments. What does it mean for the people of God to be living a *holy* lifestyle? Going back to the definition of *holiness*, it means that we are to separate ourselves from evil. We should not be involved with evil in any form. However, it just doesn't stop there...it also means that we should be living out God's commandments. If you don't know what God's commandments are for our living *holy* lives, then this would be a great time to find them out. If you don't read the Bible on a regular basis, make this your New Year's resolution to be more consistently in the Word. Join other members in our church as they seek to read through the Bible this coming year. It should our goal to be living *holy* lives.

College and Young Singles Ministry

The College/Young Singles Sunday School class meets at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Tom and Betty Cetas—7725 N. Sendero de Juana, 85718 (a map can be found in the church office). You can contact Tom and Betty Cetas at 906-1888 (Tom) or 906-8983 (Betty) or e-mail them at tcetas@gmail.com for more information.

The Gathering

(for young adults)

Join us every Thursday night as we gather to sing, pray, and enjoy a time of fellowship at Einstein Bros. Bagels from 6:30-8 p.m., located at the intersection of Ina and Shannon (a couple minutes west of Foot-hills Mall). Go to www.cdobaptist.org/gathering for more information.

Upcoming Events

Between-Time Snack Bar: Come visit the snack bar between services on January 30th and February 27th for some delicious treats!

Prayer Gathering: Meet in room 1 at 6:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month to pray for our troops, church family, missions and ministries.

Christianity 101: Beginning January 9th. *See details below.*

Work Day: Come help make CDOBC clean and beautiful on Saturday, February 5th. Details to come!

Grand Prix: Race day is Saturday, February 12th! Purchase your car kits now for \$5. There will be a workshop on February 12th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Check-in is Friday, February 11th from 5-8 p.m. For more information, contact Darrell and Lisa Horner at 575-1709.

All Church BBQ/Concert: Come bring your family and join the fun for an All Church BBQ and concert, on Sunday, February 20th!

Revolve Tour: "Dream On" is a 2-day weekend event for teen girls, February 25-26, at the US Airways Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Contact Kim Van Kley in the church office at 297-3900 for more information. Pre-event party on Sunday, February 20th, at 2:00 p.m. in rooms 1 & 2.

GROW IN YOUR FAITH IN 2011...

1. Read Through the Bible

This next year, dozens of men, women, teenagers, and children from CDOBC will read through the Bible in its entirety. We are doing this not just to say that we have managed this feat, but because we desire a closer walk with God. If we are to truly live as Christians, we need to know who God is and how He wants us to live. To do this, we need to read His Word. Will you commit to joining us? It won't be easy. There will be days when we don't feel like it, or the busyness of life threatens to crowd it out. There will also be days when we just don't feel close to God. Take encouragement from the apostle Paul, who said this in 1 Corinthians 9:27: "I discipline my body and make it my slave so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified." Discipline is not a bad thing, and in 2011 we plan to do a little spiritual sweating as we seek to become more like our Savior, Jesus Christ. Visit www.cdobaptist.org/Bible for a reading schedule, or, go to www.oneyearbibleonline.com. If you are unable to go online, call the church office at 297-3900 and *we will make sure you get a schedule.*

2. Christianity 101

Are you confused about Christian beliefs? Are you unsure what the bible says about Jesus, humanity, sin, salvation, the Church, and other vital topics? Then, we have a perfect class for you—"Christianity 101!" This class is designed to help you understand the foundational truths of the Christian faith so you can better understand your faith, and enjoy Christ more in your life. There is no cost to this class, and we will have plenty of discussion and application with each topic. The class will consist of eight sessions, meeting approximately twice each month on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. *The first meeting is January 9th at 2:00 p.m.* If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to the church office at 297-3900 or at office@cdobaptist.org.

CANYON DEL ORO BAPTIST CHURCH

9200 N. Oracle Road
Tucson, AZ 85704-8500

Phone: 520-297-3900

Fax: 520-297-5114

E-mail: office@cdobaptist.org

Please contact us with your new address or if you no longer want to receive the newsletter.

*Committed to helping people
become mature followers of Jesus*

We're on the Web
www.cdobaptist.org

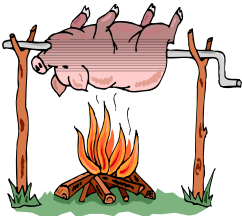
January

5-No Club
12-Double Bucks
19-Silly Sock Night
26-Snowball Fight



February

2-Cupcakes Rule!
9-Buck Store #2
12-(Saturday) Grand Prix
16-Rainbow Night
19-(Saturday) Bible Quiz
23-No Club



All Church BBQ and Concert
Sunday, February 20th at 4:00 p.m.
featuring
"Bluegrass From Heaven"

**The whole family is invited for a fun evening with
good food and music!
Don't miss it!**



***More details coming soon!**