Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, 2020, the author and perfecter of our faith ...
How is Your Vision?

It is amazing the number of emails I have received over the last week referencing 20/20 vision. A medical doctor wants to tell me how to have 20/20 vision in just 10 days. It has something to do with taking a spice, and doing it twice!! Carolina Biological Supply wants to send me a science kit that explains the intricate workings of the eye and what it means to have 20/20 vision. An investment firm wants to look at the stock market with 20/20 vision this year.

For those of us who are followers of Jesus Christ, it is essential that we have 20/20 vision spiritually. This means that we see clearly into the spiritual dimensions of our lives and can discern the spiritual realities that surround us, but also what is coming. When driving down the road, good eyesight allows us to see our present location and have situational awareness, as well as seeing the road signs telling us what is up ahead.

So how do we develop this spiritual 20/20 vision?

First, we must focus on Jesus!

Hebrews 12:2, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (NIV 1984). Chuck Swindoll says, “We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.” Focusing on His abilities in us encourages us to seize the day.

Secondly, we must see what God has done for us!

Ephesians 1:18, “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints” (NIV 1984). We are God’s very special possession – His glorious inheritance. That realization should propel us to action in the kingdom.

Thirdly, we must be careful to not give too much weight to the things we see around us. There are greater spiritual truths at work!

2 Corinthians 4:18, “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (NIV 1984). Spiritual vision enables us to see the invisible, believe the incredible and then receive the impossible.

These three simple but profound steps will give us the 20/20 vision we need to see a clear and defined future in our ministries in the kingdom of God and within the body of Christ!

~submitted by David Wood

REMINDER

It’s not too late to register for the 2020 Ministers’ Summit. Notify Alice Crigger – 540-674-4131 x201 – as soon as possible!
“... but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead...” Philippians 3:13
In scripture, we read of the special place that the Jewish people have in the plan of God. In fact, there is a blessing attached to those who choose to bless Israel. The IPHC World Missions Ministries has long had a work in this nation.

In Israel, we are called IPHC Living Israel and the work there is primarily among the million and a half Russian-speaking Jews. Our outreach includes many of the neediest persons in Israel, including new immigrants, drug/alcohol addicts, Holocaust survivors and hundreds who have never heard a presentation of Yeshua (Jesus) in their lives.

Today, there are 31 churches, the majority being house churches, each with 40-50 in attendance. In Tel Aviv is a drug rehabilitation center, a Bible school, and a coffee house/homeless feeding center. The feeding center is feeding up to 2,000 a month. The rehab houses 20 who are being freed from addictions. All of this is a great testimony to the Lord’s saving grace!

We have been presented with a special need to sponsor a month at the coffee house/feeding center in Tel Aviv. In fact, I have already committed us to take care of the month of February. The cost for one month of operation is $4,000. Would you like for your church to bless those in Israel? If so, you can designate your gift to Project #26014. Can you give by January 31? If funds exceed the one-month amount, another month will be sponsored. Please let me know what your church can do. You can find out more about Living Israel and their director by watching the video: Testimony of Michael Sadovsky, senior pastor of "Living Israel " congregation, on YouTube.

**THE GREAT COMMISSION MEALS ARE COMING!**

March 14 – East Tennessee – 11:30 am – Momma’s House/Kingsport
March 14 – Bluefield/McDowell Districts – 5 pm – Voice of Praise
March 16 – Roanoke/Central Virginia Districts – noon – Olde Liberty Station Bedford
March 16 – Shenandoah Valley District – 6 pm – Ray of Hope
March 17 – Greenbrier District – noon – Cook’s Country Kitchen/WSS
March 17 – Central West Virginia District – 6 pm – Golden Corral/Beckley
March 19 – New River Valley District – 6 pm – Conference Training Center
March 20 – Southwest Virginia District – 6 pm – St. Paul
President Ron White invites you to Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia, for The Leading Edge Conference this coming February 24-26, 2020. Pastors and leaders from across the IPHC and throughout the Southeast will gather on the Emmanuel campus for two days of spiritual and professional development. This year’s theme is “The Church and Our Changing Culture.” Keynote Speakers include Dr. Leonard Sweet, Jonathan McKee, Jennie Lee Riddle, Pastor Mike Dodson, Dr. Gary Moon, Josh Hannah, and Dr. Ron White. You will leave with strategies to help both you and your church grow as you engage today’s swiftly changing culture. Find more information and register today at www.TheLeadingEdgeConference.com.
MISSION

Bible Quest is a ministry designed to implant the Word of God in the hearts and lives of young people, empowering them to live victorious lives with the sword of the Spirit (Matthew 16:18, Hebrews 4:12).

VISION

To make the Word of God a practical reality in daily living
To involve maximum participation in Bible Quest tournaments
To provide a quizzing forum on the local, district, conference, and national levels
To provide our young people with a vibrant foundation for effective ministry

2019 – 2020 Study: JOHN

Scrimmage Dates:
January 12, 2020
February 23, 2020
March 22, 2020

For more information contact
Josh Kestner: 540-343-3801
or Ron Fredericks: 540-674-4131 ext. 206

MISSION

To release a generation of youth for global ministry.
We embrace the multi-cultural dynamics of the IPHC and welcome and seek to be inclusive of the diversity that embodies the church that God is building.

VISION

To mobilize a generation in discovering, developing, and deploying their ministry gifts/talents in fine arts through the local church, conference and denomination.
To inspire a generation to minister in the spirit of excellence.
To impart the Christian values of humility, modesty, grace, and dignity.
To equip a generation to be confident in their gifts, submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and committed to the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Conference Fine Arts Festival
Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18, 2020
Dublin, Va - Conference Campgrounds
Register by March 2, 2020

Theme: We Value Generosity: All of our resources, whether material or spiritual, are gifts from a loving God. We do not live fearfully based on our lack. We live gratefully based on God’s provision. We commit ourselves to be obedient as tithers, joyful in giving, and generous in heart. As He gave, so shall we give.
(For more details check the Fine Arts Guidelines, pages 62-64.)

National Fine Arts and Youth Quest
July 18 – 21, 2020 - Jacksonville, Florida
Recently, I got a new pair of glasses and I am having a little trouble focusing. They have really caused some confusion for me. I have been distracted from being able to see clearly. It’s not very pleasant.

In my life I’ve also had distractions that caused me to not be able to focus clearly on God and His plans for me. It seemed as though I couldn’t focus because of all the noise around me. It’s in those times that I had to stop and go to a quiet place. A place of no noise, no distractions – a place of rest. I had to refocus, so to speak. I began to take the focus off the distractions and refocus on the One whom I serve and the power I hold through Him. It was in this place that my vision began to get clear and I could see His plan for me.

2020 is a year for perfect vision. Maybe not in the natural, but in the spiritual. Don’t let the enemy use the noises of the world to blur your vision to where you cannot see God or hear His voice. Get in God’s Word and in His presence like never before. Get those spiritual eyes examined and look at your life through a new pair of glasses. He has great plans for you!

May this be the year you “see” Him like never before!
2019 Harvest Train

We would like to thank the Appalachian Conference for the offerings of cash and commodities sent to Falcon Children’s Home this year. Because of your generosity, the Appalachian Conference gave $17,229.80 to the Harvest Train!

TOP 5 GIVING CHURCHES

- Cornersview - $4,000+
- Life Changers Christian Center - $3,862
- Cambria - $3,135
- Rosenbaum Chapel - $2,000
- Lexington - $700

We would also like to thank the following churches for your contribution in making this year a success:

- Point of Contact Ministries - $500
- Dugspur-Mitchell Chapel - $500
- Merrimac - $400
- Cool Spring - $400
- Hiwassee - $238
- Second Creek - $100
- Faith Central Fellowship - $50

We appreciate everyone who gave to this amazing ministry. If you have never supported Falcon Children’s Home, I would like to encourage you to consider this for 2020.
A “YES” YEAR

“For all the promises of God in Him are YEA, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God” (2 Corinthians 1:20). This year can be your year. All you need is God’s promises!

CROWN THE YEAR

King David knew how to enter a new year with success. He praised God for all His goodness. And he declared, in faith, that God would crown the year! “You crown the year with your goodness; and Thy paths drop fatness” (Psalm 65:11). God watered the ridges abundantly. The pastures were clothed with flocks. The valleys also were covered with corn.

What was the result? They SHOUTED for joy! (Psalm 65:13)

THE CROWD SAID NO

When blind Bartimeus heard that Jesus was coming to his town of Jericho, he was thrilled. With a loud voice he cried, “Jesus, you son of David, have mercy on me” (Mark 10:47). The crowd urged him to stop being so loud. But he ignored the crowd and cried even louder.

Jesus healed this man and told him that his FAITH made him whole (v. 51). Jesus said YES, when the crowd said NO!

THE DOCTORS SAID NO

There was a woman who suffered 12 years with an issue of blood. She spent all of her money on the doctors. But instead, she got worse (Mark 5:26). Doctor after doctor failed her. NO! was the message that they conveyed to her. She was looking for a YES. Her faith assured her that Jesus was a YES!

So, she pressed through the crowd. Finally, she got close enough to touch the hem of His garment (Mark 5:24 – 31). Before she attempted this feat, she had told herself, “If I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole” (v. 28). Immediately she was healed!

THE CONDITIONS SAID NO

Peter and his friends had fished all night. They did not catch any fish! The conditions for fishing were not good. No, it was not a good time to fish!

But Jesus said YES! He instructed Peter to throw his net out into the deep (Luke 5:4). Peter informed Jesus that they had fished all night and caught nothing. “Nevertheless, at Your Word I will let down the net” (v. 5). He caught so many fish that the nets could not even hold them.

This is a YES YEAR for you! All of His promises are YES!
Do you know someone who would like to receive the Messenger?

We will gladly add any email address to the list of those who receive the monthly *Messenger*. All you need to do is call Katie Woodyard at 540-674-4131 x202 or email katieswoodyard@aol.com to have your email address added to the list.