

Upcoming Events

January
January 28-29 - Winter X

March
March - 10-11 - LINC
March - 11-12 - Impact Conference

April
April 2 - River Pointe Work Day
April 17 - Easter
April 22-23 - Girl Talk

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PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD SOUTHERN MISSOURI DISTRICT

Newsletter Focus



“Keep your eyes on the goal” is pretty good advice that most of us have heard or have been given at one time or another. Keeping a goal or an objective in mind allows us to **focus** our actions towards its accomplishment. We know what we want to do and despite whatever distractions there may be, being **focused provides the encouragement to stay the course.**

I believe this was the attitude taken by the Apostle Paul when he wrote to the Philippians, “Brethren, I count not **myself**

myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you” (3:13-15, KJV). Eugene Peterson captures the essence of this in his paraphrase, “Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward-to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back. So let’s keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision-you’ll see it yet!” (The Message).

“So let us keep focused” - what beautiful words! Every one of us has a story; things that have happened in our past, or even earlier today, that could throw us off course. Some of us may have been blown off course by the winds of adversity, but Paul encourages us to forget “those things which are behind.” It could be that in order to do so we need to spend some time confessing our hurts to Christ and claiming His healing in the deep places of our emotions where we are still affected. If that is the case, today is a good time to do that because we need to clear those obstacles in order to “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Like a world-class athlete running towards the prize, we are to run the most important “race” of our lives unencumbered by worries and cares. In this life we will have them, but thank God we have a Savior who not only cares for us but bids us to cast all our cares upon Him (1 Peter 5:7). We can forget those things which are behind.

It helps to remember that our lives will go in the direction in which we are **focused**. To lack focus is to wander aimlessly. With that in mind, where is your focus? Can you say like David, “I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved” (Psalm 16:8)? If you’re not there yet, today is a good time to change course. God is faithful, and He stands ready to help those who ask it of Him.



District Bishops
Bob McGee



CONNECT

Pastor

John Rhodes

Con-nect /kə'nekt/ - 'to **bring together**' or into contact so that a real or notional link is established; to **join together**' so as to provide access and communication'.

In noting the definition of the word 'connect', I see two things that have been absent, or at least the feeling of being absent over the past 18 + months...not being together, and or 'joined together'. I have heard people say, "I feel so disconnected from everyone, so alienated from those I love." In truth this is the objective of the enemy...to divide and separate God's people. He knows that being unified empowers, and with power, we are able to take back what the enemy has taken. We, whether a family, a church, or an organization, must do all within our power to 'bring together/join together' those who have been separated from us no matter what the cause. Remember, "Together we stand...divided we fall."

In Acts 2:42 & 46, we find what I believe is the catalyst that caused the church to succeed in it's Godly directives. V. 42, "And they **continued** steadfast in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." V. 46, "And they, **continuing** daily with **one accord** in the temple...". They refused to allow anything or anyone to cause them to lose what had been planted in them on the day of Pentecost. In spite of persecutions, in spite of trying circumstances, in spite of rejection, they **continued** in the apostle's doctrine (the Word), fellowship (discipleship), and breaking bread (communion). **Continuity is a necessity if we are to complete the task before us.** Quitting or giving up is not an option. We must **continue**, as they did, in '**one accord (unified)**'. Will it be easy? No! But we are not told it would be easy, but we are told... "all things are possible to him who believes" and he who is a "doer of the Word and a hearer only".

Pastor & church member alike, we have before us not only the greatest challenges in our lifetime but also the greatest opportunities. Let us come together as one and with a determination of unity and continuity pursue what God has set before us. Together we can do it!



Women's Ministries
Connection Registration
 Our Women's Ministry is now registering ladies for 2022! Registration your ladies today. For more information contact Sis McGee.




Pastor

Rick Hensley

REASONS I AM NOT WORRIED ABOUT 2022

We are all aware that the world today is filled with uncertainty. There is uncertainty about the future, about the economy, and about the government. Many are uncertain about their health and about where they will spend eternity.

The uncertainty of the world's situation causes a stress level in people's lives which no other generation has ever before experienced. The result of a world filled with uncertainty is a loss of hope and the presence of fear, worry and despair.

A dark bleak Year is being predicted for 2022. Someone said that 2022 will be 2020 TOO, or a repeat of 2020, that things are going to get worse & not better.

Where does that put the Church and the believer? Should we be filled with Fear? Are we to isolate from friends, family and church and worry ourselves sick because of the things that may be coming on earth?

The Word of God tells us over and over NOT to allow Fear, Worry, Anxiety to control our lives. In Matthew 6:25-34 Jesus said four times "**Do Not Worry.**" (vs. 25, 28, 31, 34).

John 16:33 says: *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.* And In **John 14:27** Jesus tells us, "Let NOT your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid"

In light of these verses and many others in the Bible, I have come up with some reasons "Why I Am Not Worried About 2022!"

THE TOP TEN REASONS NOT TO WORRY IN 2022:

1. The Bible Will Still Have All the Answers to Your Problems. (Heb. 4:12; Isa. 40:8: Rom. 15:4)
2. Prayer Will Still Work and be Effective. (James 5:16; Jer. 33:3)
3. God Will Still be Our Protector. (Psalm 91:1-16)
4. God Will Continue to Provide for His People. (Matt. 6:31; Psalm 34:9: Phil. 4:19)
5. There Will Still Be Room at the Cross for the Lost. (John 6:37; Rom. 10:9-13)
6. Praise will Still Defeat Depression & the Spirit of Heaviness. (Isaiah 61:3 Psalm 22:3)
7. The Church of Jesus Christ Will Still Be Invincible. (Matt. 16:18)
8. God Will Still Continue to Pour Out The Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-4, 17-18, 39)
9. Jesus Will Still Love You. (Rom. 8:38-39)
10. The Rapture Will Still Be the Most Anticipated Event of The Church. (1Thess.4:16-18)



Expect 2022 to be a Year of Blessing and Victory for you, your family, and your Church!

Southern Missouri District Executive Team

Bishop Bob McGee



Darryl Rhodes



Bob Kelley

