

January 2019

THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

Starting Over by Kristi Wile

Here we go again! Another new year! What does this mean for you? Is it a time to reflect on the past year? On past mistakes? On unmet goals? On unfulfilled dreams? These are often the things that spur us on to set new year resolutions. It's an opportunity to start over.

I usually pull out my journal and look over the highs and lows of the departing year. I hope that I've recorded them all. Then I write a quick description of where I am in my faith journey. You know, the continued struggles, the victories, the desires of my heart. This way, I can see whether I am growing or not.

This idea of starting over often is birthed out of a sense of loss or failure. And while resolutions are frequently abandoned before February ends, that sense of defeat hangs on. Maybe you haven't struggled with this like I have. But I love the opportunity to start over. To have a clean slate.

But in our human condition, we will always fall short. This isn't news to us, yet we need to look at it with fresh eyes. We can strive and strain to reach our own goals, but inevitably will be found lacking. Some of us will start all over at the beginning of every month. Others will wait till the next new year.

This would be a very discouraging cycle, except that we as believers in Jesus Christ have new mercies every morning! Living here in our mortal bodies, *our sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that (we) do not do what (we) want.* (Galatians 5:17) So the struggle will continue!

Every morning, when I'm fully awake and spending time alone with God, I do think about the previous day and all my failures. But I need not dwell on them and chastise myself. Why? Because Jesus was punished in my place and because I trust in Him alone for my redemption, when I confess my sin and determine to turn away from it, I am forgiven! Instantly! I get up from that place... CLEAN! It's me, starting over every morning, knowing full well that I will fail again this day. But knowing full well that because Jesus took my place, I will be forgiven and cleansed again tomorrow. This is freedom in Christ!

So don't just wait for the new year to start over. If you are in Jesus, you have this opportunity daily and more so.

*Women's Ministry Mission Statement:
Encouraging women to connect in
deeper, genuine relationships
both with each other
and with Jesus Christ.*



THE WORD

"I remember my affliction and my wandering... I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

—Lamentations 3:19-23

Think About It

What do you think about this truth of starting over daily? What have you been wrestling with that you know it's time to give over to Jesus? Do your new year resolutions also need to be laid out before Him?

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Making Connections



“It was an amazing opportunity.” This is how **Julia Bergey** (oldest daughter of Dale and Tricia Bergey of our congregation) summed up her 10-month assignment to southeast Asia. From February through November 2018, Julia loved the experience of a new culture, and being introduced to and tasting a new cuisine. She also loved learning the new language. Due to the fact that it is a country closed to Christianity, Julia wasn’t able to share her exact location with me, nor the language she learned, but it was in the 10/40 window. On the map this is from North Africa to the Middle East and East Asia above the equator and is the part of our world with the least exposure to Jesus, and the fewest missionaries. This part of our world that has captured Julia’s heart.

While on assignment as a cultural tourist, Julia spent the first month living with a local family who spoke very little English. [Fortunately, there was a university student who lived there and spoke very good English. She and Julia became close friends.] Julia studied the language; the culture; and interacted with her community by initiating one-on-one relationships and participating in “English clubs.” She used these as a type of friendship evangelism. Julia cherishes the friendships she made and hopes to maintain these relationships. Although some of the older generation worship Buddha within her community, most expressed little thought of God, or any higher power. The most prevalent worship is ancestor worship.

The hardest part of Julia’s assignment was seeing very little visual accomplishment. As she reflects on this experience, she wishes she had learned early on to be quicker and bolder in sharing her faith and the gospel, and that she and her roommate (who shared a small home) would have planned more times of simple social interaction. Times such as the “Thanksgiving meal” they hosted before leaving, which Julia describes as a lot of fun, and an open door for more interaction. Simple social interactions are a great foundation for sharing faith...and I felt reminded that this is something I could also do better here in my community as well.

Exactly where God will lead Julia next, she does not know. But the tug within her heart and the smile that lights up her face as she shares of her love for the people within the 10/40 window is strong. Let’s join Julia in prayer that God will open doors and create opportunities in the place He needs her... and for opportunities in each of our lives as well.

Interview by Carol Landis.



What's Happening for Women

Project of the Month: New Bath-size Towels

Attention Mothers of Preschoolers:

This year, give yourself a treat—an evening with other women who have young children. This month bring your favorite recipe to share or swap. Kathy Wenger is opening her home for you to relax and enjoy the company of other moms on Thursday, January 10th, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Come and stay as long as you can between these times. Infants are welcome. Don't forget your recipe!

Please notify Kathy if you're planning to come @ mkwenger@comcast.net or by text @ 717-519-7180.

Scripture Memory Challenge 2019

For all of you who managed to memorize *at least* 1 verse in 2018...

For all of you who had high aspirations of memorizing, but something else happened...

For all of you who started out strong but lost your momentum...

For all of you who have some interest in doing memorization...

For all of you who don't have any idea what this is all about...

We are having a Kick-off event! January 10th at 7 pm.

Come join us in the Upper Fellowship Hall on Thursday evening, January 10th. It's a very informal gathering; a time for fellowship and a few snacks; a time to talk about what's good (and what's hard) about memorizing Scripture; a time to encourage each other and share ideas. There's no pressure yet we think you'll want to join us in 2019!

Come see what it's all about!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Would you like to be involved in the ministry, joining with other women to knit or crochet prayer shawls that are given to those in spiritual or physical need? This group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings and is led by Linda Landis and Marilyn Halteman. It's very casual and a relaxing atmosphere. You don't need to know how to knit and they will be happy to teach you. If you're working on a prayer shawl, the yarn will be provided for you, but you are welcome to come and work on other projects as well. Friends are also welcome! Contact Linda Landis (215-799-0190) or Marilyn Halteman (hmhalteman@comcast.net) for more information, location, and times of meeting.

Attention: Sewing Circle will be meeting an extra day this month, on January 10th, 9-3p, to knot comforters for Chosen 300. Consider if you can give any time to this important project. Contact Janet Derstine for info. (215-723-7413)

January

A Taste of What's Happening for Women



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		<i>Happy New Year ~~~</i>				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Sewing Circle 9a-3p Prayer Shawls 7-9 pm		Scripture Memory Challenge 2019 Kick-off! Sewing Circle 9a-3p		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Prayer Shawls 7-9 pm				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Knotting Comforters 9a-3p Prayer Shawls 7-9 pm				
27	28	29	30	31		
		Prayer Shawls 7-9 pm				

Contact for more information

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