



Commit Your Plans to the Lord By Alana Bergey

A new year holds so much promise. We enter it still joyful from the recent Christmas season, and this good feeling prompts us to think of some optimistic goals for the new year. We are ready to take it on—a clean slate before us, and an effort to ignore past years of failed attempts at resolutions. And yet, as the flurry of activity settles down and the monotony of the day-to-day pulls us in again, we forget those resolutions and ignore what we had committed ourselves to at the start of 2022.

It tempts us to just give up on our goals.

To add onto this struggle to do what we set out to do, instead of receiving the encouragement we need to press on in these goals, a twisted, worldly grace surrounds us. Friends encourage us to brush off our remorse and to have cheat days with no guilt. Social media prompts us with messages that center around us and our blissful enjoyment. We tell ourselves we will work on our goals later—what's the rush anyway?

As we wrestle with self-disappointment and seek to find consolation in various places, we forget to look to the One who embodies faithfulness and promises kept. Perhaps we are working so hard to make our goals come true that we forget to invite God into our goal-setting process. As I thought of all that I want to accomplish this year, God gently reminded me that I must not be making goals apart from Him. If there is an area of my life that I want fixed and that can bring me to better living in relation to others, then let me do that with God. It is so easy for me to fall under the trap that my goals are too menial for God—the Creator of the Universe. However, God invites us time and time again in Scripture to approach Him. The Bible reminds us that God wants our concerns and our burdens. He wants us to be lifted up, rather than discouraged or heavy-laden. God is a God of sanctification. He wants to mold us and make us more into His image, so let us set goals this year that allow this to happen. May our goals this year be prompted by Him and what God wants to do in our lives this year. Invite God to work with us to fulfilling goals that can likewise lead to a greater understanding of discipline, self-control, and other fruits of His Spirit. We are not meant to work alone in our goals or keep them separate from Him, but to work in partnership with Christ and the promises in store for this year. God will help us see these Christ-led goals to completion.

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.” Proverbs 16:3

Dream with God! What is an area of my life that needs work, with God's help? How can I commit this to the Lord?

January 2022





Making Connections



Hello! My name is **Morgan Landis**, and I am currently 28 years old. I have been married to Shane Landis for the past 7 ½ years, and we look forward to however many more years the Lord blesses us with here on this earth together.

A little background information first before we start. My parents are Chris & Gayle Bencsik, and I have one sister, Chelsie Varga, who is 6 years older than me. I went to Souderton area school district schools growing up and eventually graduated from Souderton Area Highschool in 2011. Fun fact, I never moved houses, but with all the changes going on in the district while I was growing up, I attended 5 different schools between Kindergarten and 12th grade. I never got tired of looking at the same walls, that's for sure! I continued my education at Eastern University from 2011-2014 and graduated with my B.S. in Early Childhood Education. During the summers from 2010-2013, I worked at Spruce Lake Wilderness camp in the kitchen under the supervision of my sister, who still runs the kitchen during the summer! Shane even came to work at Spruce Lake in the summer of 2013 with me and got to engage as the camp videographer.

Shane and I got married the month after I graduated college, and we couldn't have been more excited. We got to know each other the 3-4 years prior to that thanks to Franconia's Young Adult group. If it wasn't for Shane, we would not be a couple today. Let's just say he wasn't really on my radar... I like rules, safety and quiet, and he likes a good time, a thrill and noise. Our paths never really crossed all that much despite growing up in the same church our whole lives. I honestly didn't even know him until later in Sr. High. My parents were long time sponsors for both the Sr. High and then Young Adults, so even though I wasn't always technically in the age group, I was there. All the time. That is how I got to know many of you in the church, it was an experience I would not trade.

The group of friends we found in the Young Adults has been a true family that we have enjoyed many road trips, meals, bible studies, service projects, and weekend adventures with! We may no longer be that young of adults anymore to hold that title, but we carry with us the fond memories and friendships that thrived from this stage in life. I was stretched by these persons many times in the adventures we took, but every time I was amazed at what I could have missed. God wants us to delight in his creation! We took a trip to Norway with Seth Umbenhauer last year, and it was the chance to do just that. A chance to be in awe of God's creation. It was the first time Shane and I traveled out of the country together, and it really opened our eyes to how small we are in a world that is so much bigger than us and our little family in Harleysville.



Life is an ongoing adventure. It isn't always meant to be easy and everything doesn't always fall into place at our desired timing; although, that is what we expect for some reason. When I was in high school, I thought I would be a preschool teacher, marry young (even though I had never dated anyone until I was 18 years old... so I wasn't sure how that was going to work) and become a mom as soon as possible. Well almost 10 years later, I work at R&J Farm Market in the store and am not currently a mother, but I have experienced both the emotional pain of a miscarriage and the power of community.

I couldn't have written my story any better...believe me I have tried to be in control, but that only leads to disappointment and fantasies that somehow leave God out of the entire picture. Instead, I'm trying to take the next right step (guided by prayer and discernment) and let God pave the path forward. My decision to switch careers from preschool assistant teacher to a store associate at R&J Farm Market was an example of the next right step for me that I took several years ago. It has been a blessing in many unforeseen ways, but God knew what would be best. It is so easy to get caught up in what should/could have been and miss out on opportunities that are available to me now. I have succumbed to the temptations of safety many times, and while it is a relief in the moment not to have to put myself in an uncomfortable situation, I end up disappointed I held back and missed out on an opportunity to see God's omniscient and omnipotent power! Life is a beautiful adventure.

"You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light." This verse from Psalm 18:28 has recently stood out to me and is the Bible verse that has been an encouragement to me in this stage of my life and I hope it can be a reminder to you to let your light shine—it is fueled by God not us!



What's Happening for Women

Comforter Blitz

Who: YOU!! Even if you don't quilt or sew, you can tie a knot.

What: Two days to knot as many comforters as possible!

When: **January 18 & 19**, 8am-4pm

(January 20 is reserved in case of snow)

Where: Upper Fellowship Hall

Why: We want to send comforters to those in need (through Mennonite Central Committee).

What else: Lunch will be provided both days.

Childcare (Infant-preschool) will be provided on Tuesday (Jan 18th) from 9:15-11:45am

Come when you can ~ Stay as long as you want!

This is a great opportunity to be the hands of Jesus while fellowshiping with other ladies!

(Kids and men are welcome to help too!)

Women's Hope Kits

Mommy & Me Playdate

Friday, January 14th

11:00 am

Upper Fellowship Hall

****Bring Riding Toys!**



A BIG thank you to everyone who helped assemble the Women's Hope Kits last month! We distributed the kits to the following locations:

God's Treasure House (5)

Moms of SHINE students (3)

Pregnancy Resource Clinic, Lansdale (10)

Bridge of Hope (25)

Chosen 300 (24)

Crossroads Pregnancy Center, Quakertown (8)

The ladies who received these kits were very grateful for this gift of essentials seasoned with Hope!

January 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Hebrews Bible Study 9:30am	7	8
9	10	11 Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	12	13 Hebrews Bible Study 9:30am	14 Mommy & Me playdate 11am	15
16	17	18 Comforter Blitz 8am-4pm	19	20 Hebrews Bible Study 9:30am	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Hebrews Bible Study 9:30am	28	29
30	31					

CONTACT US: franconiawomen@gmail.com

Carol Landis | 215-723-2981 | caroldanlandis@gmail.com

Gail Reinford | 267-372-2168 | kgreinford@comcast.net

Janet Derstine | 215-723-7413 | bjderstine2@gmail.com

Jill Fallon | 610-287-3501 | bnjfallon@verizon.net

Julie Kratz | 717-525-3040 | jskratz@gmail.com

Julie Stitt | 610-287-7688 | sjstitt1@verizon.net



THE SPICE