



EQUIPPING U

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION/JANUARY 2015

Being Led into the Future! The Importance of Seeking God First

James 4:13-15 (KJV)

¹³ Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

¹⁴ Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

¹⁵ For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Like every other year, 2014 was filled with opportunity and challenge! With births, deaths and everything in between, as



soldiers in God's kingdom, we experienced struggle and success. Determined to have less struggle and more success 49% of Americans make New Year's resolutions (University of Scranton, Journal of Clinical Psychology, January, 2014).

Albeit, according to the same survey, only 8% are actually successful at

achieving their goals. This may explain why 38% of survey participants say that they "absolutely never" make resolutions to begin with. Since our lives are but a vapor anyway, we desperately need to seek God's guidance daily, whether we make resolutions or not.

In his letter to the Jewish Diaspora, James warns against making plans without accepting the reality that God's Will is to be our primary concern. By reminding us of the brevity of life, James challenges us to embrace the Sovereign Will of God above any desires or plans we may have. ➔



TEACHING TIP:

If you haven't set goals for the year, spend some time seeking God's heart for those you will reach/teach this year.



TEACHING TIP:

In addition to your group's goals for the year, ask God which two or three challenges you should overcome.



TEACHING TIP:

Along with setting your group goals, also develop an effective strategy for attaining them one step at a time.

Being willing to be led by The Spirit of God is a must. It's one thing to be willing to alter plans and ask God to lead us so we can submit to Him, BUT telling God to bless what we've already decided to do is quite another. It's no secret that times have changed leaving youth and adults alike in desperate need of God's wisdom.

By seeking the ONLY Wise God, our Heavenly Father FIRST, we ensure that decisions are not driven by ungodliness of any kind.

That's why we continue to seek God as we complete the plans for the 2015 Equipping U Church VBS/ Summer Ministries Training. Being relevant and effective as we seek to equip believers for life, leadership and ministry requires us to be willing to embrace changes too.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Pauline Blackstock

ICEA is a volunteer staffed ministry. Each month Equipping U will highlight one of these precious servants of God.

For over 50 years Pauline Blackstock's faithful service has caused her to be an integral part of the ICEA family. From donating handmade quilts, afghans, and scarves for end-of-event conference prizes, to assisting with ICEA clerical duties and communications she generously gives of herself in whatever capacity she is needed. Happy New Year Pauline! God's best to you - always.

With that said, pray with us as we begin the New Year in our new location. The month our VBS/ Summer Ministries Training is held has also changed. Instead of February, this year it will be held March 7th. Not to worry. God has not changed our mission; we are still dedicated to Equipping U!

FROM THE NEW EDITOR



Changes can be unsettling at times. Yet, realizing that God's love is the source from which His plans for us flow, makes it easier to trust Him daily.

T - Take authority over self
 R - Remember that God is with us
 U - Unveil and submit our gifts
 S - Seek God's Will and Way
 T - Take faith-filled courageous steps

Here's to consistently trusting our God!
 Happy New Year!

Christina
 Christina Dixon

Inspired by
 Proverbs 3:5-6

SAVE THE DATE

The 2015 Equipping U VBS/Summer Ministries Training is scheduled for **March 7th**. Watch for more details on our website and in our next issue.

SOURCES

- Art Explosion Image Library - Business People 169 & 212
- *The Holy Bible : King James Version*. 1995. Logos Research Systems, Inc.: Oak Harbor, WA
- iStockphoto - 43309560.jpg

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NOTICE: WE'VE MOVED!
 Please update your address book to reflect our new location.

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