

January 2023



# Mission Possible

## Words of Hope Ministries

A New Year is here. For me, it's too often filled with mixed emotions. Anticipating something new and exciting while at the same time stressing. Most likely over stuff I don't need to worry about. One thing I know for sure. No matter my circumstances, I can usually find peace when I surrender to God and His will. Maybe not peace as our worldly friends might describe it, but rather God's peace. The peace that passes all understanding.

Since I don't know what lies ahead, I try to remember that I should choose to walk in faith and trust in the God I know. I remind myself that I am called to walk by faith, and not by sight. When I walk by faith and not by sight, I shine His Light. As the Oak Ridge Boys sing, "Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine..."

Like everyone else, we have been facing challenges with the new mailing protocols. No matter, we will keep this newsletter coming. The format might be less "pretty," it might be condensed or delayed from time to time, but we will keep producing it.

We are brothers and sisters in Christ; it is about God's light. Some of us live in big cities where we see the brightly lit skyline. In McAdenville, outside of Charlotte, and at the Charlotte Motor Speedway, folks come from miles around to see the lights.

Speaking to the crowds and His disciples in His famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told them: "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14. As He continued

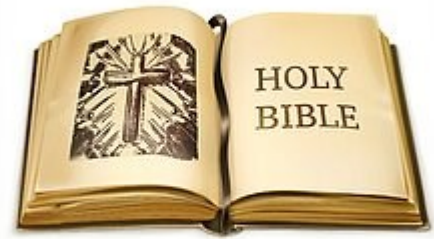
with His message, Jesus explained, like a city on a hill or a lamp on a stand, "Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:16). We are light when we have the light of Jesus shining through us. He has chosen us – we can't earn it – let that light shine. Don't hide it! You've got it – Share it!

As the world and culture goes darker, don't put it under a shade or a bushel. No! Light it up. Make it bright. We KNOW and TRUST that His light will shine best in the dark. When we choose to follow Jesus we will never walk in darkness. Not to shine the light on me, but to move others to trust in Jesus and worship God. "The global Church is meant to be the brightest light the world has ever seen, and you get to be part of that city, the Church. Though the sun may sink beneath the horizon and the world may become increasingly dark, the glory of such a city cannot be missed." (From You Version/Bible App Devotion 12/20).

May Almighty God bless us with his grace. May Christ give us the joys of everlasting life and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen

Tom

# Bible Firsts



There are many first experiences and events that we encounter in a lifetime. Here are a few firsts from the Bible that you may know or may wish to explore further.

May your firsts of this New Year be reminders that God is present with you as you progress through life.

The first city mentioned in the Bible was Enoch founded by Cain and named after his son. Genesis 4:17. What can you find out about Enoch the man or the city that you did not know?

Abel was the first shepherd recorded in the Bible and the first to die. Genesis 4. What were the circumstances of Abel's death and what are your thoughts about the importance of this recorded account?

The first priest mentioned in the Bible was Melchizedek who received the first recorded tithe. Do you remember the first time you contributed a monetary gift to a church or religious organization?

The first marriage presented in the Bible was between Adam and Eve. Genesis 2:21-24. How were they influenced by the events of their lives together?

The first twins recorded were Jacob and Esau. Genesis 25:24-26. What do you know about their lives?

Lamech was the first man to have two wives. Genesis 4:19. What were their names?

Deborah was the first and only female judge recorded in the Bible. Judges 3:15. What case is she known for deciding?

The first left hander mentioned in the Bible was Ehud. Judges 3:15. What more can you learn about Ehud?

David was listed as the first to have written a letter which was addressed to Joab. 2 Samuel 11:14. What was the purpose of that letter?

Noah was the first person recorded as getting drunk. Genesis 9:21. What precipitated his episode of drinking?

The first surrogate mother was Hagar, the Egyptian handmaid to Sarah and Abraham, who was told by Sarah to lay with Abraham so that Sarah could raise a child with him. Genesis 16:1-6. Have you known anyone who has made a decision to be a surrogate mother or parent?.

Stephen was the first martyr of the Christian church mentioned in the Bible. Acts 7. How did he become a martyr?

Physicians are first mentioned in Genesis 50:2 when Joseph embalmed his father in Egypt. Where else are physicians mentioned in the Bible?

The first miracle performed by Jesus is described when he turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana. John 2:1-11. Have you experienced a miracle in your lifetime?

Where in the Bible can you find examples of hope besides in Ruth 1:12?

May you enjoy countless moments of peace, hope and love in 2023!



- 1/8 Paul C.  
Lacy H.
- 1/20 James C.
- 1/22 Michael P.
- 1/24 Heith H.  
Richard P.  
Nestor H.
- 1/26 Antwone A.

*"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."*

*Psalm 139:14*

Brain Teaser answers 1. Your identity 2. Time 3. Death 4. Vacuum 5. Piano 6. Your breath 7. Wedding ring 8. Pride 9. Glass 10. Map 11. Calendar 12. Love 13. Running out of gas 14. An apple a day keeps the Dr. away 15. Tea

# Brain Teasers

1. What can be stolen, mistaken, or altered, yet never leaves you your entire life?
2. Until I am measured, I am not known. Yet you miss me, when I have flown. What am I?
3. Some try to hide, some try to cheat, but time will show, we always will meet. Try as you might, to guess my name, I promise you'll know, when you do claim. Who am I?
4. I have a big mouth and I am also quite loud! I am NOT a gossip but I do get involved with everyone's dirty business. What am I?
5. I am a box that holds keys without locks, yet they can unlock your soul. What am I?
6. What is harder to catch the faster you run?
7. What fastens two people yet touches only one?
8. What can be swallowed, but can also swallow you?
9. A red house is made from red bricks. A blue house is made from blue bricks. A yellow house is made from yellow bricks. What is a greenhouse made from?
10. What has cities, but no houses; forests, but no trees; and water, but no fish?
11. No matter how little or how much you use me, you change me every month. What am I?
12. I can't be bought, but I can be stolen with a glance. I'm worthless to one, but priceless to two. What am I?
13. What kind of running means walking?
14. A doctor and a bus driver are both in love with the same woman, an attractive girl named Sarah. The bus driver had to go on a long bus trip that would last a week. Before he left, he gave Sarah seven apples. Why?
15. First I am dried, then I am wet. The longer I swim, the more taste you get. What am I?

# Praise and Prayer

**FATHER WE ASK THAT YOU COMFORT AND UPLIFT Y.Ritchie and her family as they grieve the loss of her mother**

**LORD WE PRAY that we all find peace and strength during our transition into 2023.**

**WE UPLIFT R. Kazakos and her family as they deal with the loss of a family member**

**PLEASE LORD comfort and give peace to the families and friends of the incarcerated and help them with struggles of separation from loved ones.**

**LORD WE PRAY for St. Luke's**

**Church as they seek to find a new Pastor.**

**FATHER WE ASK that you heal the broken and weary.**

**LORD WE THANK YOU for the continued support of St. Luke's men in Mission**

**THANK YOU, FATHER, for this ministry and guide us in all that we do to give YOU the glory.**

**PRAISE GOD for all the many blessings He bestows on us all.**

**THANK YOU LORD for those who have recently been released from prison. We ask that you be with them and guide them through the**

**struggles they may face.**

**WE PRAISE YOU for another day and opportunity to worship You, Lord!**

*Holy is the Lord, God Almighty, the Earth is filled with His glory! How great and awesome is He!*

**Please send your Prayer requests and Praises to:**

**Mission Possible/Words of Hope  
Box 11063 Charlotte, NC  
28220-1063**



**Mission Possible  
Words of Hope Ministries**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Isaiah 43:18-19	2 Psalm 21:6	3 John 7:38	4 Nehemiah 8:10	5 Psalm 94:19	6 Matthew 28:8	7 Isaiah 26:3
8 I Peter 1:8	9 Colossians 2:2-3	10 Ephesians 3:17-19	11 Ecclesiastes 3:1	12 Joshua 1:9	13 Mark 10:27	14 I Corinthians 13:12
15 I John 1:7	16 Psalm 27:8	17 Ephesians 5:8	18 Matthew 9:17	19 John 10:3	20 Galatians 5:22-23	21 John 10:10
22 Psalm 18:2	23 Hebrews 13:8	24 Philippians 4:13	25 Isaiah 54:10	26 Jeremiah 29:11	27 Philippians 4:19	28 Genesis 1:27-28
29 Romans 5:3	30 Revelation 21:5	31 Habakkuk 3:18-19				

