

We're 5 days in to 2018 and hopefully all those who made resolutions are still going strong! Did you know what the number one Resolution was this year? No, it wasn't to take down Christmas lights before July (*although that is a good one!*) - rather this year the number 1 Resolution was "To Become a Better Person". That resolution supplanted the most popular one from the last few years - which was losing weight. What does it actually mean to be "good?" We're talking about character, aren't we? We believe it's good to be kind, fair and just; it's bad to cheat, murder and steal. So, is character about keeping a list of do's and don'ts? If I can check off a list of good character qualities or behaviours - does that mean I'm "good?" Is it possible for my good behaviours to mask ulterior motives? Is character authentic if it's simply a mask? True character flows from motivations in our heart.

The church at Corinth are asked in a letter to consider what real character is. To SHIFT from their thinking that doing good things is the same as being a good person and instead consider how their hearts are affected by experiencing the love and grace of God daily. Grace is a supernatural work of God that *transforms* the heart and that's radically different than a work of human effort that *restrains* the heart. That's a huge and freeing difference! We're going to look at authentic character that results from a supernaturally changed heart and how each trait is cultivated in Jesus! We'll begin this Sunday in [1 Corinthians 13:1-7](#)

## Church Events

- \* Jan 16: Women's Connect and Grow @ 7pm
- \* Jan 21: Pot luck & Elder update after service
- \* Jan 27: Man UP

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 – POT-LUCK LUNCH AND INFORMATION MEETING

For some time now, the elders have been engaged in a process of discernment about a possible change of denomination for the church. It has become a priority to better align our church beliefs regarding the role of women in leadership, with denominational beliefs. Following the gathering on Sunday, January 21, we would like to provide an opportunity for the elders to share our journey with you, and to hear from you through a time of discussion. Please plan to bring a dish that can be shared for lunch and ask God for his leading in our time together.

### Praise & Prayer:

- ♦ Gail and Doug's Lister's daughter, Kelly continues on bedrest at the hospital. The antibiotic treatment she is receiving finishes Friday which may further encourage her body not to go into labour. Praise the Lord as she is now only one day short of 34 weeks as this is considered a major milestone! Thank you Father! Please continue to pray for the baby's well-being, the medical team, Kelly, Kyle and their sons Jeremy and Justin as Kelly could easily be in the hospital another 3 weeks or more. Please pray for Kyle as he is also back at work this week.
- ♦ Please continue to pray for Gloria Bannon as she battles an aggressive form of cancer. Her husband is Gerald. Please pray for strength for both as they travel to and from treatment appointments and the physical stress that places on Gloria.
- ♦ Thanking God for His blessing of family as we celebrated baptisms and heard testimony of God's faithfulness in the lives of Cassandra and Grace as they shared about their relationship with Jesus.

### Women's Connect:

After a short Christmas break - our Women's Connect group will begin it's Winter session on January 16th at 7pm. If you'd like to be part of our group - come on out that Tuesday evening as Martha Lawson will be sharing with us about *Listening for the Voice of God!* At our next gathering after that we'll begin our regular study on *The Power of a Praying Woman*. Women's connect is a great time to get to know other woman and journey together. Please speak to Gail Lister for more details.

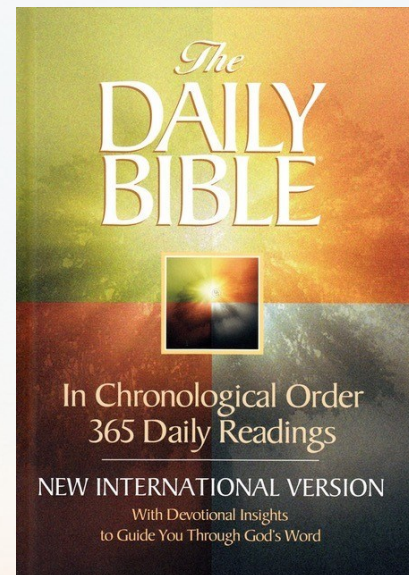


## HOPE Magazine!

Light often brings the ability to see clearer and with that clarity there is hope! We have a great magazine resource from the Gideons entitled HOPE and it's available for free this Sunday. If you know someone that you'd like to give one to, please stop by the Welcome Centre to pick up your free copy or copies!

## Daily Bible Reading idea:

Start the New Year with a plan for reading God's word each day! Here's a great resource to help guide you chronologically thru the bible from Genesis to Revelation in one year! Also available from Amazon as a kindle download!



## CONNECT CARDS:

Church is a people who God's love and grace are changing! We get to be a large family! Families communicate the important stuff that's happening in their lives often around a dinner table! We'd love to celebrate, support and pray for one another when we hear about what's happening. One way to do that is with the Connect Card. Think of it as the family dinner table in convenient card form! You can pick one up any time and place it in the offering plate on a Sunday or the Connect Card box

