

Church News

Do you have a spiritual escape plan?

While visiting hospitals, places of business, and motels, I have noticed that in each of them, in some prominent place, there is placed an escape plan in case of disaster. In those plans there are simple instructions concerning what to do in an emergency and a diagram pointing out escape exits. Those plans are not drawn up during the emergency, but in advance to serve as life-saving preparations if needed.

During these early days of another new year many people are making preparations and plans of various sorts, perhaps setting goals pertaining to health, finances, and other things that they hope to achieve this year. In the midst of making our plans, we need to make spiritual plans as well, and included in those spiritual plans we need to plan and prepare for how we will overcome the temptations to sin. We cannot afford to wait until we are in the heat of temptation to overcome it; we have to work on our escape plan ahead of time in order to come through victoriously.

Although the topic of sin might not get the attention it once did, it is nonetheless real and must be dealt with by those who sincerely want to please God. Pastor Rick Warren rightly wrote in one of his books that sin is "habit



Pastor James Scarborough
Donalsonville Assembly of God

forming". He went on to declare that "The more we do it, the easier it gets. If you've ever tried to break an addiction, maintain a diet, keep a New Year's resolution, or change your life by willpower alone, you know how frustrating that is." Indeed, to overcome the temptation to sin we must have a spiritual escape plan and we must make such plans before we need them. We can

find encouragement in 1 Corinthians 10:13 as we are assured that "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (New International Version).

A Biblical character that surely had a well developed spiritual escape plan was a young man in the Old Testament named Joseph. He was sold by his brothers and became enslaved by the Egyptians. He was soon serving in a high position that put him in contact with some powerful Egyptian leaders. In that setting, he was faced with one

of the strongest temptations that could come against a young man: "And after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her" (Genesis 39:7,10). Under all the pressure launched against him, Joseph remained true to God and refused the sinful advances. He surely had his spiritual escape plan in place ahead of time and put it into practice when temptation came against him.

There is much to be learned from Joseph's account. One is that he valued his spiritual integrity; his relationship with God was of greater value to him than any momentary pleasure. He also refused to compromise. He did not try to rationalize the situation or make excuses about accepting the sinful invitations. Instead, he kept his heart in the right place as he presented a powerful question to his tempter: "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9).

Escape plans in buildings have saved lives. Spiritual escape plans have saved souls from giving in to sin. God provides a way out in our times of temptation and it is our responsibility to make plans ahead of time that includes maintaining our spiritual integrity and leaving no room for compromise. And when tempted to sin, we should always ask ourselves Joseph's question: How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?

Church Briefs

We welcome you to **Corinth Free Will Baptist Church**, Ash Crossing Rd, Iron City. Worship is at 9:00 a.m. Sunda . *Fellowship - Worship - Believing*

The First Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Scott Messer - Our Sunday School for adults and children starts at 10 a.m.; worship service and children's church start at 11 a.m. Come be with us each week. Ladies Bible Study is each Wednesday at 9 a.m. The men also meet for Bible Study at 9 a.m. Wednesday night service is at 6 p.m. Caravan and Teens also meet on Wednesday at 6 p.m. May you have a blessed and safe week. We continue to ask for social distancing and masks. Hand sanitizer is available on entering. We are praying for all. Have a blessed week. God bless you all. **The First Church of the Nazarene** is located at 108 West Crawford Street in Donalsonville.

Let's all pray for a better and happier 2022 and that people will continue having growing pains in Christ! This past Sunday at **Reynolds Chapel United Methodist Church**. Pastor Jeff's message was taken from Luke 2:52: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man", thus the message title, "Growing Pains". Everyone has experienced growing pains. There are many phases of our lives where we have growing pains: Finding love for the first time, learning to give and receive gracefully, and humility. Jesus was twelve years old when He started experiencing these things. Growing in stature meant physically He was becoming a man. The same happens to us with each stage of growth and when you decide to live right in your relationship with God. There will be some pain associated with this, but it is all more than worth it! We had three new members added to our membership today. God has mightily blessed our church with the calling of Pastor Jeff Spicer cheering us on. And Ms. Annette watching over all of us. Please make one of your New Year's resolutions to get back into Christ's University (the church). RCUMC is located at 2676 Burke Road, just north of Lake Seminole.

Weekly devotion from Alex Howell

Has it ever crossed your mind that those dreams and desires in your heart were planted there by God? There is a very good reason for that.

Many people desire the same things - a closer walk with God, good relationships, etc., but many of those desires and dreams are yours alone planted by God especially for you.

Why would God do that? Those desires and dreams are to show us that we are special to Him and then lead us into a more complete expression of who we were created to be.

We should live each day of our lives with great purpose because those desires and dreams are to honor Him and demonstrate the abundant life that Jesus came for us to express. We are His representatives and as we express His goodness, others will desire what we demonstrate and then they will come to Him and receive.

He really does desire for us to be fulfilled and happy. Jesus is at the center of our dreams because "In His presence is fullness of joy." (Psalm16:11)
Christmas never ends!!!

Dr. James H. Crowdis Run set for this Saturday, January 15 in Blakley

The annual Dr. James H. Crowdis Run, featuring a 5K and 10K race on a certified course, will be held this Saturday, January 15, in Blakley. Medals will be presented to all finishers in both events. Runners and walkers are encouraged to participate in the event.

The entry fee for the event is \$25 until 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 14. Race day registration will be \$30.

Awards will be given to overall winners in open, masters, grand masters, senior grand masters, and super grand masters categories. Awards will also be presented to the top three finishers in the following male and female age groups: 0-10, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30- 34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-79, 80 and over in both races.



The top three male and female walkers in each race will also receive an award.

Both the 5K and 10K races will begin at 9:15 a.m. EST at the First United Methodist Church in Blakely, located at 397 College Street.

All awards will be presented inside the church social hall at 10:45 a.m. EST or immediately after the final competi-

tor has finished.

The Dr. James H. Crowdis Run is a Dothan Runners Club Grand Prix event. It is also a Peachtree Road Race qualifying race. The Dr. James H. Crowdis Run, named in honor of a beloved physician who practiced medicine in Blakely for 53 years was held from 1981 to 1995 and returned in 2012.

Reynolds Chapel United Methodist Church

2676 Burke Road, Donalsonville

Sunday School - 9:30; Worship Service - 10:30



Pastor Jeffrey Spicer
and his Mom, Annette

City of Donalsonville Holiday Sanitation Collection Schedule

MARTIN LUTHER KING

If Regular Collection is on:	Holiday Collection will be on:
Monday, January 17, 2022	Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Please have your roll cans at curbside by 8:00 a.m. on the dates provided, and leave it there until it is serviced.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Sanitation Department

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