

# New Years Message 2020

12-29-19

## A New Year To Live Out Our Faith

### I. Announce:

- A. **Slide1 Baby Dedication (3rd): Caleb Dawson Vicencio.** Jose & Veronica. + 25 family members
- B. **Slide2-5 Andrew L:** Office hours. Calv Kids worship. Fresh Hope Training. **Men's Brkfst.**
- C. **Slide6 CMCS Variety Show** - This year, our school has undergone a major financial turnaround, **and** we are currently running the school with no financial deficits. **Our next objective** is to create a **financial reserve** for capital improvements **&** emergencies. This will help us to achieve our goal of maintaining a **sustainable** Christian School for our children
1. We will be hosting a **Variety Show** as an **annual fundraising event**.
  2. One of the ways to get involved is becoming **a corporate sponsor**.
  3. **Your gift is tax deductible and helps advertise your business.**
  4. **Gold Package** - Full page advertisement in the Variety Show program, rotating corporate image on the Variety Show big screen, individual corporate vertical banner 33"x80" hung on campus for all of 2020 and at Church for 2 Sundays  
<http://www.cmcsweb.com/varietyshow/> [CM web site/click Variety show banner]
- D. **Slide7 Speaking of Giving & Generosity** - Though **tithing** is *a great principle*, our motivation is **Grace-Giving**. Jesus said, **Freely you have received, freely give**.
1. **CM you are generous givers...thank you.** I gave a financial update **7 weeks ago about being** down **5% from last year.** **Your response** as of last week we have completely made up that deficit...**with this week still to go.** PTL.
- E. **Prayer:** Lord, as we embark on a **new year.** A **new start.** **And** hopefully a **new us.** We gaze into the future with *hopefulness, spiritual optimism, renewed expectation.* Help us to *dream, and long, and yearn...*for 1 thing...**You.**

### II. Slide8 Intro: A New Year To Live Out Our Faith

- A. **Breathe - yes, breathe.** Because we only have **one weekend** where we get to **decelerate** from December, **and** before we **accelerate** into our new year.

B. **Slide9** *Mike Yaconelli*, From Youth Specialties - Every **minute** we live with Jesus, every **week** we follow the Master, every **year** we mark in the company of the Savior gives us a wisdom about life that transcends the expertise of the expert. **Experience** is more than a **great teacher**, it is a **great resume** that qualifies all of us to make judgments, decisions, and choices that we can trust and that others can trust. Even our **failures** can occur with passion and confidence **because we know they are** the **fruit** of our **previous self**, the evidence of our **unknowing**, the **mistakes** we need to make in order to know we've made a mistake, & the *necessary preface* to new insights and awarenesses.

### III. **Slide10 1) NEW OPPORTUNITIES, NEW OPPOSITIONS** (1 Cor.16:7b-9)

A. 1 Cor.16:7b- *I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. 8 But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*

B. **Slide11** If the Lord permits (7) Paul didn't know everything that was going to happen.

C. **Slide12** A wide door - a **door** is a metaphor for **opportunity**. [**wide** = *megas*]

1. Rev.3:7,8 **And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.**

2. **msg A huge door of opportunity** for good work has opened up here. **There is also mushrooming opposition.**

D. **Slide13** **Effective** – or *adapted to success*. Producing an intended result.

E. **Slide14** **Has opened to me** – lit. *stands wide open*.

1. **Open infers** that *some doors* are or can be, **shut!**

a) Often we see **imagined prison bars** but in reality they're open doors of opportunity.

2. Alexander Graham Bell said, *When one door closes, another opens, but we often look so long and regretfully at the **closed door** that we do not see **the one that has opened for us.***

a) Are there any doors **in front of your face** at this time that you are still staring at?

b) Is it not a great way to **pray** to ask the Lord to **open** or **close doors** regarding His direction for your life? (i.e. *If the Lord permits* vs.7)

3. And when you find an *open door* it doesn't help you unless u *walk through it!*
  - a) At the Red Sea crossing in Ex.14:15 the LORD said to Moses, *Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.*
- F. *Slide15a* There are many adversaries – expect them. Don't automatically see *adversaries* as *closed doors*. Don't automatically see *adversaries* as *the Lord being mad at you*.
  1. *Slide15b* A **Pessimist** is one who *sees* a **difficulty** in every **opportunity**. A **Optimist** is one who *sees* an **opportunity** in every **difficulty**.
    - a) There is an *opportunity* in every *difficulty* and a *difficulty* and every *opportunity*.
    - b) That is why *so many blessings* are missed, *so many heights* left unscaled, *so many fine chapters of service* left unwritten. *J.Sidlow Baxter*
  2. Believers are not usually left to pursue our work unhindered. It's part of the conditions under which we serve God *that when* we have *great opportunities of service* we also have *serious difficulties*.
    - a) *Ps: overcoming opposition* is part of the *opportunity*.
- G. Any doors you're trying to **kick down**? Any doors you've just been **standing in its threshold**? Any *opportunities* you haven't taken because of **fear**?
- H. We have another open door in this new year, 2020.
  1. These last couple of days will shut 2019's door. How ever we try to breach it, it is shut never to open again. **But** the door of the new year, *by the grace of God*, now swings open :)
  2. Let's not try to break that old door of 2019 open, *w/useless regrets & shattered dreams*. **But** instead **turn our eyes** to the great new door of opportunity which 2020 sets before us.

#### IV. *Slide16a* **2) REMEMBER IT RIGHTLY, 2019**

- A. Not just what you **did wrong** or what went wrong.
  1. What about all of the *ways He* made? What about all of the *promises He* kept? What about all of the *situations that He* carried you through? What about all of the *valleys He* walked you out of?
- B. *Slide16b* Did you know on the iPhone, it can make a *Memory* movie (of pics it's stored up)

1. Maybe **we** should do the same in our **minds** (it doesn't grab every picture).
2. See I want to *skip some scenes* of 2019. Not that they didn't happen. But I'm just not putting them in my movie.

C. Slide16c It's my memory, I get to **control it**.

1. I can focus in on the **one thing** *she or he* said that **hurt me**, or the **99 times** *she or he* was **so kind**.
2. Slide16d **Manage your memory!** Edit your movie.
3. Just as we need **muscle memory** in the gym, so we need **miracle memory** in our mind.

D. Philip 1:3 Paul said, *I think my God every time I remember you.*

1. Slide16e Paul learned to **remember** the **outcome**, not the **opposition**.
2. Philip 1:4 adds, *always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with Joy.*
  - a) Slide16f Don't remember the **pain**, remember the **purpose**.
  - b) Paul doesn't remember the **prison**, but the **purpose**. And because the **purpose** is **so big**, so the **nights in prison** seems **so small**.

V. Slide17a **3) IS YOUR LIFE STUCK ON PAUSE?**

A. I was watching a *Jason Bourne movie* Thurs night, when right towards the end the DVD got stuck.

1. I've learned **DVD's** can get stuck 3 ways: **by me** (hitting pause on remote). **by someone else** (Sully, 1 time). **or it just happens** (scratch on DVD).
2. **Life seems to be the same way:** I've made myself stuck. Someone else helped. Life.
  - a) Slide17b *Don't get stuck. Don't remain stuck.*

B. Slide17c *It's time to turn the page.* I want a **new story**. A **new song**. A **new example** of God changing my life. **How about a new problem to fight?** **How about a new area of growth in your faith?**

1. We believers should own the market on **change**.

## VI. Slide18a 4) UNTRIED (untested)

- A. **The year ahead 2020 is untried.** It is beckoning a tomorrow filled with *new experiences & possibilities; risks to take; relationships to build.*
1. The *wise in heart* will enter 2020 with *faith, hope & scriptural optimism.*
  2. **Determine to take advantage** of every God-given opportunity.
  3. **Resolve to** not see church as an institution **but a family.**
  4. **Decide to get something out of** your devotions **&** not just **do** them.
  5. **Choose an intimate walk** with Jesus.
- B. *Slide18b It is comforting to know that the God who guides us, sees tomorrow more clearly than we see yesterday.*
- C. *Slide19 Benjamin Franklin* gave the advice, Be always **at war** with your vices, **at peace** with your neighbors, **and** let each **new year** find you **a better man/woman.**

## VII. Slide20a 5) 2020 A NEW YEAR TO LIVE OUT OUR FAITH

- A. 2020 can be...
1. *A challenge to live not only a **Personal** & Transforming relationship with **God**, **but** a **Public** & Transforming relationship with **the world.***
  2. *A challenge to not just **believe**, **but love** your neighbors, & even our enemies.*
  3. *A challenge to go **be** the **Good News**.*
    - a) James 2:18 **But someone will say, You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith **by my works**.**
    - b) *Slide20b **True Religion** is a religion w/feet.*
  4. *A challenge to **make** your faith public.*
  5. *A challenge to **see life** as so much more than God & yourself (i.e. the world).*
  6. *Slide20c A challenge to **Live in High Definition...or even 4K.***
    - a) High Definition is a High Resolution, speaking of the **detail** an image holds.
    - b) *Are you living out your spiritual life in:* Grainy b/w? **Technicolor?** **HD?** **or 4K?**
    - c) *Slide20d Or, how about living it, in **8K?***

B. Resolution is from the word *resolve* = a firm determination to do something.

1. Resolve to Love God Completely.
2. Resolve to Love People Authentically.
3. Resolve to Make Disciples Globally.

C. \*\*\*\*\*

D. 10 Questions to Ask in the New Year - Don Whitney:

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the *most humanly impossible thing* you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the *single most important thing* you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
5. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
6. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
10. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? In eternity?