Dear Lexie,

"New Year's Resolutions....Not!"

Ok, how many of you have already broken most, if not all, of the resolutions that you made for this New Year? Now, be honest. Are you aware that studies have shown that of the forty-five percent of Americans that actually make New Year's resolutions, only eight percent of them are successful in keeping them? One of the reasons why our present resolutions pretty much mirror those of the previous year is that we failed in keeping them as well.

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Milestones
Looking back at God's blessings

Each new year, before I think about formalizing resolutions designed to propel me to new and better things, I like to sit and remember the many things for which I have to be thankful.

Learn more >>

Warmth for the Homeless

This Sabbath:
January 12, 2013

Speaker:
Pr. Charles Tapp
"Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous"
Knitters Ministry Spotlight

In early Fall this year the knitters and crocheters of Sligo church got together to start work on a project as part of Sligo's "Raise the Roof" initiative. Calling it "Warmth for the Homeless" …

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Farewell to a friend
John Konrad

John Konrad, vice president and general manager of Washington's contemporary Christian music station, WGTS 91.9, passed away this morning after a short illness.

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"NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS....NOT!"

By pesposito On January 10, 2013 • Add Comment • In eWeekend

Ok, how many of you have already broken most, if not all, of the resolutions that you made for this New Year? Now, be honest. Are you aware that studies have shown that of the forty-five percent of Americans that actually make New Year's resolutions, only eight percent of them are successful in keeping them? One of the reasons why our present resolutions pretty much mirror those of the previous year is that we failed in keeping them as well.

Well, because of the fickle nature of making New Year's resolutions, I decided years ago that I would no longer participate in this painful exercise of futility. After all, there are already enough areas in my life that are destined to cause me frustration, so why in the world would I want to add one more. But as the New Year quickly became a reality, I began to reconsider my original position on this issue and as a result I have decided to shorten my list from those of previous years. Instead of having a top ten list, I decided on just three. Now, just for the record, I didn't put things on my list like, I need to lose weight and get into shape, or I that I need to stop being a perpetual procrastinator, although all of these I must say are admirable goals nonetheless.

So, what are my goals for 2013? In a nutshell they are to love more, forgive more and judge less. Now when I say love more, I immediately think about the definition of love by Douglas Cooper in his book titled, Living God's Love, where he defines love as, "Using one's God-given power of choice to do or say that which is in the best good or interest of another regardless of feeling." And when it comes to forgiveness, it has been said that forgiveness is the acid test of being a Christian. If you are like me, then your Christianity is put to the test each and every day, because when you really think about, isn't forgiveness just another aspect of what it means to love.

My final resolution for 2013 is simply to judge less. There is a familiar aphorism that says that we should not judge a book by its cover. So not judging means that I must be careful not to be quick to draw certain conclusions about people, simply because of how things may appear on the outside. And I'm sure we could all benefit from living this way.

Now, in no way am I saying that keeping my resolutions will be easy, despite the fact that I have limited them to only three. What I am saying is that when you think about it, what do I really stand to lose by trying? The answer is, absolutely nothing but my selfish heart.

Tags: adventist • charles • church • condemn • douglas cooper • draw conclusion • forgive • God • jesus • judging • living god's love • love • new year • resolution • resolutions • salvation • sligo • stereotypes • tapp
Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church | “New Year’s Resolutions….Not!”

http://www.hope4washington.com/new-years-resolutions-not/?utm_sour...
Each new year, before I think about formalizing resolutions designed to propel me to new and better things, I like to sit and remember the many things for which I have to be thankful. At an end of year function with a small group from Sligo, we were asked to share one thing from the year that left us the most thankful. When it came my turn I said, “I am so thankful that with God’s help we paid off the OSR this year.” I am sure this is something for which our entire church family can give a heart-felt thanks to God.

The current building in which the Sligo Church family gathers was completed in 1944. In 1985 we built an addition however by 2001, it was clear that there was need for significant renovation. Our congregation initiated a project labeled the Organ Sanctuary Renovation (OSR) project. The work included allowing more natural light at the front of the church (behind the pulpit), installing a new maple stage, a baptistry with Jerusalem marble, a Daffar organ and pipes and pews on the main floor. Acoustics were also improved. The original cost increased to $4.36 million when it became apparent that there was significant asbestos in the original construction that needed to be removed. Approximately half of the money for this restoration project was raised prior to initiation and the remaining $2.3 million was borrowed from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund. To put this project cost of in perspective, at last estimate, our church property was valued at about $18 million.
THE PLAN

In May 2005 we started making payments on this 20-year, 7.0% fixed interest loan, with a monthly payment of $16,500. By 2009, despite an economy that was in a tailspin, we began a concerted effort to pay off the loan early. The campaign highlighted the endless possibilities of what an extra $16,500 could do for our many ministries. Pastor Tapp wrote a piece for the eSteward entitled “What if…” accenting the potential of invigorated ministries. And we as a church eagerly got to work to retire our debt early, not only save many hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest, but to free up offerings that can be used to further the many vibrant ministries of our church.
**MILESTONES**

By June of 2009, our monthly interest payments fell below $10,000 for the first time. A bequest from an estate came in so that by the end of the year along with faithful giving by so many members, the loan amount had dropped from $1.9 million to $1.3 million, with about $10,000 a month going to pay off principal. By the end of 2010 our loan amount was below $1 million and by the end of 2011 it was below $800,000. And this was during a time when we, along with Sligo Adventist School, elected to raise $350,000 for our school as a condition for a generous donation from the Commonwealth Foundation. During 2012 several donations from anonymous donors and 2 bequests came in that allowed us to pay off our remaining OSR debt by Thanksgiving. And what a joyous Thanksgiving we had! Praise be to God! And thanks to each one of you who faithfully continued to give to this project.

**NEW BEGINNING**

So now at this birth of a new year, we give thanks to be free from the burden of debt. This new found freedom should embolden us to know that nothing is too hard for God. Not finding a way out of Egypt for the children of Israel, not paying off a $2.3 million loan in the face of a shaky economy. And if He can do that, what else can He do for Sligo? Which Sligo ministry would you like to support with your time, talents and money? How does that giving engage with your new year’s resolution? And with that investment, what are the exhilarating, life-changing things God can do? The possibilities are truly endless.

Luke 6:38 “If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving—large or small—will be used to measure what is given back to you.” (New Living Translation)

By: Dr. James Gulley
WARMTH FOR THE HOMELESS

By pesposito On January 10, 2013 - Add Comment - In Ministry Spotlight

In early fall this year the knitters and crocheters of Sligo church got together to start work on a project as part of Sligo’s “Raise the Roof” initiative. Calling it “Warmth for the Homeless” we determined to make as many hats, scarves and mittens as we could in time for Christmas. Announcements were made during church and a leaflet was included each week in the bulletin, asking anyone who could knit or crochet to make a hat, scarf or pair of mittens over the next few weeks and leave them in a special box in the atrium when they came to church. We asked those who didn’t feel like they could make something but who had yarn they could spare to bring it in as well. This was then distributed to those who wanted to participate but didn’t have any yarn themselves.

We also started meeting on Wednesday evenings in the prayer room at the top of the stairs to knit, crochet, share progress and patterns, drink hot chocolate, and chat. Several people came to Knit Night asking to learn to knit or crochet specifically so that they could participate in the project, including several young people from the college next door.

The response to the project started slowly, but things started to trickle in the first week and then a huge bag of yarn donated by a member the second week gave us a big kickstart. After that, every time we started running low on yarn, more would turn up, and another member gave us a large shoebox full of needles, hooks, stitch markers and other goodies. Before many weeks were up the little box we put out was overflowing at the end of church every week and people were leaving grocery bags full of items.

Originally the deadline for items to be finished was December 15, but we decided to send the items out with the soup run on December 22, so we had an extra week to collect items. In the end we had over 150 articles, including 90+ hats and 75+ scarves, four pairs of mittens, four shawls and even two pairs of slippers! We also have a bag of children’s and baby items, which will be given to a local shelter. On December 22 a group of members and students from the college went to downtown DC to hand out food and articles of clothing to the homeless there and they took our knitted and crocheted items with them. They found a new owner for every single hat, scarf and mitten that night.

When we started this project we really had no idea what kind of response we would get but the crafters of Sligo Church felt the Spirit move them to be involved in the community and use their talents for the glory of God and what an amazing result!

Our next project is going to be creating blankets and hats for the babies at Washington Adventist Hospital, and we hope to get Sligo’s sewers involved in this one as well.
FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

By pesposito On January 2, 2013 · Add Comment · In Story

FROM NAD COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT:

TAKOMA PARK, MD - John Konrad, vice president and general manager of Washington’s contemporary Christian music station, WGTS 91.9, passed away this morning after a short illness.

Konrad, 43, died at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore surrounded by friends and family. He had been battling bilateral pneumonia since mid-December.

“We all hoped John would recover, so needless to say, his passing has left our entire community deeply shocked and saddened,” said Rob Vandeman, executive secretary of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and president and chair of the WGTS board of directors. “We offer our sincerest condolences to his wife, Dawn, and ask that you keep her and our WGTS family in your prayers.”

Founded in 1957, WGTS is owned and operated by Washington Adventist University, a higher education institution of the Columbia Union Conference.

Konrad, who became WGTS General Manager in 1996, led the station through a transition from classical music to a contemporary Christian format in the late 1990s and doubled the station’s coverage area. Under his leadership, the station grew from 10,000 weekly listeners to over 600,000. The station ranks among the top 10 in the Washington D.C. market.

As funeral plans become available, they will be posted on the station’s website: www.wgts919.com.

Further inquiries may be directed to Grace Virtue, WAU director of Corporate Communication, at (301) 891-4134 or gvirtue@wau.edu.

FROM WGTS WEBSITE:

We’re heartbroken, but taking comfort in the hope that we have in Jesus.

Our friend and General Manager of WGTS 91.9, John Konrad passed away this morning in Baltimore, after a brief illness with pneumonia. We are so grateful for your prayers for his wife Dawn and the rest of the family.
If John has impacted your life or you want to leave a message to the family, please leave your remarks in the comments section below. Don’t worry about being too specific or long. Take as much space as you want ... the family wants to know.

Link to WGTS article and information: http://wgts.org/farewell-to-a-friend-2/

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