



NEWSLETTER

SLD Newsletter

Page 1

The Newsletter

The SLD Newsletter this month features several items coming up in the next few weeks. Be sure to mark your calendar as these dates are fast approaching. For those involved in L2L be sure to check out the info below. Also, visit the church website! Let's grow in Christ together!

Glenn

"... he who leads; with diligence..."
Romans 12:8

www.gtownchurchofchrist.org

Check out the features of our re-designed website:

- Easier Navigation throughout the site
- New Home Page with slideshows
- Members Sign-on to access congregational information
 - Pictorial Directory
 - Weekly Bulletins
 - New Member Photos
- Three Slideshows to feature Bible studies and ministries
- Larger Slideshow to feature near-term upcoming events
- Multi-Media Centers for sermons and lessons
- Church Calendar of congregational events

Bookmark the website!

L2L

The L2L online registration is now closed and we have a total of 175 adults and children registered to attend the L2L National Convention April 10-12 in Nashville!

Also, the deadline for hotel fees has passed so if you have not paid, please give a check to Dee or Glenn.

For those attending the national convention in April there will be a meeting after evening services on Sunday, April 5. At least one adult from each family registered for the convention should attend this meeting. At that time you will receive information about the convention and how to obtain your hotel keys.

L2L Informational Meeting

- ◆ Sunday
April 5
7:00 p.m.
Auditorium

The Challenge

Another Men's Leadership Challenge began Tuesday night, January 6. Please keep these men in your prayers over the next few weeks as they increase their spiritual growth.

10 Men, 10 Weeks, 10 Challenges

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Mark Conder | Tripp Milligan |
| Richard Crowe | Carl Porter |
| Dan Huss | Archie Shelton |
| Matt Marek | Archie Vest |
| Efrain Marrero | Mike Waggoner |

Mark Your Calendar!

Ministry Summit 2009

Elders, Deacons, Ministers
Friday, February 27 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday, February 28 8 a.m. - noon

Leadership Camp 2009

Boys and Girls in 3rd thru 7th Grade
Monday thru Friday
June 15-19
"Leap Over A Wall" (Psalm 18:29)

Spiritual
Leadership
Development
NEWSLETTER

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Prepared by
Glenn Daily

for the members
of the Germantown
church of Christ as
we lead by being
Christian servants.

2009 - a Year to be Fearful or Not

The Coming Year of Instability

With the new year here many of us want changes in some aspects of our lives. Many will make new year's resolutions. We may decide to exercise more, eat better foods or relax more to drive out tensions in our lives. Also, with the new year comes an attitude to have a better attitude. We want to enjoy life more and successfully complete tasks which we may have wanted to accomplish for months or even years. In addition there are some challenges which come our way that we must deal with whether we want to or not. These would include situations in life which affect us in a negative way, such as, unknown changes in life or health and the known fact income tax preparation is coming soon!

Specifically, with the year 2009 we are being told to be fearful of ever increasing changes in the economy, stock market and our personal finances. Sounds scary! Especially, when we are told, "It's all about the economy!"

With instability surrounding us, what are we to do? Here are 3 actions we can take to make 2009 a stable year.

- **Rethink the Premise of a Negative Outcome**

In this day and time as we listen to the "news" one could actually take away the idea that the economy and politics are the only topics of real substance. Let's rethink this situation and its premise. There is an order to life which brings forth a time for all types of events in life (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8) and there is nothing which we will experience in life that has not had a counterpart in previous times (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Others have weathered the storms of life and survived; so can we. The negativism which is portrayed is not necessarily the way life's events will play out nor must we believe that a stable life depends upon economics or politics.

In fact, stability is founded on a solid rock. When we build our life's ambitions upon following the will of God we have a solid foundation which is stable (Matthew 7:24-27). By practicing the will of God in our actions in life we will build upon this rock. This rock is not unstable like sand, but solid; not built on a premise of being negative, but positive; and not seeing life with a limited boundary of money, but an expanded life with security and protection in God.

Thus, the premise of life having a foundation of money or politics or this moment's negative incident is wrong! Life is not about the negative aspects of this moment; rather, life is about the positive actions we can take by doing the will of God. In 2009 we can prove the fears wrong by drawing closer to God by doing His will in our lives. This action will stabilize our thinking toward a positive outcome - doing the will of God. Our actions in following the will of God will stabilize our life. As David said: "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (Psalm 18:2).

- **Meet the Trials and Temptations Head-On**

The year 2009 will certainly have many surprises and challenges for each of us. Some of the events we experience in 2009 may be trials to our faith. Hard economic times with a recession or depression may come our way. Maybe even an incident closer to home may cross our path of life which affects us as an individual or family. How should we respond to these trials? We should face the trials head-on so our faith can and will develop perseverance. We can remain joyful through these experiences by withstanding the tests, maturing as a Christian and continuing in our love of God (James 1:2-12).

Also, temptations may come our way. Some events in life are temptations, which can attempt to lead us away from the source of our faith, strength and life. Temptations have a powerful source behind them - Satan. The Deceiver wants us to see life different than it really is. He doesn't want us to discern truth from falsehood; eternal life from this life's events; or security in God from earthly possessions. Even when we continue on the right path at times Satan will accuse us of doing things that we have not or will not do. The Accuser told God twice that if Job experienced certain events Job would curse God to His face (Job 1:11; 2:5). Well, Satan made sure Job did experience those events, but Job never cursed God (Job 2:10). When the events of 2009 may not be what we wish or think they should be we need to persevere, take on the trial or temptation, and meet the test.

Then let's not only meet the tests that come our way, but go the extra mile. Find other people, especially brothers and sisters in Christ, who are struggling. Their heartache can be an opportunity for us to help them stabilize their life in 2009. Be a listener to their problem; be a friend to someone in need; and share in their pain by being involved in their life.

- **Stabilize the Year 2009 and Your Life**

To stabilize our life in the new year we should stay in close contact with God. God is consistent. Knowing we always have a just, righteous and compassionate God enables us to move forward in life with confidence and security.

We should also take a self-evaluation. Do I like who I am becoming or who I am? Do I converse with God many times on a daily basis? Am I growing spiritually and helping others around me to grow? Once you evaluate where you are spiritually, then take action.

Connect to the church by "Walking with God and His family in His ministry to His world" - love God (Matthew 22:37), build relationships (Philippians 2:1-2), serve others (Galatians 6:9-10) and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). The Christian life should be a stable life. Experience and live 2009 with joyfulness and boldness.

2009 - A Year of Refuge in God