



## Women Begin Work Days

The WMMC ladies will begin their winter work days on Tuesday, January 10. They will work from 9:30 until noon each day.

On the third Tuesday of the month they will hold a business meeting beginning at 10:30, but no work day. The first

### Board Fills Offices

At it's December meeting the Church Board filled the following offices by appointment:

**Youth**-Hunter Kilpatrick

**Treasurer**-Dennis Fay

**Assistant Treasurer**-Linda Woodard

**Music**-Eleanor Hill

**Auditors (2016)**

Vicky Anderson

Darrin Benzing

**Hostesses**

Eleanor Hill, Vicky Anderson, Melissa

Benzing, Verna Fay, Barbara Strong

**Newsletter Editor** - Dennis Fay

### Pray One Sentence Prayers

Pray one-sentence prayers. If the thought of laboring over a topic wears you out, pray short, sincere prayers instead.

A sentence or two may be all that's needed to exhaust the topic for you for the time being. If so, just move on to the next item without feeling guilty for your brevity.

business meeting of 2017 will be Jan 17.

The ladies already have a couple of quilts which need to be put together.

In the last part of 2016, the ladies collected and sent out clothes to the Florida Baptist Children's Home. Seven boxes of clothing have been sent and there are 4-5 more boxes of clothing yet to be sent. The organization provides many services for children in many locations.

For Christmas, the ladies sent gifts of money to five different missionaries. These are missionaries the ladies provide support for during the year.

They also donated a gift of money for Christmas to the Nehemiah Project, a homeless shelter in Petoskey.

### Members Elect Officers

**Church Board Secretary**-Cindy Strong

**Sunday School Superintendent**

Tanya Procknow

**Assistant Sunday School Superintendent**

Verna Fay

**Conference Delegate**-Dennis Fay

**Alternate Conference Delegate**

Cheryl Rhinier

**Deacon**-Ray Meyer

**Deaconess**

Carol Kilpatrick

Phyllis Smith

**Non-Member Trustee**

Tom Seger, Irv Kilpatrick

**Head Usher**-Dan Procknow

**Fellowship Committee Chairman**

Lori Meyer

## **From Pastor Rob**

### **Live Like a Disciple of Jesus**

Happy New Year one and all! I am getting excited to see what God has instore for us in the year 2017 and I hope you are too!

I know some people may be tired of hearing the word disciple. However, the word disciple is an important word in the New Testament. It is used somewhere around two hundred and ninety-six times in the New Testament. For a word to be used this many times it is an important word for the writers of the New Testament so it should be an important word for us today as well.

So since it is such an important word we need to understand a few things about a disciple.

First what is a disciple? Secondly, what does a disciple look like? Also, what is expected from a disciple?

These three thoughts, as well as many others will be explored as we move forward into 2017. I am not going to try to cover any of these ideas in the Newsletter today. I just wanted to introduce you to our theme for 2017 —“Live Like a Disciple of Jesus”. I am making the word disciple distinct by including the words “of Jesus” to our theme for one reason.

There are many disciples made every day of the year. There are disciples of every faith group, every business

venture and even in every family. Our goal is to point people to the ultimate discipleship, being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

As we start to unfold this theme in 2017. My first goal is to help people realize not every disciple is created in the image of Christ. The sad reality is Christians are making disciples of themselves and not disciples of Jesus. Take some time to think about this because it is a very important reality. I will be explaining more of this as we delve deeper into the year.

If you have claimed Jesus as your Lord and Savior you **MUST** be a disciple of Jesus, no other way around it. (Let me know if you can find anything that says different in Scripture.)

In order to be a disciple of Jesus one has to know what a disciple is, how a disciple learns and grows and ultimately how to Live Like a Disciple of Jesus!

The year is just starting, we have a lot of ground to cover and a lot to think about and learn this year. God is calling you and me to look more and more like Jesus to one another and to the world and he wants us to start today!

As I said, I am very excited to see what God has instore for us in 2017. Let's make it the year of Jesus' Disciples.

**Happy New Year,  
Pastor Rob**

# January 2017

# Bliss Missionary Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - No Evening Service <b>New Year's Day</b> <b>Donna Byard</b>	2 <b>Laura Richards</b>	3 <b>Laura Richards</b>	4 7:15 - Youth	5 <b>Josef Smith</b>	6	7
8 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service	9 WMMC Work Day 9:30-Noon <b>Linda Woodard</b>	10 WMMC Work Day 9:30-Noon <b>Linda Woodard</b>	11 7:15 - Youth <b>Norma Leonard</b> <b>David Forrester</b>	12	13 <b>Dave-Loralee</b> <b>Dankert</b>	14
15 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service <b>Gabrielle Russ</b> <b>Elaine Arthur</b>	16 WMMC Business Meeting 10:30 <b>Monica Meads</b> <b>Tara Russ</b>	17 WMMC Business Meeting 10:30 <b>Monica Meads</b> <b>Tara Russ</b>	18 7:15 - Youth <b>Wayne-Sue</b> <b>Shidler</b>	19	20	21
22 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service No Evening Service	23	24 WMMC Work Day 9:30-Noon	25 7:15 - Youth	26	27 <b>James Benzing</b>	28 <b>Zak Thomson</b>
29 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service <b>Carry-In Lunch</b> <b>Business Meeting</b> <b>No Evening Service</b>	30 WMMC Work Day 9:30-Noon	31 WMMC Work Day 9:30-Noon				

## The Soul Needs Freedom

In his book “Soul Keeping”, John Ortberg explains how freedom for the soul is different than people ordinarily think about freedom.

People know that their freedom is curtailed by laws, such as speed limits or the requirement to pay taxes. If someone tries to be “free” in one of these areas, and do what they want to do, they will pay a penalty.

Many people carry that same principle to Christianity, believing that Christianity consists of following rules, beginning with the Ten Commandments. However, their Hebrew term is “ten statements”.

“They describe what living up to a certain value and a certain identity and a certain destiny looks like. They flow out of how we were designed, who we were meant to be... We read them as ‘this is what you have to,’ but God was saying, ‘this is who you are.’”

When people say they want to be free, they are probably referring to being free of external restraints; they want to be free of someone telling them what to do.

“Freedom from external restraints appeals to all of us, but I do not believe that it’s the freedom the soul needs.” An example is drinking alcohol. A person is free to drink as much as they like, but it will eventually cause problems by damaging their health, marriage, job, and then discovering they are not free to enjoy sobriety.

This internal lack of freedom is what Paul wrote about, “For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do...” When we get into this kind of situation, then “the soul sits in its own prison...”

So how can a person get their soul out

of this situation of captivity? By surrender.

“If you want to free your soul, you acknowledge that there is a spiritual order that God has designed for you. You are not the center of the universe... True freedom comes when you embrace God’s overall design for the world and your place in it.”

Even AA teaches that an alcoholic must admit to lacking the willpower to quit drinking. “Sadly, the soul enslaved by sinful acts cannot be healed if we deny that those acts are really our responsibility.”

Sin comes in three different forms. 1) Sinful acts, which are behaviors—lie, cheat, gossip. 2) Sinfulness, which is a deeply entrenched pattern way below the surface, more like a habit. It comes in the form of self-serving words, jealous attitudes, chronic ingratitude, thoughts.

“Good habits free us, but when sin becomes a habit, our souls lose their freedom.” Willpower can override these habits of sinfulness for a moment or two, but to acquire new habits requires that we have access to God’s power to do what willpower can never do.

3) Original sin. “The phrase “original sin” is not actually in the Bible, but the story of humanity’s fall from God’s grace in the garden describes our condition. Something is broken or wrong with our very nature. There is a leaning toward sin in human beings that’s just there.”

Human effort cannot cure this sin problem, a very complex brokenness. ‘We cannot change this condition, but we can free our souls from its power over us by recognizing that it is there, daily seeking God’s forgiveness and strength, and living the way he designed us.