

HELLO HIGHLAND!

NEW YEARS IS A GOOD TIME TO SLOW DOWN AND TO BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES; HONEST WITH WHERE WE'RE AT SPIRITUALLY, HONEST WITH THE AREAS IN OUR LIVES THAT NEED TO CHANGE OR THAT WE NEED HELP WITH. WHEN WE ASK PEOPLE HOW THEY'RE DOING THE INEVITABLE RESPONSE IS, "GOOD." IT IS OFTEN AN EXPEDIENT "GLOSSING OVER" OF REALITY, AND I BELIEVE THIS HAPPENS SPIRITUALLY AS WELL! ASK PEOPLE HOW THEY'RE DOING IN THEIR SPIRITUAL WALK AND THE RESPONSE YOU RECEIVE IS USUALLY ROSE-COLORED.

COULD IT BE THAT WE AREN'T DOING QUITE AS WELL SPIRITUALLY AS WE THINK WE ARE AND THAT THE FRENETIC PACE OF OUR LIVES KEEPS US FROM REALIZING IT? ONLY RARELY DO WE PUSH PAUSE LONG ENOUGH TO TAKE A SPIRITUAL INVENTORY AND THEN DETERMINE TO MAKE THE CHANGES NECESSARY TO BRING MAXIMUM GLORY TO GOD.

MAY I ENCOURAGE EACH OF US TO MEDITATE UPON PSALM 101 AT SOME POINT THIS MONTH? THE PSALM WAS PROBABLY WRITTEN JUST PRIOR TO THE CORONATION OF KING DAVID AND WAS MEANT TO BE DAVID'S MAGNA CARTA, THE LAWS BY WHICH HE WOULD GOVERN HIS KINGDOM. IT CONTAINS A SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS THAT HE AND HIS SUBJECTS WOULD COMMIT TO LIVE BY. IT IS A PSALM OF ACTION. IT IS ABOUT SETTING SPIRITUAL GOALS. IT'S ABOUT REFLECTING ON OUR LIVES, COMING UNDER CONVICTION, AND MAKING RESOLUTE CHANGES TO THE GLORY OF GOD. IT IS ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS PLACED IN EACH OF OUR HEARTS TO DO, AND THEN DOING IT!

LET US COMMIT THIS NEW YEAR TO SINGING HIS PRAISES, TO MEDITATING UPON HIS GOODNESS, TO PROTECTING OUR EYES FROM ANYTHING WHICH IS IMPURE, TO PURGING SLANDER AND ARROGANCE FROM OUR HEARTS, TO PROMOTING

THE ONE WHO IS FAITHFUL AND BLAMELESS, AND TO PRESERVING THOSE WHO ARE UNDER OUR CARE.

PSALM 101

I WILL SING OF STEADFAST LOVE AND JUSTICE; TO YOU, O LORD, I WILL MAKE MUSIC. I WILL PONDER THE WAY THAT IS BLAMELESS. OH WHEN WILL YOU COME TO ME? I WILL WALK WITH INTEGRITY OF HEART WITHIN MY HOUSE; I WILL NOT SET BEFORE MY EYES ANYTHING THAT IS WORTHLESS. I HATE THE WORK OF THOSE WHO FALL AWAY; IT SHALL NOT CLING TO ME. A PERVERSE HEART SHALL BE FAR FROM ME; I WILL KNOW NOTHING OF EVIL. WHOEVER SLANDERS HIS NEIGHBOR SECRETLY I WILL DESTROY. WHOEVER HAS A HAUGHTY LOOK AND AN ARROGANT HEART I WILL NOT ENDURE. I WILL LOOK WITH FAVOR ON THE FAITHFUL IN THE LAND, THAT THEY MAY DWELL WITH ME; HE WHO WALKS IN THE WAY THAT IS BLAMELESS SHALL MINISTER TO ME. NO ONE WHO PRACTICES DECEIT SHALL DWELL IN MY HOUSE; NO ONE WHO UTTERS LIES SHALL CONTINUE BEFORE MY EYES. MORNING BY MORNING I WILL DESTROY ALL THE WICKED IN THE LAND, CUTTING OFF ALL THE EVILDOERS FROM THE CITY OF THE LORD.

HAPPY NEW YEAR,
PASTOR DANNY



Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Psalm 115:1

HIGHLAND EVENTS

THRIVE WORSHIP KICKOFF

Winter Thrive begins with a night of worship on Wednesday, January 8th, 6:30-8pm. Youth will join the adults for worship. Kids Awana will resume. See you then!

ISRAEL TRIP INFORMATION MEETING

If you are interested in going to Israel with Highland this June 16th-23rd, there will be an information meeting on Sunday, January 26th from 2-3pm. For questions, see Pastor Danny.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Save the dates! Highland will host a Women's Conference, *Testify*, February 21st & 22nd (Friday evening & Saturday morning). Registration to open Sunday, January 12th.

CCU SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA & JAZZ BAND CONCERT

The CCU Symphonic Orchestra & Jazz Band will perform at Highland on Sunday, February 23, from 4-5:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

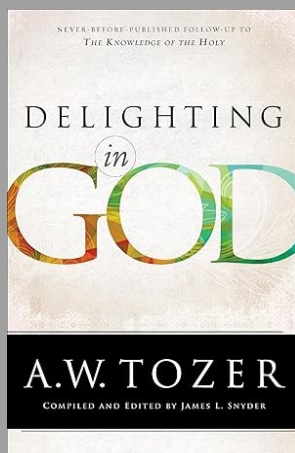
HIGHLAND SENIORS

Seniors, join us Saturday, March 22nd, 12pm, for the matinee performance of "Oklahoma" at the Candlelight Dinner Theater in Johnstown. Registration and details will be available on Church Center beginning January 12th.

Pastor Nathan's Recommended Resource

"Delighting in God"

by A.W. Tozer



Tozer's books are fantastic. They are brief but deep. Simple but impactful. "Delighting in God" is all of these. In this book Tozer confronts us with the reality that "everything we do in some way reflects our perception of God" which Tozer argues means we must seek to gain a deep and rich understanding of Him so that we can live in better reflection of Him. Tozer says as we do this we learn to delight ourselves in Him, all that He has revealed Himself to be! As we learn to delight in Him our desires for the earthly diminishes and desire for God increases.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS & BABIES!



**REECE & ANNA
DAVIDSON**



TERESA FRASER



JACKIE MCCOY



AMALIA MELTZ



ASHLEY PIKET



SANDY STAUTH



**ANDREW & LAUREN
WIEBE**



**ZEKE JORDAN
CHRIS & KATELYN
DECEMBER 13**



**HENRY RUSSELL
ADAM & ABBIE
DECEMBER 5**

MISSIONARY UPDATES



Isaiah DiLorenzo
Peru *Modern Day*

God opened some special doors for Isaiah in 2024! He was able to visit several communities where missionaries have never worked before and was able to share God's word and plant seeds for future work. He passed out audio and printed New Testaments and full Bibles in Asheninka and Spanish to people in many villages. He was involved in 3 church plants with the mission's group, Segadoras. And special news, he is engaged to Karla who is a missionary that he met at mission's prayer meeting. They will be married this February in Peru. Please pray for them as they prepare for their life together!



Eric & Heather Zeller
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Amiela

Eric is pleased to share what God has done at the Gulf Theological Seminary this past year. The student body has been impacted by churches all across the UAE as they have sent many students to the seminary. These students may one day be used by God as biblical counselors, disciplers, Bible study leaders, elders, pastors, church planters in the UAE and surrounding areas. Please pray for Eric and the seminary staff as they resolve some facility issues. Eric is grateful they could celebrate Christmas all together as a family!



Alfred & Jewel Ottosson
Bunia, DRC
Mission Aviation Fellowship

The Ottossons would like to share that they are moving to Bunia, DRC. They have been at language school in France for the past year and are planning to join their team in Bunia this month. Please pray for their family as they go through this transition and for God's leading in placing them in the work He desires for them to do there.