

**JANUARY  
2018**



**CONNECTING POINTS**



# Pastor Mike's Paper Pulpit

## **It's Only A Moment**

What a difference one moment makes! On December 31st at 11:59ish we were ushering out a tired, old year filled with all of the events good and bad that were its story. Just a scant moment later we had a brand new "baby" year filled with...well...filled with nothing. At least not yet.

Why have we placed so much into this idea of a new start? How different were you when you woke up January 1st? Most likely you were just as tired if not more than the previous morning. Why all the fuss?

For some reason the turn over of that one moment screams at us with newness. It explodes into our thinking that something new could become a reality; in a word, Potential.

Really? Can so much be vested into one short moment? Can one moment of time so transform? Is there really a magic bullet for our lives called the "New Year?" What has your experience taught you about this? Sadly, and I think you would agree, that it has nothing to do with a one-moment turn of the calendar's page. Let me suggest that there is something that



can happen in an even quicker time frame. This will so change your life that it will take your breath away. Do you want to guess what it might be?

It is simply saying "Yes" to God. Does that sound too simplistic to work? Consider for a moment how our lives would unfold differently in Twenty-Eighteen if we kept saying "Yes" to God each time he asked us to do something?

"Mike," God says, "I need you to stop watching so much TV and spend more time reading my Word."

"Hey You," God Says, "Would you go help your cross street neighbor with their yard?"

Can you imagine what my life could look like if I said "Yes?"

What would change in your life in a moment if you said "Yes" to God? Would He help you overcome a bad habit? Would He transform a struggling marriage? Would you find the strength to do what He needs you to do? I don't know the answer but I do know the question. Have you said "Yes?" Until we say "Yes" we will never know.

Happy New Year & I will see you Sunday!

## First Christian Church Elder & Contact Information

### Elders

Mack Jones—267-3090  
Brett LeTourneau—706-2192  
Michael Piersol—808-226-6754  
Scott Stutsman—559-479-1946

### Secretary

Amanda Stutsman—559-674-5203

### Pastor

Michael G. Stipe—559-259-6879

(2018 Shepherding lists are posted.  
Call your elder when there is a need.)

***Connecting People To God - To Each Other & To The World***

# THE BACK PAGE . . .

For 14 years, my life was all about Soccer. When I woke up- I played soccer, when I got out of school- I played soccer, during the hot summer heat- I played soccer; it was my whole life. For those 14 years I knew the expectation that came with the sport, I had to go to practice whether I liked it or not. On a day that I was not happy to be at practice, I had a coach tell me, "You are what you Practice" and as I grew in the sport, I realized how true that statement was. When I practiced poorly, I did not do well in the next game; however, when I had a good practice I played some of my best ball. Practice is important and by definition it is to carry out or perform something habitually or regularly in order to improve or maintain one's proficiency. Which leads me to believe we have all had to practice something regardless if we realize it or not. So if we are always practicing- how are we practicing with our Spiritual life? If we "are what we practice" if we are not constantly in a personal study with God, or personally talking to God- are we going to be okay when the game comes? I believe "Game Time" happens when we are being tested, whether good or bad, in the act. How we react to someone cutting us off on the road, or how we react to someone asking us questions about God are all "game day" scenarios that can happen at any moment. As the New Year approaches, it is a great time for us to get our heads in the game and start practicing for whatever lies ahead. So... are you ready for it?  
-xoxo Katie

## PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Greg & Vicki Syverson  
CMF International – Mexico

Vince & Gretta Payne  
Panama Mission Foundation

Dr. & Mrs. Yoon Kwon Chae  
Korea Gospel Mission

Champions For Tomorrow  
Clovis, CA

American Indian Christian Missions

Doors of Hope

Madera Community Food Bank

Madera Rescue Mission

Madera Love INC

Discover more information on the missions we support on our website: [www.maderafcc.org](http://www.maderafcc.org)

## Rescuer—Rend Collective

*(There is so much bad news in the world right now, but no matter what, we have good news. And that good news has a name and that name is Jesus Christ)*

There is good news for the captive  
Good news for the shamed  
There is good news for the one who  
walked away  
There is good news for the doubter  
The one religion failed  
For the good Lord has come to seek and  
save

He's our Rescuer  
He's our Rescuer  
We are free from sin forevermore  
Oh, how sweet the sound  
Oh, how grace abounds  
We will praise the Lord, our Rescuer



He is beauty for the blind man  
Riches for poor

He is friendship for the one the world ignores  
He is pasture for the weary  
Rest for those who strive  
Oh, the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life  
Yes, the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life

He's our Rescuer  
He's our Rescuer  
We are free from sin forevermore  
Oh, how sweet the sound  
Oh, how grace abounds  
We will praise the Lord, our Rescuer

So come and be chainless  
Come and be fearless  
Come to the foot of Calvary  
There is redemption  
For every affliction  
Here at the foot of Calvary

# January 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>House of Prayer 6:00am-7:00am</p> <p>Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Men's Breakfast—7:30am @Perkos</p> <p>Women's Breakfast—8am @Robin Walton's home</p> <p>Elder's Meeting—9am</p> <p>Board Meeting—10am</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Bible Classes 9:30</p> <p>Worship 10:45</p> <p>Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>FCC Food Bank 10:00am- Noon</p>	<p>11</p> <p>House of Prayer 6:00am-7:00am</p> <p>Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Bible Classes 9:30</p> <p>Worship 10:45</p> <p>Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>House of Prayer 6:00am-7:00am</p> <p>Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Bible Classes 9:30</p> <p>Worship 10:45</p> <p>Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>FCC Food Bank 10:00am- Noon</p>	<p>25</p> <p>House of Prayer 6:00am-7:00am</p> <p>Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Bible Classes 9:30</p> <p>Worship 10:45</p> <p>Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>31</p>			<p><b>Birthdays</b></p> <p>6 Geri Eddy</p> <p>6 Helen Brown</p> <p>16 Amanda Stutsman</p> 

# Calendar Connecting Points

*CW Breakfast—Saturday,  
January 6th—8am @ the home  
of Robin Walton  
2805 Willow Drive*

*Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 3:13-14*

Your Unfailing Presence  
Another year I enter, its history yet unknown;  
Oh, how my feet would tremble to walk its paths alone!  
But I have heard Him whisper, You surely will be blessed:  
My presence will go with you and I will give you rest.

What will the New Year bring me?  
I may not, must not know;  
Will it be love and excitement, or loneliness and woe?  
Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper:  
You surely will be blessed.  
My presence will go with you and I will give you rest.

—Anonymous



**Men's Breakfast**  
Saturday, January 6th  
@ Perkos—7:30 AM

The Elders meeting follows at 9 AM in Pastor Mike's Office & the Board at 10 AM.



There are now four emphases in prayer that are open to you as a part of our church family.

The FCC Prayer Team meets each Sunday morning in Pastor Mike's office at 8:45 to seek God and prayer walk the church facility.

Prayer Hosts are available during the service to pray specifically with you and for you.

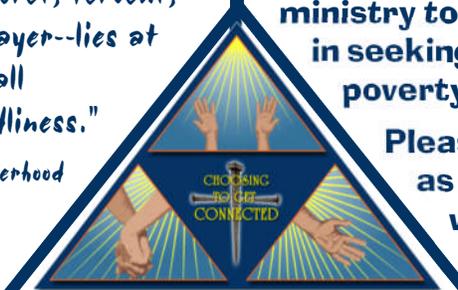
The Intercessory Prayer Ministry meets Tuesdays from 6:30–7:30 PM to lift up our church family.

House Of Prayer is an inter-church group which meets Thursday mornings from 6:00–7:00.

The only thing missing is you!

*"Prayer--secret, fervent, believing prayer--lies at the root of all personal godliness."*

~Carey's Brotherhood



## Scott & Annelle Price



In reading the inside of the newsletter you may have noticed that the names, **Scott & Annelle Price**, were no longer listed on the list of our missionaries. **Scott's**

**recent battle with cancer and the treatment for it have led them to end their 2nd career of missions work.**

**Their tireless work in Tanzania was an inspiration to all who watched them. This was seen in their creation of the BUV ministry to both help their members and in seeking to break the cycle of poverty in their lives.**

**Please continue to pray for them as they see out God's leading in what Annelle has named their 3rd career.**