



Ya know, guys, it is so hard for me to believe that a new year is here! We're already halfway through this school year! I don't know about you, but for me, this year has flown by! Before you know it, it will be time for our summer mission trips! Time flies!!

When the calendar turns from December to January, it's always a good time to take a look at where we are, where we've come from, and where we want to be in the future. What has happened in the past year that happened just exactly like you hoped it would? What didn't happen that you hoped would? Are you pleased with the person you are, here at the end of 2015, or are there things you wish you had accomplished that you didn't? Let me offer some advice. It's OK to look at the past, because it's important to know where you've come from, but don't dwell on the

past. With God by our side here in the present, let us look to the future with hope. God tells us in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Let's claim that promise together in 2016! And let's claim it not only for ourselves, but also for our Youth Ministry! The key to doing that? It's pretty simple...

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Luke 10:27) And, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)

I want 2016 to be a year of incredible growth in our ministry. I'm not necessarily talking about numbers, although I always want us to attract new people. I'm talking more about growth in our faith - growing deeper in our faith and stronger in our daily walk with God. We need each other to do that - we grow best as Christians when we grow together. So I invite you - come, let's begin this new year together, just as the church began as we read in Acts, chapter 2...

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

I love you, and hope you'll be a part of everything our Youth

Ministry does in 2016! Happy New Year!!

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