



# Zion Baptist Church

## Beacon of Light

Newsletter for January, 2017

Welcome To  
Zion Baptist Church  
2437 South Propst Street

Gastonia, NC 28056  
(704)867-2550

www.zionbc.gastonia@gmail.com

Leo Kuykendall, Pastor  
Matthew Mills, Associate Pastor  
John Fuller, Newsletter Editor

Sunday School  
10:00AM

Sunday Morning Worship  
11:00AM

Sunday Night Prayer Room  
5:45PM

Sunday Evening Worship  
6:00PM

Wednesday Prayer Meeting  
7:00PM

Thursday Night Visitation  
Prayer at 6:00PM  
Visitation at 6:30PM

### Watch and Listen To Our Service

Television Broadcast  
Wednesday Nights 9-10 PM

Time Warner Cable - Channel 18

Charter Cable - Channel 7

Comporium - Channel 124 & HD 1124  
Compass -14 & 805

Antenna-Digital TV- 14.1-14.5

Dish Network & Direct TV- Channel 14

### Radio Ministry

Tune In Every Saturday From  
11:30 AM-12:00 PM

WCGC 1270AM—Belmont, NC

## “THE PAST AND THE PRIZE”

**Auld Lang Syne** is a Scots Poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 and set to the tune of an old traditional folk song. It is well known in many countries, especially in the English-speaking world. Its traditional use was to celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of Midnight. By extension, it is also sung at funerals, graduations and as a farewell or ending to other occasions. The song's Scots title may be translated into English literally as "old long since", or more idiomatically, "long long ago", "days gone by" or "old times". Consequently "*For auld lang syne*", as it appears in the first line of the chorus, might be loosely translated as "*for (the sake of) old times*". Over the years there have been many renditions in many languages, but each one has us looking back over a time that has passed by.

Certainly, there are times and events in the past that we should look back on and remember. May we always look back and remember that dark day at Calvary when the Son of God gave his life for fallen man. May we also look back and remember the day that we accepted Christ as our Savior. Your birthday, your gradua-

tion, your wedding day, the day your child was born, the day they took their first step; there are many things that happen that are worthy to be remembered. I am thankful for other things in my past that I cherish as precious memories, but according to Phil. 3:13 and 14, Paul says... *forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Paul tells us to forget or let go of the past and look to and reach for the prize!*

The past few years have held a lot of changes and challenges for our family. All 3 of our children have gotten married and are no longer a part of our ministry, including the most recent marriage of our youngest daughter in November of 2016. Our son and his family have moved to Georgia and we seldom get to see them including our grandson, Walker. My wife and I have both lost our Dads in the last couple of years. Despite all the changes and challenges, the Lord

has blessed us far more than we can comprehend! But as we come to the end of the year 2016, let us not spend too much time in the "past" but focus on the "prize" of what's ahead.

Paul had a past that could have easily hindered his future. There were horrible memories in the past for Paul such as the day Stephen was stoned and there were victories in the past for Paul as well such as the night the prison bars were jarred open. Maybe 2016 was a good year for you, maybe it was a hard year for you. Maybe there were lots of victories, maybe there were lots of defeats. Maybe you have enjoyed good health, maybe you have been less than well. Maybe you gained many friends and maybe you lost a few. Maybe you did much for the Lord or maybe you were more focused on yourself. Regardless of what has happened, good or bad, may we look ahead to "that prize" that the Lord has in store for us tomorrow, next week and next year! Go ahead and sing your version of Auld Lang Syne (whatever that is).

*Continued on Page 3*



## Multitude in flight



There must have been hundreds, maybe even thousands forming a sea of black over my back yard.

Glancing from a bedroom window, I am mesmerized by the shimmering mass of movement. God's little ones are creating a spectacular show of His Divine will and guidance.

Many are searching and pecking at the hard barren ground. Others are snatching tiny insects from a few winter blades of green.

A multitude of jet black flapping wings are hovering restlessly, a few feet above the hungry travelers, as if to hurry the snack time.

Suddenly, hundreds more of the beautiful black creatures, in precise formation, are silhouetted against the gray sky.

In a flash, they are there, gracefully touching down all over the yard, joining the flock, while chirping a message noisily, thus alerting a number of their brothers that had invaded the yard next door, as well.

Swoosh! On cue, the entire cast ascends in perfect unison to mid-air as if drawn by a vacuum. They hover, momentarily, in a synchronous V shaped pattern - then suddenly, the amazing air show zooms off into the wild blue yonder!

I am in breath-taking awe of the performance! I am caught up in wonder and amazement of nature's perfect submission to the Creator.

Speechless, my soul is bursting with praise for Almighty God. I hear a soft voice and realize that the two simple, bare-

ly audible words, "Oh,.....oh," are escaping from my own lips. Although alone in the house, I am keenly aware that Someone is listening.

When Jesus comes again, this scene will be reenacted with man. Gabriel's trumpet will announce His coming. Jesus will split the Eastern sky and say, "Come up hither!"

The dead in Christ shall rise first, probably pausing with outstretched arms. Then, those that are alive and remain shall be caught up with them in the air. Then in a flash, just a twinkling of an eye, believers will take their flight home!

Just like the black birds, we will be gone, out of sight forever, to be with the Lord.

*Mary L. Ball ©2013*

### Word search:

**Can you find sixteen (16) books of the Bible in this paragraph?**

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.

*(The answers to this puzzle are on Page 4—Don't Peek!)*

### "The Past And The Prize"

*Continued From Page 1*

Take a moment and reflect on another year that has now gone and become a part of your past, but don't look back too long. There is a prize out there in our future that we need to focus on. The prize of seeing Jesus, the prize of reaching Heaven, the prize of a Spirit-Filled life, the prize of seeing a prayer answered, the prize of seeing a family member saved, maybe even the prize of you getting saved. Someone said that the future is not very bright. It depends on what your prize is. The future is looking pretty bright for a Child of God who's prize is being what God would have us be!

**May you have a prize filled and  
A Happy New Year!**

—Bro. Gary Crisp  
Preachin' Time Ministries  
[www.crispfamily.org](http://www.crispfamily.org)

For The New Year  
Pray More  
Worry Less!

### A Prayer for the New Year

Come, Holy Spirit,  
Spirit of the Risen Christ,  
Be with us today and always.  
Be our Light, our Guide,  
And our Comforter.  
Be our Strength, our Courage,  
And our Sanctifier.  
May this new year be a time  
Of deep spiritual growth for us,  
A time of welcoming  
Your graces and gifts,  
A time for forgiving freely  
And unconditionally,  
A time for growing  
In virtue and goodness.  
Come, Holy Spirit,  
Be with us today and always.  
Amen.

### Guidelines For the King

As we enter into this new year, the following guidelines should become a major part of our every day devotional lives.

"And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of *that which* is before the priests the Levites: and it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: hat he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statues, to do them: that his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children, in the midst of Israel."

Deuteronomy 17 18:20

The king was to be a man of God's Word. He was to (1) have a copy of the Law made for his personal use, (2) keep it with him all the time, (3) read from it every day, and (4) obey it completely. By this process he would learn respect for God, keep himself from feeling more important than others, and avoid neglecting God in times of prosperity. We can't know what God wants except through his Word, and his Word won't affect our lives unless we read and think about it regularly. With the abundant availability of the Bible today, it is not difficult to gain access to the source of the king's wisdom. **What is more of a challenge is following its directives.**

—Life Application Study Bible KJV



### A HELPFUL NEW YEAR'S GUIDE ON BIBLE STUDY

**Study the Bible through.** Never begin a day without mastering a verse from its pages.

**Pray it in.** Never lay aside your Bible until the verse or passage you have studied has become part of your being.

**Put it down.** The thoughts that God gives you put down in the margin of your Bible or in your notebook.

**Work it out.** Live the truth you get in the morning through each hour of the day.

**Pass it on.** Seek to tell somebody else what you have learned.

—J. Wilbur Chapman

**TRUST  
GOD**  
HIS PLANS ARE BIGGER THAN YOURS  
*...bigger than you could possibly imagine.*

**Zion Baptist Church**  
*Serving The Lord Since 1960*

**We're On The Web!**

[www.zionbc.com](http://www.zionbc.com)

If you would like to receive our "Beacon of Light" newsletter, please send us your name, mailing address, phone number and email address to:

Zion Baptist Church  
 2437 South Probst St.  
 Gastonia, NC 28056

### Solution for This Month's 16 Books of the Bible Puzzle

I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a **fluke**). It kept people **looking** so hard for the facts and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers. To others it was a real **job**. We want it to be a **most** fascinating few moments for you. **Yes**, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit it **usually** takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.

### Don't Make This a Part of Your New Year Resolution to Exercise!

*All the exercise some folks get is:  
 Pushing Their Luck,  
 Jumping to Conclusions  
 And Carrying a Grudge*



Time is like a flowing river,  
 no water passes beneath your  
 feet twice, much like the river,  
 moments never pass you by  
 again, so cherish every moment  
 that life gives you and  
**Have a Blessed New Year!**



### This new, New Year

There is a new, New Year,  
 To live a day at a time;  
 Tune up the harp of your soul-  
 Ring out a merry chime.

Nip buds of discontentment,  
 Plant seeds of love and prayer,  
 Grow fragrant flowers of peace;  
 Let them bloom everywhere.

Fill up the new, New Year  
 With days of gladsome toil;  
 Moments are diamonds dug  
 Out of God's fertile soil.

Rest while you work and wait,  
 Worry is rust and decay;  
 Trust though you cannot see,  
 And blessings will come your way.  
 —T.B. Bula

### The Little Prophet Says

"It is better to remain silent  
 and be thought a  
 fool than to speak up  
 and remove all  
 doubt."



## This Year Plan To Attend!!!

### Brotherhood Bible Study

Don't be confused by the name! Our Brotherhood Bible Study class has an open invitation for anyone to come and join us every other Monday evening at 7:00PM, here at the church, for one of Brother Clyde Wiggins very informative Bible study sessions. Our next Bible Study will be Jan. 2nd.

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."  
 2 Timothy 2:15*



### Thursday Night Visitations

Join us each Thursday night here at the church at 6:00PM for prayer and at 6:30 go out into the community to witness others about God's Saving Grace. What a wonderful opportunity to share The Five Steps To Eternal Life track!

*"... Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."  
 John 3:3*

### Brookdale Nursing Home

Join Brother Jake Rhyne as he ministers to the residents beginning at 7:00 PM the third Friday of each month. The Brookdale Nursing Home address is 1680 South New Hope Road. Upcoming date is January 20th.

*"Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth."  
 Psalm 71:9*

**Pray Always, Never Hate, Don't Worry, Live Simply,  
 Expect a Little, Give a Lot, Always Smile,  
 Live with Love**