

Audubon Baptist, *a Church in the Park*

SO WE, THOUGH MANY, ARE ONE BODY OF CHRIST

1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217, (502) 635-2100

www.achurchinthepark.org

January 2021

FORGETTING. AND REMEMBERING.

*Isaiah 43:18-19a, **Forget** the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it.*

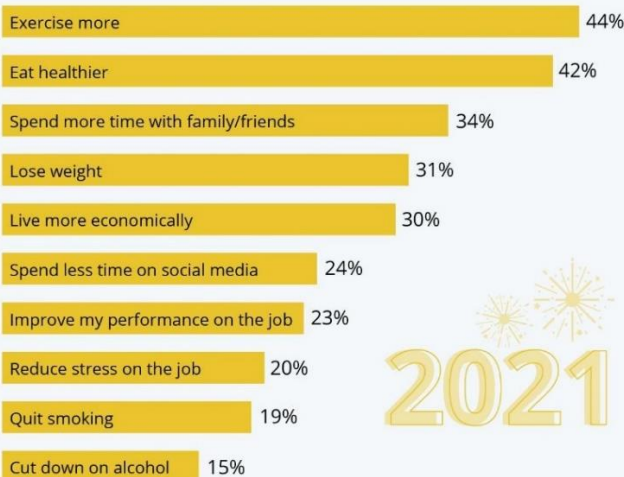
*Isaiah 46:9, **Remember** the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.*

For many years I, like many Americans, placed unmerited significance upon January 1st. This, of all the days, was the day that changes I desired for my life would be launched, perhaps even producing the 'new and improved me' in the year ahead. Half of Louisville will make such a vow, about ten times the number deciding to make life changes at other times in the year. Most years my results, meh.

My resolutions have mostly reflected the general population; you will likely find the following familiar:

America's Top New Year's Resolutions for 2021

Most popular new year's resolutions among those planning to make one or several



Survey of 531 US adults, November 2020
Source: Statista Global Consumer Survey

I have become a bit of a student psychologist on the matter, reflecting year after year on my experiences. I find it rather perplexing that the most important part of my life, spiritual knowledge of Him and incremental growth into Jesus' likeness, have received little of my committed attention. I remember several Bible reading plan resolutions; I don't recall others. Something has been amiss. I would like this year to be different.

To be sure, there is O.T. support for reflection and renewal of God's people, requiring forward looking commitment and resolution. The Day of Atonement was one such day in which the people were called to reflect upon their wrongdoings and recommitment to doing better in the year ahead. Year after year.

As I have begun to consider the year ahead, it seems the Bible speaks with clairvoyant boundaries that shall serve us well in our reflections and recommitments. On the one hand, we are told to forget some things, things that generally hold us back from forward progress in Him. *Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.* The prophet has in mind the memories, and mistakes, the failure and sin and discouragement, of our pasts. If our attention rests upon these things, we will not go forward. We misunderstand and misapply the reality of grace.

On the other hand, we are instructed to remember some things. Chief among these is that we are no longer who we once were, that we are becoming new selves, and that such is only possible because He is doing a new thing in us. We are told to remember these things, and put action to them, and in doing so, we go forward. *For He is God, there is none other like Him.* He shall meet our efforts.

What effort shall you make in the New Year to become made more in the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness? We mustn't kid ourselves; the spiritual disciplines requisite for growth in Him call us to action.

What then shall you and I commit as the New Year arrives? Will you commit to deeper personal study, or meeting with God's people for the study of His Word? Will you reenergize your prayer life and join with others similarly committed? While January 1st may simply be another gift from Him who showers steadfast love, it is surely as good as any other day to decide, to commit, to reflect upon the beauty of our abundant lives in Him.

I pray that we will make much of our days, beginning this January 1st. They are, each and every one, a gift.

Happy New Year Audubon. May God bless you,



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

10	Rick Mosley
16	Danielle Clark
16	Ben Daye
20	Daniel Hatfield
22	Kim Goodlett
23	Adam Hyde
29	Joy Campbell
30	Mary Miracle

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your continued support of Audubon and the missions that we support. Tithes and offerings may be mailed to the church at the following address:

Audubon Baptist Church
c/o Mattie Fentress
1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217

Thank you, Audubon!

PRAYER GATHERING

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Romans 8:26

Pastor Jeff leads a prayer gathering during the hour before Sunday worship. We are Praying the Bible, an approach

taken from the book of that very name by Donald Whitney. Come learn with us as we pray together. We begin promptly at 9:30AM and conclude at 10:15AM.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GATHERING

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. Jeremiah 33:3

The women of Audubon are invited to join with fellow sisters for prayer and encouragement Saturday mornings (first and third Saturdays) at 8:30AM. Note that these prayer gatherings are conference call only. Call AmyJo, Carol, or Ellen for further information.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

God provided for an abundant collection for the Lifehouse Maternity Home Christmas Outreach. We are so grateful. We collected approximately \$1,030 in cash donations, \$1,300 in grocery gift cards, and 8 boxes of food and household staples. Additionally, we were able to pray as a congregation for all the residents and staff at Lifehouse and give personalized cards and gift bags, with Scripture, to each resident. Several of our ladies were able to tour Lifehouse and learn of other outreach opportunities. We are thankful for this ministry and the blessing of each and every life they celebrate.

