



The Lighthouse

January 2022

HABITS TO CULTIVATE FOR THE NEW YEAR

“Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”” (Jeremiah 9:23–24)

By the time you read this, 2022 will be off and running. As we enter the New Year many people, of course, will make resolutions for the coming year. I want to give you some suggestions for this year (and the rest of your life!). In the past, I encouraged you to (in Hosea's words) *“Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD...”* (Hosea 6:3). I want to do the same this year. There is nothing more important than knowing the Lord in a personal relationship where you walk with him throughout your days, living your life *“coram Deo”* (before God). God allows his people to commune with him moment by moment. However, we often fall into a pattern of *“going through the motions”* of Christianity while ignoring God in the process.

The passage from Jeremiah 9 quoted above encourages us to know and understand the Lord. The passage goes on to condemn a mere *“formal religion.”*

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will punish all those who are circumcised merely in the flesh— Egypt, Judah, Edom, the sons of Ammon, Moab, and all who dwell in the desert who cut the corners of their hair, for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in heart.”” (Jeremiah 9:25–26)

To be *“circumcised merely in the flesh”* is to have the outward religious sign of being in relationship with the Lord, but without the actual relationship with the Lord. For us it means that God is not pleased with a person who is baptized, attends all church activities, calls themselves a Christian; but does not have a day-to-day relationship with him.

How can we cultivate this relationship? Here are some habits to cultivate that will encourage our relationship with the Lord.

1. Spend time regularly listening to God in his Word. Read the Bible, but not as a mere formality. Read and ask, *“What is the Lord telling me about himself, myself, my sin, my duty?”* For you smart phone users the You Version Bible app has many reading plans and you can set up reminders on your phone. It is very convenient!
2. Spend time regularly in prayer talking to the Lord. One does not have a relationship with someone with whom they do not speak. Talk to him about the things he told you in his Word.

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3. Spend time regularly repenting of sin and seeking to put it to death in your life. *“If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”* (1 John 1:6–7)
4. Attend morning and evening worship weekly if you are able. Don't merely show up. Come with a heart prepared to worship him (Doing 1-3 will help, especially if done on Saturday evening/Sunday morning before church). And take time on Sunday to privately worship – it is the Lord's Day. It is his day for us to rest from our labors and honor him. It is not the NFL's day; nor the mall's day.

This pattern works in human relationships. When a young man takes an interest in a young woman, he listens to her, speaks to her, avoids doing things that annoy her, and goes out on dates with her. I believe that if we cultivate these habits, we will certainly gain deeper knowledge and understanding of the Lord.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you in 2022!

Tim

Stay tuned for an update
from our newest
missionaries – the Ebbers in
Romania...

Thank you for being part of our team and participating in the ministry in Romania.



Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all, from our family to yours!
It's been a family reunion in Romania and we are grateful for the opportunity to share the Christmas season together. It is a busy time of year and with genuine delight, we'd like to share some of our activities with you through pictures and thank you for your investment in Romania.

Giving thanks in all occasions?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says,

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Like many of you, it has been a challenge to find opportunities to give thanks in all circumstances. It has been a humbling experience to reflect on God's goodness and provision for our family and church community. We trust our Heavenly Father to give us what we need, not always what we want. Sometimes we need to be challenged beyond our own devices so that we recognize our dependence on His strength to press on. We are thankful for those of you that consider the work in Romania an extension of your local church's ministry.

Below are some pictures to help you better understand what your partnership in this ministry means to our community. Thank you for serving alongside us.

If you plan to make a tax-deductible donation for 2021, please consider making your donation as soon as possible.

To give online, see our giving options below.

Thank you for supporting MTW and the Ebbers Family (account #12140) in Romania!

We trust that your commitment to global missions will help us make our budget through one-time gifts and new pledges.



The first thing we want to express thanks for is the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Help us serve and bless our community! Join our team now!

Ebbers Family



We have had the wonderful opportunity to get to know M&M. They have been coming to our church for several months. M is a teenage mom and orphan that is trying to finish high school. Shannon helps by watching little M while mom attends school. **Pray that M & M would know the love of Jesus and He'd give her courage & perseverance to press through and get her diploma.**

Shannon has helped M with some new and healthful recipes. M loves to cook, but just needs a little guidance. Shannon went to M's apartment and showed her how to prepare a lentil soup and a basic apple crisp.





The ladies from the church continued to meet throughout the 4th quarter for bible study and fellowship. They also enjoy having a special celebration for each of their birthdays. **Pray for growth, both spiritually & relationally as well as continued commitment to the church.**

Shannon, Elijah, and Hannah have continued to help lead the music ministry. **Pray for someone to step into Elijah's guitar playing spot in the spring as he transitions to the USA.**



We highly encourage the young families in our church to make their marriages a priority. We also minister to our community by babysitting once in a while so young parents can remain connected and united during busy schedules. **Pray for these young families.**



A key role for our family alongside church duties and administration, is ministering to young families. We continue to host people for meals on a regular basis. During our Thanksgiving meal, one of the young moms shared from her heart what our family has meant to her. It was such a humbling confirmation of the ministry of our presence here, a much needed encouragement! **Pray that we will continually serve with intention and great joy.**



We are delighted to have long-time friends and neighbors join our church. Here they are sharing how God most recently worked in their lives to return to Codlea after 10 years in Germany. **Pray that our community will be a blessing to them, and for much grace as they face difficult transitions of their own.**

A regular sight in the field behind our house.





The kids' club that has been meeting for several years at our church led us in song on Dec. 19th. **Pray that these young children will become children of the King.**

We had a special time at church honoring Isaac for being a part of the Codlea Christian Community for 13 years. Isaac served as the lead guitar player for a couple of years after Aaron left. We weren't able to have this special send-off back in 2019 because of having to leave quickly due to sudden restrictions and cancelled flights. **Pray for Isaac as he navigates college and other responsibilities. And for Elijah, as he makes his transition to the US this coming spring.**





Every year we host a Christmas Eve party for those from our church family that don't have families or other plans. At least five of the young people in our church grew up in orphanages. It is also a tradition to play a game that can get quite crazy.

May God's gift of life through Jesus Christ be overwhelming not only during the holidays, but throughout the year. Blessings to you all!

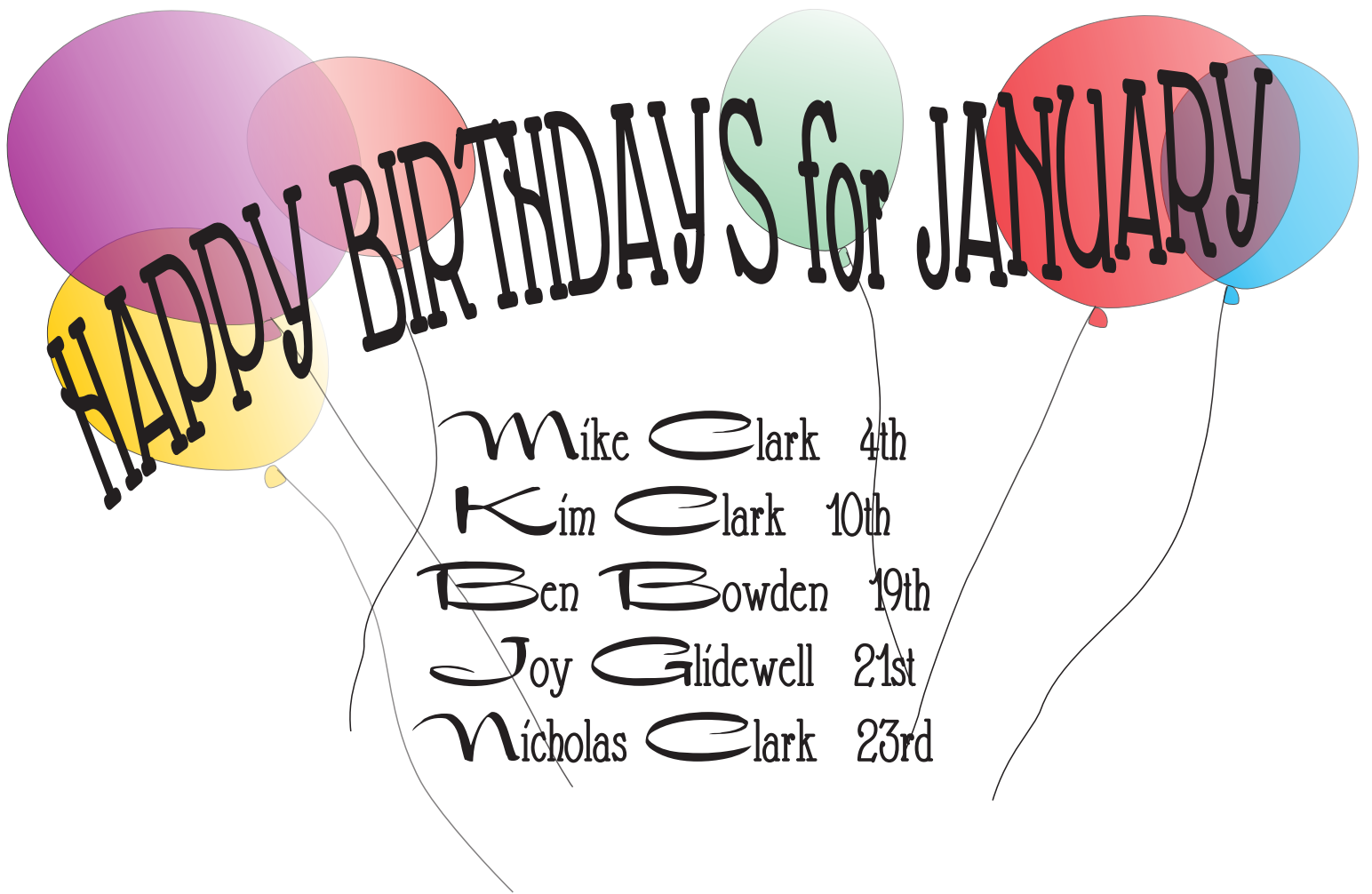


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"I thank my God every time I remember you...because of your partnership in the gospel" ~ Phil 1:3,5a



Mike Clark 4th
Kim Clark 10th
Ben Bowden 19th
Joy Glidewell 21st
Nicholas Clark 23rd

Dates to Remember for January

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| January 2 | Communion |
| January 5 | Wednesday activities will start back up at 6:30pm |
| January 5 | Ladies Circle meets at 9:30am in the Parlor |
| January 8 | Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall |
| January 9 | Monthly luncheon after the morning worship service, please bring a dish to share |
| January 16 | Communion PM Service |
| January 17 | Church office closed due to Holiday |
| January 23 | Sanctity of Human Life Sunday |