

From the Pastor's Desk

Once again, we give the Lord praise, glory and honor, because He has allowed us to turn the calendar on 2012. That in and of itself a praise God report.

2012 is beaming and budding with excitement and joy. I am excited about what God has in store for Central in 2012. You've heard me say many times, that it is a very thin pancake that only has 1 side to it. Every coin has 2 sides. Where there is opportunity, there are challenges. So as this year brings excitement and joy, it also brings challenges.

I'm glad to say that here at Exciting Central Tampa Baptist Church we are up to the challenge. The Bible tells us that we are to do all things through prayer and supplication, making our requests known unto the living and all powerful, Lord God Almighty. Our strength to overcome every challenge and to face every adversity of this New Year lies within our God, who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we are able to ask or think, according to the power of God that is at work within us, to His glory.

Every year brings its own joy and sorrow and 2012 will be no different. But our Lord has armed and fortified us with the full armor of God, that we will be able to not just survive, but thrive in the coming days. These are exciting days for Central. Here's the good news, either way the wind blows in 2012 for Central it's going to be cool!

Our theme for this year is Timothy and Phoebe Discipling Ministry. The principle is very simple. Find someone that you can look up to spiritually and reach back to spiritually and join hands and hearts together so that you are able to grow, develop and mature spiritually together. In the kingdom of God this is called doing life together in Christ. King Solomon said that a three-strand cord is not easily broken. The challenge and call in 2012 is to partner together, pray together and be yoked together as we do life together in Christ. Remember beloved, we are better together than we are apart. A part we come apart!

The second thing I want to encourage you to do is to make a renewed commitment this year to partner and pray together. Prayer is the key to unlocking doors. Someone has said that fervency in prayer gives birth to fertility in the spirit. Therefore, if Central is to be all that God has called and ordained for it to be, it will be because you and I are partnering and praying together, doing battle in the spiritual dimension for the body of Christ.

Prayer power fortifies and enables us to pull down the strongholds of the enemy within our lives and within the lives of others for the cause of Christ. Paul says, we do not wrestle or war against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly realm. Therefore, we must put on the whole armor of God in prayer, partnering and growing together, which will enable us to be victorious in this year 2012.

So, as we embark upon this New Year brothers and sisters, there are a number of exciting things that are coming down the pike in 2012 that Central will be involved in. From hosting a conference here at Central with Dr. Tony Evans Ministries, to the possibility of hosting a seminary extension of Moody Bible Institute here on our campus, a Women's Conference, a Couples Retreat, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Anna Wilkinson Freedom Weekend and Kids Across America camp, the Globe Missions Conference, just to name a few. The calendar is already filled, but they are just words on paper without your help and involvement. Beloved, we must continue to pray, give and go that the glory of God may forever rest and abide on Central.

It is yet true that it takes 3 books to run and operate the church of God: the Holy Book, the Hymn Book and a pocketbook. As we head into 2012, we will have to make some tough choices and some difficult cuts, but we are confident that God will supply our every need physically, spiritually and financially. We know whatever we need, God's got it. It just takes God's people to give it. If each one does what they can we will accomplish God's plan for Central in 2012. So let's bucket up, look up, get up and be about our Father's business in expanding the Kingdom of God, in time and eternity, both on earth and in heaven. God Bless you.

In His Service,

Dr. Jeffery L. Singletary, Pastor