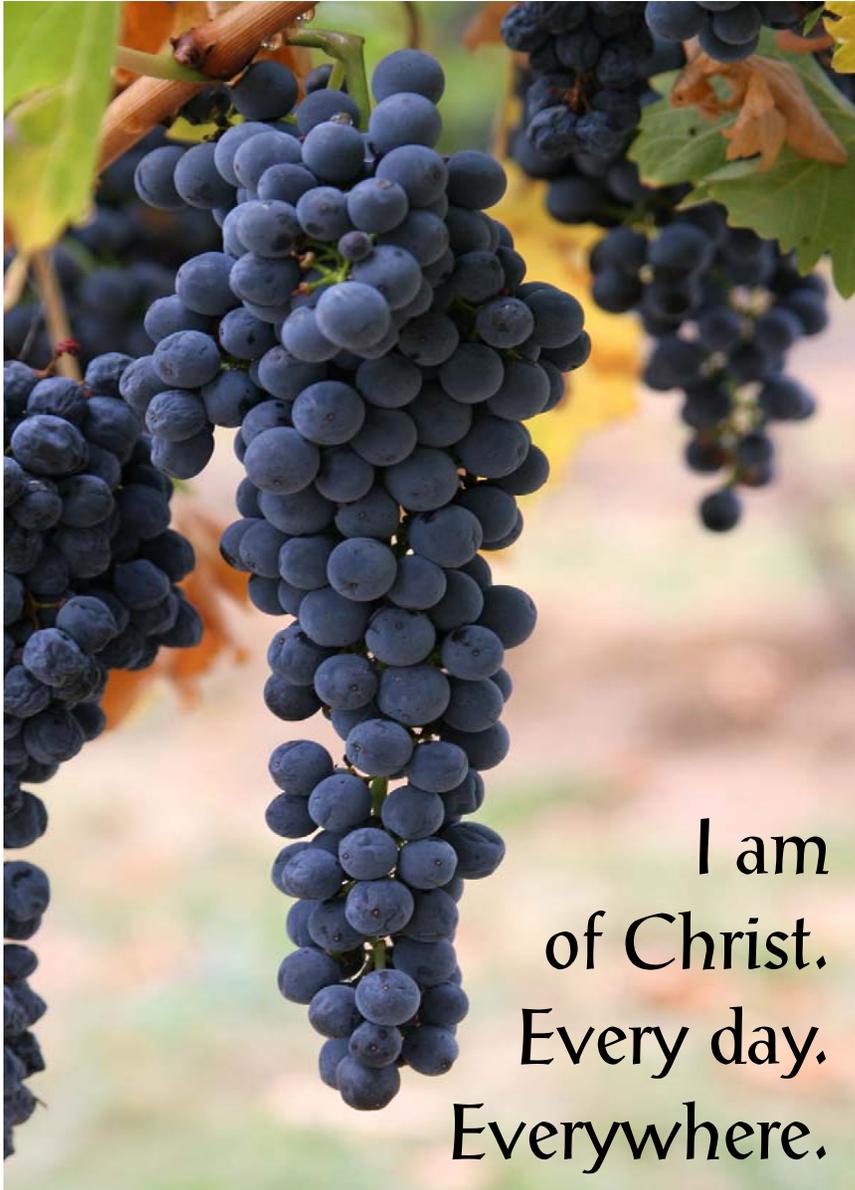


Our Practical Plan For
Personal & Congregational
Growth In 2010



I am of Christ.



Every day · Everywhere
Laurel Canyon · 2010

the
Laurel Canyon church of Christ

409 McNaughten Road
Columbus, OH 43213

614.868.1375
www.LCCOC.net



**"I AM
the
true
vine,**

and my **Father** is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he

takes away,

and every branch that does bear fruit he

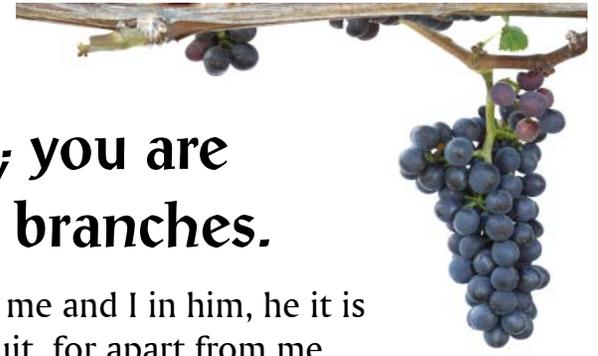
prunes,

that it may bear more fruit.

Already you are **clean** because of the **word**
that I have spoken to you.

Abide in me, and I in you.

As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it
abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you
abide in me.



**"I AM
the vine; you are
the branches.**

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is
that bears much fruit, for apart from me

you can do nothing.

If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a
branch and withers; and the branches are gathered,
thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me,
and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and
it will be done for you.

By this my Father is glorified,

that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my
disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved
you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my
Father's commandments and abide in his love.

These things I have spoken to you, that my

my joy may be in you,

and that

your joy may be full."

(John 15:1-11)

The Trellis



A frame or structure used to support a growing vine and its branches

Throughout the year, there will be many opportunities for us to study, grow, and glorify God together. We encourage you to take full advantage of:

- ⇒ Our **assemblies of worship**, scheduled for every Sunday in 2010 at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Our **Bible classes**, for people of all ages, on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Our **Daily Bible Reading Calendars**, distributed on the first Sunday morning of each month. In 2010, these readings will coincide with our Sunday morning adult Bible study on the life of Jesus.
- ⇒ A **Gospel Meeting** in April, with evangelistic and “first-principle” lessons, presented by Doug Roush.
- ⇒ A **Youth Lectureship** in August, with lessons aimed at (but not exclusive to) young people, presented by Jason Hardin and Devin Roush.
- ⇒ A **Gospel Meeting** in November, with lessons of edification to build us up as Christians, presented by Don Wright.
- ⇒ Two “**Days-in-the-Word**,” with specifically-targeted Saturday studies for men, with discussion led by Jason Hardin.
- ⇒ Two “**Days-in-the-Word**,” with specifically-targeted Saturday studies for women, with discussion led by Shirley VanDyke.
- ⇒ A “**Day-in-the-Word**,” with a specifically-targeted Saturday study for single people of all ages, with discussion led by Jason Hardin.

We take our calling to be “the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15) very seriously at Laurel Canyon.

Opportunities In 2010

- ⇒ **February 20: Singles Day-in-the-Word**
with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **March 7 (Sunday): “They Left Everything and Followed Him”**
Evangelistic Outreach (A.M. sermon by Jason Hardin)
- ⇒ **March 13 (Saturday): Men’s Day-in-the-Word**
with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **April 25-28 (Sunday-Wednesday): Spring Gospel Meeting**
with evangelistic lessons presented by Doug Roush
- ⇒ **May 15 (Saturday): Women’s Day-in-the-Word**
with discussion led by Shirley VanDyke
- ⇒ **Sunday mornings in June — Special Series of Sermons**
Don’t Waste Your Life! (presented by Jason Hardin)
- ⇒ **July 11-16 (Sunday-Friday): Vacation Bible School**
lessons for all ages; sermons presented by Jeremy Joy
- ⇒ **August 13-15 (Friday-Sunday): Youth Lectureship**
with lessons presented by Jason Hardin & Devin Roush
- ⇒ **September 18 (Saturday): Women’s Day-in-the-Word**
with discussion led by Shirley VanDyke
- ⇒ **October 2 (Saturday): Men’s Day-in-the-Word**
with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **Sunday mornings in October — Special Series of Sermons**
What Happens When We Die? (presented by Jason Hardin)
- ⇒ **November 14-17 (Sunday-Wednesday): Fall Gospel Meeting**
with lessons of edification presented by Don Wright

Adult Bible Class Schedule

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m:

January—December:

The Life and Times of Jesus the Christ

A Walk Through the Gospels in 2010 (taught by Jason Hardin)

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m:

January—March:

Jeremiah (taught by Devin Roush)

Marriage: For Our Joy & God’s Glory (taught by Jason Hardin)

April—June:

Ezekiel (taught by Ed Moore)

Bearing Fruit as a New Christian (taught by Jason Hardin)

July—September:

People of Faith (taught by J. Budd, D. Roush, C. Rupp, E. Tustin)

Yield Not To Temptation! (taught by Jason Hardin)

October—December:

The Return of Jesus (taught by Gordon Price in the auditorium)

Frequently Asked Questions (taught by Jason Hardin)

Children’s Bible Class Schedule

January—March: **Take Time to be Holy** (Leviticus and Numbers)

April—June: **I’m in the Lord’s Army** (Deuteronomy-Ruth)

July—September: **Loving Hearts & Working Hands** (1 Sam-1 Kings)

October—December: **Measuring by God’s Rule** (2 Kings-Prophets)

Reflections for the Lord's Supper

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus instituted a memorial of his death. Following the pattern of the earliest Christians, we share in this observance every first day of the week (*Acts 20:7*). To help prepare our minds in appreciation for what our Father planned from before the foundation of the world (*1 Peter 1:20*) and what our Lord accomplished on the cross, here are fifty-two reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2010.

January

- 3rd To Absorb the Wrath of God (Gal 3:13; 1 John 4:10)
- 10th To Fulfill the Will of His Father (Isa 53:10)
- 17th To Learn Obedience and Be Perfected (Heb 5:8-9; 2:10)
- 24th To Show the Wealth of God's Love and Grace for Sinners
(Rom 5:7-8; Eph 1:7)
- 31st To Show His Own Love for Us (Eph 5:2,25; Gal 2:20)

February

- 7th To Cancel the Record of Debt Against Us (Col 2:13-15)
- 14th To Become a Ransom for Sinners (Mark 10:45; 1 Tim 2:5-6)
- 21st For the Forgiveness of Our Sins (Eph 1:7; Matt 26:28)
- 28th To Provide the Basis for Our Justification (Rom 5:9; 3:23-24)

March

- 7th So That We Might Be Made Righteous
(Rom 5:18-19; 2 Cor 5:21)
- 14th So That There Might Be No Condemnation For Those Who
Are In Him (Rom 8:1,34)
- 21st To Make Us Holy, Blameless, Above Reproach (Col 1:21-23)
- 28th To Purify our Consciences (Heb 9:13-14)

April

- 4th To Obtain for Us All Things That Are Good (Rom 8:31-32)
- 11th To Bear Our Grievs and Carry Our Sorrows (Isaiah 53:3-4)
- 18th That By His Wounds We Might Be Healed (Isaiah 53:5)
- 25th That We Might Not Perish But Have Eternal Life (John 3:16)

May

- 2nd To Deliver Us from the Present Evil Age (Galatians 1:3-5)
- 9th To Reconcile Us to God (Rom 5:10-11; 2 Cor 5:19-20)
- 16th To Bring Us to God (1 Pet 3:18; Eph 2:13)
- 23rd So That We Might Belong to Him (Rom 7:4; 1 Cor 6:19-20)
- 30th To Give Us Access to the Holy Places (Heb 10:19-22)

June

- 6th To Become the Place Where We Meet God (John 2:18-21)
- 13th To Replace the Old Testament Priesthood (Heb 9:15-24)
- 20th To Become the Eternal High Priest (Heb 7:23-27)
- 27th To Become a Sympathetic and Helpful Priest (Heb 4:14-16)

July

- 4th To Free Us From Our Futile Ways (1 Pet 1:17-19)
- 11th To Free Us from the Slavery of Our Sins (Rev 1:4-6)
- 18th That We Might Die to Sin and Live to Righteousness
(1 Pet 2:24)
- 25th To Enable Us to Live for Christ and Not Ourselves
(2 Cor 5:14-15)

**“Do this in
remembrance
of me.”**



Reflections for the Lord's Supper

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus instituted a memorial of his death. Following the pattern of the earliest Christians, we share in this observance every first day of the week (*Acts 20:7*). To help prepare our minds in appreciation for what our Father planned from before the foundation of the world (*1 Peter 1:20*) and what our Lord accomplished on the cross, here are fifty-two reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2010.

August

- 1st To Make His Cross the Ground of Our Boasting (Gal 6:14)
- 8th To Enable Us to Live by Faith in Him (Gal 2:20)
- 15th To Create a People Passionate for Good Works (Tit 2:11-14)
- 22nd To Call Us to Follow His Example of Humility (Phil 2:5-8)
- 29th To Create a Band of Crucified Followers
(Luke 9:23; Mat 10:38)

September

- 5th To Free Us From the Fear of Death (Heb 2:14-15)
- 12th So That We Would Be with Him After Death (1 Thes 5:9-10;
Phil 1:21,23; 2 Cor 5:8)
- 19th To Secure Our Resurrection (Rom 6:4-5; 8:11)
- 26th To Destroy the Works of the Devil (1 John 3:8)

**"This is my body,
which is given
for you."**



October

- 3rd To Unleash the Power of the Gospel (1 Cor 1:18; Rom 1:16)
- 10th To Gain His Joy and Ours (Heb 12:1-2)
- 17th So That He Would Be Crowned with Glory and Honor
(Heb 2:9; Phil 2:9-11)
- 24th To Show That the Worst Evil Can be Used by God for Good
(Acts 4:23-28)
- 31st To Serve as a Fragrant Offering to God (Eph 5:1-2)

November

- 7th To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy (1 Pet 1:10-12)
- 14th To Serve as our Passover Lamb (John 1:29; 1 Cor 5:7-8)
- 21st To Fulfill the Charge of His Heavenly Father (John 10:17-18)
- 28th To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning (Eph 5:25-32)

December

- 5th To Create in Himself One New Man in Place of Jew
and Gentile (Eph 2:11-22)
- 12th To Ransom People from Every Tribe and Language
and People and Nation (Rev 5:9-10)
- 19th To Rescue Us from the Fear of Judgment (Heb 9:27-28)
- 26th That We Might Regularly Examine Ourselves and
Remember Him (1 Cor 11:23-32)



**"This is my
blood of the
covenant."**

Do You Want to Grow in 2010?

The scheduled opportunities in 2010 that are mentioned in the first half of this booklet will not, on their own, cause people to grow any more than trellises will grow vines. These opportunities will form a framework or structure for 2010 that can enhance and encourage growth in individual lives. But true growth in Christ will happen on a personal basis. If you are going to grow to God's glory in 2010, it will require conviction, character, and discipline on your part.

It will be relatively easy to call yourself a "Christian" in 2010. There are some "Christian-type" things that might even come easily and naturally to you. But to be truly "of Christ" ... now that will be a different story.

If am "of Christ" in 2010...

- ⇒ I will be intimately connected with him (Rom 11:17).
- ⇒ I will draw new life and identity from him (John 1:4).
- ⇒ I will abide in him (John 15:4).
- ⇒ I will depend on him for everything (John 15:5).
- ⇒ I will filter all things through him (Rom 12:1-2).
- ⇒ I will trust his providential pruning (John 15:2).
- ⇒ I will bear the fruit of his Spirit (Gal 5:22-23).
- ⇒ I will thirst for his words (John 15:7).
- ⇒ I will fertilize my life with prayer (John 15:7).
- ⇒ I will follow his loving and wise direction (John 15:10).
- ⇒ My Father will be glorified (John 15:8).
- ⇒ My joy will be full (John 15:11).

Did you know that nearly 100 times in the New Testament we read the phrase, "of Christ"?

servants of Christ ... body of Christ ... Spirit of Christ
 gospel of Christ ... blessings of Christ ... cross of Christ
 love of Christ ... word of Christ ... ministers of Christ
 slaves of Christ ... law of Christ ... resurrection of Christ
 blood of Christ ... churches of Christ ... heart of Christ
 members of Christ ... aroma of Christ ... grace of Christ
 sufferings of Christ ... glory of Christ ... light of Christ
 presence of Christ ... control of Christ ... behalf of Christ
 judgment of Christ ... truth of Christ ... sake of Christ
 gentleness of Christ ... power of Christ ... mind of Christ
 imitators of Christ ... grace of Christ ... work of Christ
 fullness of Christ ... riches of Christ ... mystery of Christ
 kingdom of Christ ... life of Christ ... peace of Christ
 preeminence of Christ ... rule of Christ ... gift of Christ
 priests of Christ ... doctrine of Christ ... death of Christ
 affection of Christ ... soldiers of Christ ... name of Christ
 steadfastness of Christ ... return of Christ ...

For **BY** him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created **THROUGH** him and **FOR** him. And he is **BEFORE** all things, and **IN** him all things hold together. (Col. 1:16-17)

Doesn't it make sense, then, that YOU would glorify your Creator by being "of Christ" in 2010?

“The Nourishing Root”

“You, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree... The root supports you” (*Romans 11:17*).

What can you do, as an individual branch, to enhance your connection to the nourishment of Christ in 2010?

- ⇒ “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (*Matthew 22:37*).
- ⇒ Dedicate yourself at the beginning of each day to grow in your conformity to Jesus (*1 Peter 1:14-16*).
- ⇒ Diligently seek and ask for his wisdom and guidance for your daily walk (*James 1:5, 22-25*).
- ⇒ Feed yourself every day with the words that have come from the mouth of God (*Matthew 4:4*).
- ⇒ Consistently work on humbling yourself, preparing your heart, and welcoming the power of God’s word to reprove, rebuke, exhort and correct you, as necessary, for your own good (*2 Timothy 4:1-5*).
- ⇒ Devote some peaceful, meaningful time every day to personal, fervent prayer (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*).
- ⇒ Take the time to prepare for the group Bible studies of which you are a part (*Acts 2:42*).
- ⇒ Enthusiastically and faithfully assemble with the saints as we praise God, encourage each other, and grow in his Word together (*Hebrews 10:24-25*).

Trust in His Pruning

“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit” (*John 15:2*).

What can you do, as an individual branch, to make the most of God’s providential pruning?

- ⇒ Determine to put the sinful works of the flesh that serve as thorns and thistles in your life to death so that you might God’s kingdom (*Galatians 5:16-21*).
- ⇒ Take honest inventory of those bad habits and weak points in your life that consistently contradict God’s standard of holiness (*2 Corinthians 13:5*).
- ⇒ Strive to be tenderhearted and open to the discipline of God, in whatever form, so that you might yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness (*Hebrews 12:11*).
- ⇒ Be always willing to humbly confess your sins and shortcomings as you grow to be more perfectly conformed to the image of his Son (*James 5:16*).
- ⇒ Periodically evaluate your priorities in view of the call to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (*Matthew 6:33; Luke 8:14*).
- ⇒ Objectively assess the use of your material blessings. What sort of treasures are you compiling during your time on this earth (*Luke 12:13-21*)?
- ⇒ Be open to purging the clutter of life that is keeping you from fully-devoted discipleship (*1 Timothy 6:6-10*).

The Fruit of Experienced Discipleship

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples” (*John 15:8*).

What can you add, as an experienced follower of Jesus, to this community so that we can grow together to God’s glory?

- ⇒ “Set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (*1 Timothy 4:12*).
- ⇒ Cultivate eyes to see and ears to hear what is going on in the lives of the weak and ailing around you (*Hebrews 12:12-14*).
- ⇒ In humility count the needs and interests of others as more significant than your own (*Philippians 2:3-4; Ephesians 2:10*).
 - * the infants in Christ among us (*Romans 15:1-2*).
 - * visitors to our assemblies (*James 2:1-13*).
 - * elderly Christians who could use help (*1 Thess 5:14*).
 - * those who are sick and shut-in (*2 Corinthians 1:3-4*).
 - * those who are grieving (*Romans 12:15*).
- ⇒ Use your home as a center of hospitality (*1 Pet 4:8-9*).
- ⇒ Be a “son” or “daughter of encouragement” to:
 - * our overseers (*Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thess 5:12-13*).
 - * our deacons (*1 Corinthians 16:17-18*).
 - * those who preach the gospel (*1 Thess 5:25*).
 - * those who lead in our assemblies (*1 Thess 5:11*).
 - * our Bible class teachers (*Ephesians 4:11-12*).
 - * those who are unfaithful to God (*James 5:19-20*).
- ⇒ Joyfully contribute, as you may prosper, to the work of the church (*1 Corinthians 16:1-2*).
- ⇒ Be a prayer warrior (*James 5:13-18*).

The First Fruits of the Infant in Christ

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (*John 15:8*).

What can you add, as a relatively new follower of Jesus, to this community so that we can grow together to God’s glory?

- ⇒ Remember the will of God, your sanctification (*1 Thess 4:3-12*).
- ⇒ Appreciate the fact that you are in a critical period of your walk with God and that the Adversary of your soul is out to devour you (*1 Peter 5:8*).
- ⇒ *2 Peter 1:5-11* — Make every effort to supplement:
 - * your **faith** with **virtue**
 - * your **virtue** with **knowledge**
 - * your **knowledge** with **self-control**
 - * your **self-control** with **steadfastness**
 - * your **steadfastness** with **godliness**
 - * your **godliness** with **brotherly affection**
 - * your **brotherly affection** with **love**
- ⇒ Do what you can to learn the names of your brothers and sisters in Christ (*3 John 13-15*).
- ⇒ Don’t be afraid to ask questions, ask for help, or ask for advice from your spiritual family (*1 Corinthians 12:12-27*).
- ⇒ When (**not if**) you experience a period of discouragement or doubt, seek help from your brethren (*1 Corinthians 10:12-13*).
- ⇒ Appreciate the fact that you are a representative of Christ and that people will be watching and listening (*2 Corinthians 3:2*).
- ⇒ Joyfully contribute, as you may prosper, to the work of the church (*1 Corinthians 16:1-2*).

Sowing the Seed

“A sower went out to sow his seed... And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold... They are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience” (*Luke 8:5, 8, 15*).

There is a **process to gospel growth**.

- ⇒ The seed of the Word of God must come in contact with an honest and good heart (*Luke 8:15*).
- ⇒ Those who are willing to respond to the call of the gospel must then be taught to observe what Jesus has commanded (*Matthew 28:18-20*).
- ⇒ When some plant and others water in the receptive heart of a believer, God causes gospel growth (*1 Corinthians 3:6*).
- ⇒ Jesus said, “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples” (*John 15:8*).

How can you contribute, as a disciple of Jesus, to the growth of his kingdom and thereby glorify your Father in heaven?

- ⇒ Consistently remind yourself that every person you ever come in contact with has a soul (*Ecclesiastes 12:7*).
- ⇒ Never forget that God shows no partiality (*Acts 10:34-35*).
- ⇒ Appreciate that all will stand in judgment (*Romans 14:12*).
- ⇒ Encourage others to “Come and see” (*John 1:46*).
- ⇒ Recommend specific reasons to visit (*John 4:28-30*).
- ⇒ Continue to feed yourself with the Word of God so that you can grow in your ability to talk with others (*2 Tim 2:15*).
- ⇒ Pray for opportunities, wisdom, and boldness (*Acts 4:29-30*).

Plugging-In to the Power Who Hears

“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved... Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” (*Romans 10:1; 12:12*).

You know dozens of people in desperate need of responding to the gospel. Your heart grieves as you think of brothers and sisters who have turned away from God in unfaithfulness. **But have you prayed for them?** What could happen if you did? Remember, it is prayer that plugs us into the awesome God of the universe. With that truth in mind, throughout 2010, pick a different person each month and pray for them every single day. Pray for receptive hearts, for opportunities, for wisdom, and boldness. Pray that God might use you to help save them.

January: _____

February: _____

March: _____

April: _____

May: _____

June: _____

July: _____

August: _____

September: _____

October: _____

November: _____

December: _____

Bearing Fruit at Home

“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart” (1 Peter 1:22).

What will your home life look like in 2010? What can be done to cultivate a Christ-like atmosphere that will maximize your joy and bring glory to God?

God’s Spirit told us long ago, “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling” (1 Peter 4:8-9). The earliest Christians spent time together, “breaking bread in their homes, receiving their food with glad and generous hearts” (Acts 2:46). And they grew.

In an effort to grow closer to your brethren in Christ, why not plan to show hospitality at least once per month?

- January: _____
- February: _____
- March: _____
- April: _____
- May: _____
- June: _____
- July: _____
- August: _____
- September: _____
- October: _____
- November: _____
- December: _____

Bearing Fruit at Home

As a spouse, what can be done to cultivate a daily atmosphere that will maximize your joy and bring glory to God?

- ⇒ Resolve to spend at least 30 minutes of uninterrupted, untelevised, unplugged, quality time with your spouse each day (Ephesians 6:33).
- ⇒ Humbly evaluate your God-given role, seek his wisdom and strength, then dedicate yourself to serving as the spouse God would have you to be (Ephesians 5:22-33; Titus 2:1-8).
- ⇒ Pray **with** your spouse every day (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
- ⇒ Pray **for** your spouse every day (1 Peter 3:7).
- ⇒ Periodically ask if your spouse’s needs and expectations are being met and what you can do to love them in more God-glorifying ways (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).

As a parent, what can be done to cultivate a daily atmosphere that will maximize your joy and bring glory to God?

- ⇒ Recognize and joyfully accept the challenging responsibility that comes with being the parent of a God-given child (Ephesians 6:1-4).
- ⇒ Pray **with** your children every day (Romans 12:12).
- ⇒ Pray **for** your children every day (James 5:16).
- ⇒ Take advantage of daily opportunities to point the minds of your children in God’s direction (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).
- ⇒ Correct your children, with the ultimate goal of saving their souls (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13; 29:15).
- ⇒ Help them prepare and hold them accountable for their Sunday and Wednesday Bible class opportunities (Prov 22:6).

The Vine

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

The gospel growth process

