

A New Direction

Isaiah 43:18

Fast Facts about the North American Church

- 1. North America is the only continent where the church is not growing
- 2. There are now over 280 million unchurched people in the USA and Canada
- 3. In the past 15 years, USA churches have spent 500 billion dollars on buildings and programs with little or no growth

Fast Facts about the North American Church

- 4. 80% of people do not attend church and 80% of churches are stagnant or in decline
- 5. Over half of all churches did not add one member through conversion last year
- 6. New churches are 11 times more likely to reach unchurched people. There needs to be 3000 new churches planted per year just to keep up with population growth

Fast Facts about the North American Church

- 7. North America is the largest English speaking mission field in the world
- 8. Too many churched people believe and behave like unchurched people
- 9. 53,000 people will drop out of churches and never return
- 10. Lost people lose

A Key Thought for the New Year

- Our mission field is ripe, ready and more receptive than we realize! People are waiting for us to come. Tim Roehl
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- If we knew that Jesus was coming back in the next 12 weeks, how would we live differently?

Isaiah 43:18-19

- 18 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Forget the Past

- Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past
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- Why does God want us to forget the past?
- The past cannot be reversed
- The past cannot be relived
- The past cannot be repeated

Key Questions for Reflection

- Am I closer to God today than I was on January 1st?
- How often do I pray?
- Who am I praying for? What am I praying for? How am I praying?
- Am I faithfully pursuing spiritual growth?
- Am I attending worship? Am I engaging in worship?

Key Questions for Reflection

- Does the Bible live in me?
- Do I give God time to speak to me?
- Am I reading the Bible? Do I have a plan?

Focus on the Promise

- See I am doing a new thing
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- Why does God want us to change our focus?
- Without focus we will lose perspective
- Without focus we will miss our potential
- Without focus we see only problems

Key Questions for Reflection

- What am I doing to serve God every month, every week and every day?
- Am I overwhelmed by any area of my life?
- What caused me the most stress during 2018?
- How can I deal with that more effectively in 2019?

Key Questions for Reflection

- What were my priorities in 2018? How do my priorities need to change in 2019?
- How have I been hurt over the past year?
- Who have I hurt this past year? Whose forgiveness do you need to seek?
- Who has hurt me over the past year? Who do you need to forgive?

Follow the Pathway

- I am making a way
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- Why does God want us to walk a different path?
- God steps into our distress
- God sends His deliverance
- God supplies a new direction
- God shows His dynamic ability

Key Questions for Reflection

- What new thing do I need God to do in my life?
- Am I financially faithful to God?
- Am I robbing God in any way?

Key Questions for Reflection

- What do I earn? What do I own? What do I owe? What do I give?
- Do you have a plan for spiritual growth for 2019?
- Do you have a plan for personal growth for 2019?