

GOAL: GROWING OUR VINE TO BEAR MORE FRUIT

With each new calendar year we like to set our own new personal goals. Goals set to achieve a sense of our own well being might be one type of goal. It might be a goal to do something better or improve in a certain area of our lives. Let's turn over a new leaf in life. A student in school may set a goal to get better grades or to attend a certain college or decide on career.

Looking to the past I found an article in magazine over 20 years old. In an article titled: "The Disciples – Setting Proper Goals," Edgar James relates how Jesus "...revealed his concern for their (the disciples) future and gave them directions for what they should do until he returns." Edgar James wrote that in Chapter 15 of John "...Jesus began to show his disciples that one goal of their lives is to bear fruit."

Christians should always look to the future in preparing our lives in a spiritual realm. Edgar James wrote, "In the spiritual realm, fruit refers to any work of the Spirit of God accomplished in a believer's life. It includes activities such as witnessing, teaching, and shepherding, as well as characteristics such as love, joy, peace, and patience. As a product of the Christian life, bearing fruit should be an important goal for all of Jesus' followers."

Churches can set a goal to grow not only spiritually but also in many other areas. As we set forth in 2009 we will be embarking on a new journey. Our new pastor, Steve Hollingsworth, will bring to us an opportunity to bear new fruit. In John 15:5 Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." Continuing on in verse 7 and 8 Jesus told his disciples: 7) "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8) This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

As we move forward at Central Baptist Church we will look at new directions in the life of our church. "The greatest thing in this world," said Oliver Wendell Holmes, "is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving."

We as a church will look forward to the future and at the same time will always recall our heritage of the past as an inspiration. It is with that motivation we will work with Pastor Steve to chart our direction in the future.

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