

## The NEW SOUTH FOCUS



**NEWSLETTER OF  
THE NEW SOUTH CONFERENCE  
OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH;  
FOCUS 23; January 10, 2020**

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### THE DISCIPLES' PRAYER

MATTHEW 6:14-15:

*For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

Is forgiveness your daily bread? What we call the Lord's Prayer is actually the Disciples' Prayer. At the very center of the prayer is a call to forgive those who have trespassed against us. Job found himself in this situation with his three friends and others (Job 23:12). When Job prayed for his friends and forgave them, then he was restored.

The medium of exchange for forgiveness is not based on our works, but on God's truth.

Luke 6:37-38:

*"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

Many people use this passage and talk about money. That is not wrong, but Jesus is talking about forgiveness. Globally this is the law of the harvest. Whatever kind of seed "it" is that you sow, that is what you will be harvesting.

Be generous with forgiveness. Freely you have received so freely give.

Pastor Roger Ryan  
Bowling Green FMC

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### A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

As we enter 2020, my prayer request is that the Holy Spirit, as Christ's agent in the world, would do what God appointed for the Messiah in Isaiah 42:6-7:

*"I am the LORD,  
I have called You in righteousness,  
I will also hold You by the hand and watch  
over You,  
And I will appoint You as a covenant to  
the people,  
As a light to the nations,  
To open blind eyes,  
To bring out prisoners from the dungeon  
and those who dwell in darkness  
from the prison."*

My prayer is to preach Christ, depend on the Lord to open blind eyes, and leave the results to Him.

Pastor Joe Ritter  
Waynesville, NC Church Plant

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## SCRIPTURAL ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE NEW YEAR

### OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 121:

<sup>1</sup> *I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?*

<sup>2</sup> *My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

<sup>3</sup> *He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; <sup>4</sup> indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

<sup>5</sup> *The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; <sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.*

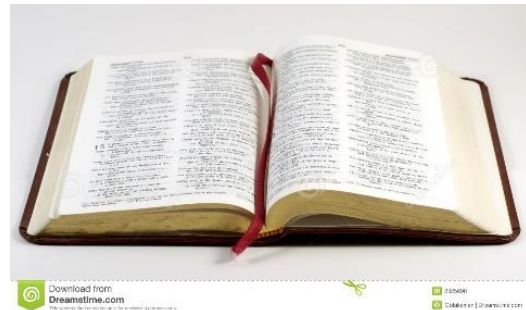
<sup>7</sup> *The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; <sup>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.*

### NEW TESTAMENT

2 Corinthians 5:17-18:

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is*

*here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation . . .*



### CONFERENCE CALENDAR

February \_\_: Strategy Day  
February 2-4: Area Bishop and Superintendents (ABS) meeting in Nashville  
February 7: FM History and Polity class begins  
March 20: District Leaders – Wilmore, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
March 20: BOA – Wilmore, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.  
March 21: MEG/MAC – Wilmore, 8:00 a.m. - noon  
March 31-April 2: Global Overseers Team (GOT) - Indianapolis  
April 26-28: ABS - Tampa  
May 29-30: New South Annual Conference, Oakdale Christian Academy  
June 7-9: ABS - Indianapolis  
June 15-20: NSC Teen Camp  
June 11-14: NSC Family Camp  
June 22-26: NSC Kids' Camp  
August 9-11: ABS – Baltimore  
August 25-28: Starting Strong for new pastors - Indianapolis  
September 23-25: New Room Conference, Nashville, TN

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FOCUS #23  
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