

JANUARY - Renewal

***God renovates and renews all things by sweeping out the old and ushering in the new.***

OPENING PRAYER. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. Lord, You make everything new again and in You we are a new creation. This New Year, may we be renewed in faith, hope, and love in You as we care for and serve those among us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

READ: Matthew 9:16, 17

<sup>16</sup> “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. <sup>17</sup> Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

Church That Works, Part 7 “Renewal”

“It used to be common practice to plant churches in quiet neighborhoods well away from the major flow of traffic. Today’s approach is to place churches as close to the traffic flow as possible. Busy streets are better than quiet lanes for attracting guests.” (p. 120)

ASK

1. Where would you turn if you sensed something needed to change in your church but were not sure what it was? (my hunch is you already know what it is)
2. The health of a congregation rests with the health of the leaders. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being in the basement and 10 being through the roof, how would you rate your congregation’s morale right now?
3. All congregations have strengths and weaknesses. What strengths do you have to go on, that can be strengthened even more for ministry to your community?

DISCUSS

1. McIntosh talks in general about “Turning a Church Around” (p. 112 – 115), about “Coming Back After Disaster” (p. 116 – 119) and “Relocating A Church” (p. 120 – 124). Which of these sections might be helpful to your congregation right now?
2. Help from the outside is available to congregations desiring to renew their ministry. Try exploring online for help or call the District Office for a facilitator.
3. Renewal in any form has a cost. What cost(s) is involved?

CLOSING PRAYER IDEA

Leader begins and others name the gifts they are thankful to God for. Then leaders closes.

FEBRUARY’S DEVOTION. “Developing Ministry“. Who will the leader be?