

Photo submitted
Fifth grade students at Waverly Elementary School receiving recognition for being named to All A Honor Roll* and A/B Honor Roll are, from left, front row, Bethany Morales, Lilly Young, Kassie Cantrell, Zoey Hirt, Jazzmin Griffith, Shyanne Yukawa and Evelyn McMillen*; back row, Phoebe Booth, Colton Stice*, Isabella Anne Glover, Dustin Foster*, Damasio Moncada, Macy Seems, Dennis Baker and Rylan Rasmussen*. Not available for the photo is Allie Bamberg*.



Photo submitted
Waverly Elementary School students receiving the PB&J Award (Positive Behavior and Joy Award) are, from left, Emma Gaddis, Tucker Cochran, Lacey Johnson, Brayden Ludolph, Zoey Hirt, Jazzmynn Bathory and Caleb Beying. Not available for the photo is Khloe Cantrell.

Photo submitted
Fourth grade students at Waverly Elementary School receiving recognition for being named to All A Honor Roll* and A/B Honor Roll are, from left, front row, Jayla Cochran, Kolby Cantrell, Brayden Ludolph, Colt Marsh, Maxwell McNabb, Kaiser Fraenza* and Sam Bailey; back row, Evalyn Reynolds, Bella Baker, Sophia Thornbrugh*, Ben Wagner, Jasmynn Bathory*, Annabelle Lehmann*, Michael Prevatte and Donald Baker. Not available for the photo are Eli Seaman* and Tyler Bamberg.



French

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items.
A short meeting was called to order by Connie after the luncheon. Roll call was answered by telling about or showing a favorite Christmas ornament. Doris gave the treasurer's report. A gift card was purchased at Hoover's for the adopted ECKAN family. Dues for the 2020

year were collected. Linda turned in the money received for Best Choice labels.

Officers were re-elected to serve another year. Officers will remain with Connie, president; Linda, vice president; Loleta, secretary; Doris, treasurer; and Ginny, council representative. Secret pals for the year were revealed when the gifts were opened. Names were drawn for secret pals for the coming year.

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Devotional Page

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A new you for 2020

Pastor Jay Hale
First Baptist Church

For most families, Christmas activities have been concluded. The gifts were all bought, wrapped and opened. The Christmas dinner has been eaten and leftovers served a couple of times. Families gathered and have now gone back to their respective homes. Now thoughts have turned from the frenetic activity of the Christmas season to the New Year - What of significance happened in 2019? What lies ahead in 2020? How to pay off Christmas debt?

Prior to thinking ahead, I challenge to review your 2019. What did you do that will have a lasting, positive, impact on others' lives? Did you do anything of significance, anything that eased the burden others carry? Did you do anything that contributes to the greater good of your community and country? It is surprising the number of people who are content to slip from year to year without doing anything of significance in their lives, more specifically nothing of significance to anyone other than themselves.

A greater shame is that many have done nothing in the past year that has lasting value. Perhaps you held the door open for someone struggling with a load and it made their day a little nicer for a day but months later, that niceness has worn off. What did you do that changed the course of a person's life? What have you contributed that caused another person to have hope where there was only hopelessness? What have you done that positively influenced a person to a degree that years from now, they will look back on the intersection of their life and yours as a turning point for them?

Perhaps you can look back several years and identify one of these moments, but you realize you haven't done anything recently. Resting on your laurels suggests you are no longer living a life of significance.

A greater tragedy is that many people reading this column, people



Pastor Jay Hale

in our churches, made no in effort 2019 to affect someone's eternal future. 95 percent of Christians have never won anyone to Christ; less than two percent are actively engaged in evangelism; and 71 percent do not contribute to financing the Great Commission. In one denomination, 49 percent of leaders commit zero time to ministry outside the context of the church. (Statistics drawn from bible.org.) This isn't condemnation of someone far away or another denomination; this is us! We have not been faithful to engage people around us with the power of the gospel. In Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, he declared, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

God demonstrates his power in the gospel and yet we shrink back from sharing the gospel. We seem more intent on living the American dream in the here-and-now and neglect what is required to invest in the age to come. Jesus cautioned against this kind of living: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21) Jesus' admonition a couple millennia ago is not

outdated; look in our own county, in our own churches. We are busy amassing, getting, gathering, storing up. We build bigger houses to hold more stuff and when our stuff overflows, we build or rent places to store more stuff. We live in an affluent county in the heartland of America and it shows. But, so what?

Jesus encouraged us to follow him and in so doing, building our treasure trove in heaven. (Luke 18:22) This column is not meant to be a piece that condemns or makes us feel bad at the end of a year. It is meant to encourage, exhort, commend to a particular behavior that emerges from a particular conviction. Paul, speaking of his own life in a letter to the Christians in Philippi, declared, "but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead." (Philippians 3:13) The previous paragraphs were to cause you to remember and evaluate your 2019 in light of eternity. Now that you've been reminded, forget all your missed opportunities and failures. Commit to a different 2020.

Commit to be an infectious carrier of the gospel in 2020. Infect everyone who comes in contact with you in this coming year. Commit to be a bold witness for the gospel in this new year. Make sure a little gospel rubs off on every person you meet in 2020. Remember Typhoid Mary in the early 1900s infecting dozens of people in New York with typhoid before she was isolated. Everyone she came in contact with was at risk of contracting the dread disease. Commit to be an infectious carrier of the gospel in 2020.

Commit to intentional gospel conversations in 2020. No more waiting for opportunity to strike; create opportunities to share the gospel with others, making a difference in their eternal future. This is more important than getting more stuff, ending the year with more stuff than we had at the beginning of the year.

Commit to a new life focus in 2020. Store up treasures in heaven.

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