

January 2010  
Volume 4, Issue 1

# The Messenger

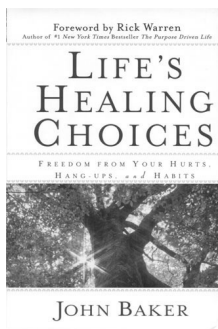
## January Birthdays

6 Jack Koller  
9 Kathy McVey  
10 David Patton  
21 Kelly Martin

## Quarterly Business Meeting

January 13<sup>th</sup> at  
7:00pm

Board Meeting at  
6:30pm



## Pleasant View General Baptist Church

### As We Enter The New Year ----by Pastor Sam

This past week I was reading a book on church growth. The author said that many times we ask the question, "What will make our church grow?" (Warren 1995) when we should be asking, "What is keeping our church from growing?" (Warren, 1995)

The big problem is

that we are dead set on finding what will make our church grow when we need to find out what is keeping it from growing. Sometimes you can do all the right things to help the church grow but if you still have obstacles that are preventing church growth then you need

to find them and correct the problem. An example would be we don't have to try and force our children to grow. If we remove anything that is stopping their growth they will grow. Remove the unsafe environment or the unhealthy foods that they are eating.

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### New Wednesday Night Bible Lesson Series

Beginning January 6<sup>th</sup> we are going to begin a new series on Wednesday night, called "Life's Healing Choices". This will be an 8 week series which will be introduced each week by Pastor Rick Warren the Pastor of the Saddleback Church via DVD. Following his introduction we will have a discussion.

The lessons are based on a book by John Baker called "Life's Healing Choices" and I would encourage you to

purchase the book and read it. You do not have to purchase the book to enjoy and learn from this series but it would greatly enhance your learning if you do so.

I hope you will make plans to join us each Wednesday night for this series of lessons. I know they will be a great blessing to you and to those who attend. Mark your calendar and plan to come and please invite someone to join you.

I believe this series will be a blessing and so I feel it is important that you begin now planning to attend each night. I promise you that you will enjoy them and your hearts will be stirred and encouraged each week.

I do want to mention that we hope you can make it every week but if you have to miss a week you won't be lost as each week is a separate lesson.

## Pleasant View General Baptist Church

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.pvgbc.org](http://www.pvgbc.org)

Camp Hugh  
Website

[www.camphugh.com](http://www.camphugh.com)

Camp Board  
Meeting

January 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am  
At  
Friendship

## New Year --- continued from page 1

The same goes for our church. Many times the obstacles that are preventing growth have more to do with the reason the church isn't growing than what you need to do to help it grow.

This past year we worked hard at trying to make our church grow and now we must work hard at removing the obstacles that are preventing church growth.

Change is hard for

many of us to accept but if we stick with the same things that have not worked in the past we will continue to get the same results in the future.

Warren, R. (1995). *The Purpose Driven Church*.

## Why People Don't Witness to Others --- By Bill Brinkworth

I have heard most of the excuses to not win others to Christ. Honestly, I have experienced most of these excuses myself and have heard the same excuses from many of the best soul-winners I have encountered. None of the reasons for not obeying God's command to win souls to Christ is biblical. Here are some of the most common reasons for not winning a lost soul out of their eternal destiny of hell:

- "I'm too shy?" All feel like this at one time or other, but should not obedience to God's commandments supersede our pride and selfish feelings? Is not a soul's eternal destination more important than our feelings of self-consciousness?
- "I don't feel like it?" Laziness to do the right thing is another non-biblical reason many hide behind.
- "I didn't know a

Christian was supposed to tell others." Too many do not read for themselves the Word of God, so they do not know what they are commanded to do. Unfortunately, many preachers who do not want to offend their members also do not make their flock aware of what they are expected to do.

- "I'm afraid of what others may say or think?" It is a shame that a person that we may never see again may not have the fortune to hear the salvation message from our lips because of our fear. Jesus was not afraid to give others the true way to heaven although it cost Him his earthly life; nor were the Apostles; nor the many that gave their lives so that others could hear it; nor did many of our lives have crossed tell us.

- "I don't know what to say?" Most people do not know how to tell others how to be saved when they first are saved themselves. Tell them how you got saved; then begin to memorize different scripture on salvation. God always convicts others through the use of His Word. Hide scripture in your heart; so that when the Holy Spirit uses you to witness to another, you have it there ready to win a soul to Him.

**What is your excuse?**

