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Swordsman Teen Newsletter



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Water, Water Everywhere ~ Circle the right answer:

1. The first ball to be dropped in New York's Times Square happened in what year?
 - a. 1906
 - b. 1958
 - c. 1958
 - d. 1962
2. The first time that January 1st was celebrated as the beginning of a new year was in 153 B.C. when the Romans moved the first month of their calendar back to January. For what reason did the Romans do this?
 - a. To coincide with elections of the two highest ranking Republic positions
 - b. To honor the god, Janus, god of beginnings and transitions
 - c. More sacred sheep were born in January than in February
 - d. To honor Tobasco, god of hang-over relief
3. In 567 A.D. the Council of Tours prohibited the recognition of an official New Year. Why did they do this?
 - a. They believed the end of the world would happen soon.
 - b. They disliked that the date was originated with pagans.
 - c. To move the date to August 9 in order to replace the Frankish holiday of Stickball Day with a less athletic-themed celebration
 - d. Because they were just a bunch of grumpy old geezers who hated celebrating anything
4. What famous Frank was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, January 1, 1938?
 - a. entertainer Frank Sinatra, Jr.
 - b. actor Frank Langella
 - c. football player and coach, Frank Beamer
 - d. Head of the barley cereal syndicate crime family, Frankenberry.
- 5.. In 1583 what event returned January 1st as observation of the New Year in Europe?
 - a. A severe earthquake in Portugal on that date that miraculously took no human victims
 - b. Papal fear surrounding a dire prediction by seer, John Dee
 - c. The institution of the Gregorian Calendar
 - d. The 67-year old Queen of Spain took her first bath
- 6.. On January 1, 1788 the Pennsylvanian Quakers did what?
 - a. Disavowed Quakerism
 - b. Emancipated their slaves
 - c. Officially denounced the Amish as heretics
 - d. Opened the Quaker Oats company
7. The lyrics of the now-traditional New Years song, "Auld Lang Syne" began as a poem set to the tune of a much older Scot folk ballad. Who wrote the poem?
 - a. John Keats
 - b. Robert Burns
 - c. Lord Byron
 - d. Dr. Seuss
8. On January 1, 1877, what happened to Queen Victoria of Britain?
 - a. She got married
 - b. She celebrated her 50th birthday
 - c. She was proclaimed Empress of India
 - d. She got stuck in her throne, requiring three hours of man power and twenty pounds of butter to get her out
9. On January 1, 1906 the government of the Netherlands made what law?
 - a. Mandatory licenses required for driving engine-powered vehicles
 - b. A national census
 - c. Recognition of Dutch as the National language
 - d. Prohibition on the wearing of lamp shades as hats
10. Much to the dismay of millions, on January 1, 1945 this person announced they were not a god. Who was it?
 - a. Joseph Stalin
 - b. Emperor Hirohito
 - c. Gandhi
 - d. Clark Gable
11. On January 1, 1971 what kind of commercials were banned from American television?
 - a. Anti-free labor union ads
 - b. Ads for cigarettes
 - c. Anything relating to or suggestive of illegal drug paraphernalia
 - d. Car sale ads that feature a dealer's annoying and untalented children
12. On New Years eve, 1985, this celebrity died in a controversial plane crash. Who was this celebrity?
 - a. *Wendy's*'s "Where's the beef?" commercial icon, Clara Peller
 - b. TV newscaster David Brinkley
 - c. Radio disc jockey legend Wolfman Jack
 - d. entertainer Rick Nelson
13. The symbol of "Baby New Year" evolved out of what?
 - a. From customs in the reign of Elizabeth I, who had the court midgets lead celebrations on New Years day.
 - b. Back to the ancient Greek tradition of escorting a baby throughout the villages in honor of Dionysus, god of wine
 - c. From the ancient Hungarian day of Remembrance of the Infants (honoring babies who had died the previous year)
 - d. Out of remembrance for the young victims of the Great Minnesota Baby Juggling Catastrophe of January 1, 1928
14. On January 1, 1962 who failed to pass an audition for Decca Records?
 - a. Liberace
 - b. The Beatles
 - c. Comedian George Carlin
 - d. The Jackson Two
15. The tradition of eating black eyed peas on New Years Day is believed to do what?
 - a. Bring prosperity for the next year
 - b. Return loved ones from war
 - c. Bring a year of peace into a household
 - d. Relieve constipation

Answers on Page 4

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The Swordsmen Teen Newsletter

All Scripture in this publication is from the King James Bible.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

2025
JANUARY
VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

Isaiah 1:18 (KJV) Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Text Verse!

Joshua 1:8 (KJV) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Start The Year Out With A Purpose in Your Heart.

Lets define purpose first

1. (n.) A strong desire for achievement or success: Desire , aim, goal , objective
2.

(n.) The ability to make up one's mind and carry out one's intentions: 3. (n.) The inherent idea imparted or expressed: 4. (n.)

What one intends to do or achieve: 5. (v.) To endeavor to obtain or reach:

So with that being said. Lets strive to please the Lord, seek after the things of the Lord, and set our sights on the Lord with all our heart whom we want to please.

Daniel 1:1-8 *In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god. 3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; 4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.*

5 *And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. 6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: 7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego. 8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

Some people just drift through life **without any goals or purpose**. It has been said that there are three types of people: 1. Those who make things happen; 2. Those who watch things happen; and 3. Those who don't know what is happening.

That is true at church as with teens . Some people are INVOLVED; other people are INSPECTORS; and still others are IGNORANT -- they don't have a clue as to what is going on. Daniel was one of the great men of the Bible, and one of his good traits is found in our text for today. He purposed in his heart to do right. He determined it. He chose it. Purity didn't just sneak up on him. He was pure on purpose! I want to encourage you to **decide on purpose** to trust and obey the Lord this year, starting today. Let me give you some suggestions on things you should determine to do in 2025.

You should purpose in your heart to be saved .

2 Corinthians 6:2 *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation)*

Why should I get saved? Because of the pollution of your heart .

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

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True Confession of A Dizzy Blonde

It's okay—and some would even say healthy—to take a serious look at one's self and see the humor in your own life or even in your own behavior. So, that being said, I thought this month's blog should be about poking fun at myself. I am—after all—a natural blonde who has a tendency to do funny things.

First, it's true. I am a dizzy blonde. I suffer from bouts of vertigo that render me completely motionless because my surroundings are spinning at a high rate of speed. This is not anything meant to humor you. I just wanted to explain why I am a dizzy blonde. <smile>

But, you came here to laugh. Hopefully, after reading some of my, erm, happenings, you will have laughed out loud.

Let's start with high school since this is as far back as I can remember having what my husband affectionately calls "blonde moments". All through high school I worked for a florist. It was a way to stay out of trouble and earn a few bucks. Every Christmas season, the florist would hold a giant open house at its corporate offices, and I was usually one of the hostesses wherein I worked in a certain room selling products, packaging them up, etc. After working one of the open houses, I left the florist and went to my regular Friday night babysitting job. I got the kids tucked in bed and went downstairs to watch a movie. All of a sudden there was a loud crash behind the house. I called 911 and they offered to send a patrolman to my address to take a look around. Minutes later I saw the flashing red lights in the driveway and saw an officer with a flashlight go around back while his partner checked the front. They came to the door and rang the bell. I opened it and ushered them inside. They proceeded to tell me that the wind had knocked over the metal trashcans and thrown them against the house, which was brick, thus explaining the crash I'd heard. One of the officers was younger than the other and he leaned in and asked, "Is there anything else we can do for you, Valerie?"

Okay, I've seen enough horror flicks to know if a policeman you've never met knows your name, he's not a policeman, he's a serial killer. Right? I mean, isn't that the most logical explanation for why he knows your name? So, I began to slowly back away, turning my head to gage the distance from the front door to certain safety. I was all prepared to flee when he cleared his throat and pointed at the name tag I was still wearing from my shift at the open house! Color my face red! But surely this has happened to you, too, right?

Should I wait for you to stop laughing before I continue?

Next up would be entertaining some friends at my house. I was trying to impress a certain guy, and my close friend (also a guy) knew that I was nervous about this little party I was having. Everyone arrives and I pass out some food and beverages and then decide to take the seat across from the guy I wanted to impress. I'm positive I'm graceful as I sit down. Next thing I know, I'm sprawled out on the floor because not only do I lack grace, but I also missed the chair completely! Thankfully, my friend throws himself on the floor beside me and says, "You're quite right, Valerie, it is much cozier down here on the floor!"

By the way, that story won me first place in a radio contest for most embarrassing moment.

Everyone's heard the joke about the blonde who goes into an auto parts store and asks the clerk for a 710. Turns out, she was looking at her oil cap upside down. While I've never done anything that, well, dumb, I have had some memorable car moments. Most recently, my husband and I purchased a new car. I was in a parking lot one day and when I used the remote to lock the car, the trunk lid of the car parked beside me popped open. I looked around expecting to see the car's owner approaching ready to place some packages in the trunk. Nope. No shoppers in sight. I looked around and discretely closed the trunk lid. Apparently, I had opened it with my remote. Either that or someone from Candid Camera was playing a trick on me.

One day, I got on the elevator and pressed the button. Nothing happened. The doors didn't even close. I pressed the button again and waited. Nothing. Doors still open. I stuck my head

out of the elevator and looked around. No one else there. No one pushing the elevator's call button. I go back inside and press the button again. Nothing happens. Getting frustrated, I virtually pound the button into submission. That's when I realized I was pushing the button for the 3rd floor, and I was actually on the 3rd floor.

Lastly—because I'm out of time and not because I have no other blonde moments to share—I'll tell you about a home remedy that probably works for everyone but me. I was feeling poorly, doing battle with a horrible cold. I hadn't had any sleep in a couple of days because I could barely breathe. A friend of mine told me about rubbing Vicks-Vapo-Rub on the bottom of her children's feet when they had a cold because it somehow allowed them to breathe easier and cough less. She instructed me to rub some on my feet and then put on a pair of white cotton socks and lay down covered up. So I go home, change into my pajamas, and scoop out some Vicks, give each foot a solid rubdown, put on a pair of socks and hobble to the sofa with my favorite blanket and cuddle up expecting to be able to breathe and nod off for some much needed sleep.

About ten minutes later my feet started to tingle. I snuggle deeper into my blanket and think, "Wow, this is really going to work for me."

Another ten minutes later it's like my feet were in a sauna and the temperature gage was set to boil! I threw off the blanket, shot off the sofa and blew past my husband yelling, "My feet are on fire! My feet are on fire!"

He's following me down the hallway as I am shedding clothing left and right all the while yelling, "My feet are on fire! My feet are on fire!"

I make it to the bathroom, turn on the shower and jump in—because by now I haven't a stitch of clothing on—and scrub my poor little feet in hopes of removing every last trace of the Vicks. By the time I emerge from the bathroom clean, dry, and clothed, my poor husband asks what in the world got into me. I explain my friend's home remedy and he suggests that one of two things happened: I'm either allergic to Vapo-Rub or perhaps I should not use half a jar next time. Either way, I slept like a baby, but I tend to think it was due to sheer exhaustion from hobble-running down the hallway and throwing myself into the shower and scrubbing vigorously at my feet.

I hope you've enjoyed this month's blog, and I hope my little anecdotes provided you with some humor. I apologize for being late this month, but I thought today was Thursday!

Until next time, may there always be laughter in your days, and may you have compassion for the blondes in your life!

The End

Start The Year Out With A Purpose in Your Heart.

Everyone is full of toxic waste. toxic waste defined: Smog contamination, the act of polluting something. Especially the heart, it gets polluted every day by TV, radio, telephone, texting, facebook, school, home, and ETC.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

An illiterate couple had just been saved. They met with a group of believers who dressed alike. The men wore red shirts while engaged in a certain project, so the woman made one for her husband. He came home after the meeting, however, with a look of disappointment on his face because the others had a message printed on their shirts but he did not. His wife, undaunted by her inability to read, sewed three words on his shirt, which she copied from a sign in a store window across the street. He wore it to the next meeting and came home bubbling with joy. He said all of the men really liked the inscription because it so aptly described the wonderful change they had seen in his life. It turned out that his wife had written, "UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT."

This brother knew he was different and so did everyone around him. That's what Jesus does! He makes a difference in all those who come to Him. There is a verse in the Bible that speaks to this thought.

Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

The truth is- man is a sinner, lost and undone, separated from God by a wide chasm of sin. He needs something done in his life that he will never be able to do for himself. He needs what Jesus and Jesus alone can do. It is Jesus who makes the difference in the lives of fallen men. This passage is all about the great difference that Jesus makes in the hearts and lives of fallen men.

Another reason we need to get saved is **because of the penalty for not trusting Christ.**

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

If you have never trusted the Lord as your Savior you are condemned. It is sad but many people do not believe this, but it is a true fact without Jesus Christ as your Savior you will go to Hell. The good news is this **Jesus offers us a pardon.** This offer was made through the sacrificial work of Christ on the cross. It is a full, free, and final pardon for sins for your eternal destiny! **Pardon defined:** , To officially release from any, or any further, punishment for somebody who has committed a crime or wrong doing. Do you see yourself as a sinner who needs salvation?

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4** And that he was

Continued from Page 1

buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Do you believe the above verse? Do you believe Jesus died for you, He was buried and the third day He arose according to the scriptures? If you died without Him do you realize you would end up condemned to Hell? If So I Plead with you to get down on your knees, look up to a Holy God, ask for forgiveness of your sins, and ask Jesus Christ to come into your life and heart.

Only in America - Strange But True

A man from Little Rock, Arkansas was awarded \$14,500 and medical expenses after being bitten on the buttocks by his next door neighbor's beagle. The beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced-in yard, as was the man. The award was less than sought because the jury felt that the man who, at the time, was shooting the animal repeatedly with a pellet gun might have provoked the dog.

Happy New Years To You All!

Enough happiness to keep you sweet.
 Enough trials to keep you strong.
 Enough sorrow to keep you human.
 Enough hope to keep you happy.
 Enough failure to keep you humble.
 Enough success to keep you eager.
 Enough friends to give you comfort.
 Enough wealth to meet your needs.



Throw Out the Old

Those inventive people, the Italians, have a custom. As midnight on New Year's Eve approaches, the streets are clear. There is no traffic; there are no pedestrians; even the policemen take cover. Then, at the stroke of 12, the windows of the houses fly open. To the sound of laughter, music and fireworks, each member of the family pitches out old crockery, detested ornaments, hated furniture and a whole catalogue of personal possessions which remind them of something in the past year they are determined to wipe out of their minds.

House & Garden

2 Timothy 2:20-21 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. **21** If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Quote: You can't undo your missed goals from last year so let's go forward .
Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Answer: to New Years Quiz

1. a. 1908
2. a. To coincide with elections of the two highest ranking Republic positions
3. b. They disliked that the date was originated with pagans
4. b. actor Frank Langella
5. c. The institution of the Gregorian Calendar
6. b. Emancipated their slaves
7. b. Robert Burns
8. c. She was proclaimed Empress of India
9. a. Mandatory licenses required for driving engine-powered vehicles
10. b. Emperor Hirohito
11. b. Ads for cigarettes
12. d. entertainer Rick Nelson
13. b. Back to the ancient Greek tradition of escorting a baby throughout the villages in honor of Dionysus, god of wine
14. b. The Beatles
15. a. Bring prosperity for the next year

The Bible

An anonymous author wrote an article entitled, "The Diary of a Bible." It reads as follows:

- Jan. 15 - Been resting for a week. A few nights after the first of the year my owner opened me, but no more. Another New Year's resolution gone wrong.
- Feb. 3 - Owner picked me up and rushed off to Sunday school.
- Feb. 23 - Cleaning day, dusted and put back in my place.
- April 2 - Busy day. Owner had to present the lesson at a church society meeting. Quickly looked up a lot of references.
- May 5 - In Grandma's lap again, a comfortable place.
- May 9 - She let a tear fall on John 14:1-3.
- May 10 - Grandma's gone. Back in my old place.
- May 20 - Baby born. They wrote his name on one of my pages.
- July 1 - Packed in a suitcase -- off for a vacation.
- July 20 - Still in the suitcase. Almost everything else taken out.
- July 25 - Home again. Quite a journey, though I don't see why I went.
- Aug. 16 - Cleaned again and put in a prominent place; the minister is to be here for dinner.
- Aug. 20 - Owner wrote Grandma's death in my family record. He left his extra pair of glasses between my pages.
- Dec. 31 - Owner just found his glasses. Wonder if he will make any resolutions about me for the new year.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

**Everybody Pull!**

An out-of-town pastor drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse, named Buddy. He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Martha, pull!" Buddy didn't move. Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Peter, pull!" Buddy didn't respond.

Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Jezebel, pull!" Nothing.

Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch.

The pastor was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times.

The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try."

Stewardship Application: Buddy's sort of like a church member on stewardship Sunday. Christians need to know others have "skin in the game" too. Don't holler "Whoa, mule!" before you even get started. Make it a team effort—even if you have to pull in the "invisible" reserve players.

Shocked

Mary was surprised to receive \$10 from her uncle for her birthday. The uncle asked how she was going to spend it. Mary said, "I'm taking it to Sunday School to put in the offering. God's gonna be just as surprised as I was at not getting a dollar like usual!"

Thou Shall Not Lie

The pastor loved to play small-stakes poker with his two unchurched buddies every Friday, even though it was illegal in their town.

One Friday the police showed up, and the men scarcely had time to conceal the chips and money before officers entered the room.

"Were you gambling?" the lead officer asked the first friend.

"No, officer, i wasn't gambling," he replied.

"Me either," the second friend said.

"And, Reverend, you know the Bible says 'Thou shalt not lie,'" the officer said with a smile. "Were YOU gambling?" The pastor eyed him coolly and replied "With whom?"

Don't forget to put JESUS, in FIRST place in 2025
Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
The End