



CROSSIN' THE GULF
MINISTRIES CHURCH

Strong and Steady

January 2023

Hello Partners and Friends, grace and peace to you. Happy, BLESSED New Year to you and your family! There is always an excitement and anticipation for a new year. Our prayer for you is to keep that throughout the year.

Last month I wrote to you about MOMENTUM for 2023. We talked about things we can do to keep our enthusiasm and finish strong – rest, only do what the Lord tells you to do, and encourage yourself in the Lord. It's often easy to get anxious for the things we want to see happen in our lives or the lives of loved ones. We are encouraged in Habakkuk 2:2-3 to write the vision and wait for it. Why wait? Have you ever seen anything come about instantaneously? Things take time. Even when we see 'suddenlies' happen, we don't always see the years of praying, believing, taking action.

I want to encourage you this month to enjoy the journey. I learned as a young girl from my Mom to take time before (or at) the start of each year to **write down** my goals and dreams for the new year. I would take time to ask the Lord what He had for me and talk to Him about what was in my heart. Once I heard, I wrote it down. Yes, literally, wrote it down. So many of us have dreams that we carry in our hearts but never write down. There is something supernatural that happens when we do write it down.

I've often noticed at the end of a busy day how the things I wrote down to do that day, and didn't seem to have time to get to, mostly got done or got started. I would always get so surprised, then the Holy Spirit reminded me of Habakkuk 2:2-3. Wow! My eyes got wide and my heart leaped. Now, at the end of the day, I get excited to see what got done without me paying much attention to it. Are there things on the list I didn't get done? Yup. However, instead of getting discouraged, I rejoice over what got done and ask the Holy Spirit to show me how and when to do the things left undone. That's where stamina and steadfastness comes in.

As the old saying goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day". Learn to rejoice each day over the progress you do make and look to the Holy Spirit for help with the things that still need doing. It's as simple as asking Him for help. At the start of each work day I say a small prayer, "Lord, give me wisdom for the things I need to do today. Help me be a BLESSING." At the end of the day my prayer goes like this, "Lord, thank you for the things you helped me get done today." (When I was in Houston, I'd also ask for His protection on the drive home. ☺)

Each day we make progress. Each day we are one day closer to the things we want to accomplish in this life. Many of you know I was a competitive marathoner. What I like about the marathon is the steady, methodical pace of the race; the satisfaction of 'knocking down each mile', and the feeling of victory at the end. There is a lot that can happen over 26+ miles. Every mile doesn't always go on pace. Every mile can have its own challenges and its own triumph. Then, there's the wall. For most it comes around mile 19 to 22. You can be kicking long then, suddenly, you just feel kicked. Now, it's decision time. Do I continue or do I take a break or do I quit?

The latter was never an option for me in running. In life, however, that has sometimes felt like the best pick. That's when having the vision written down seems to take over as we remember we aren't in the race alone. "My grace is

sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV). If He put the vision on our hearts, He will help us get to the finish line and finish strong. Psalm 27:1 – The Lord is the strength of my life.

Give God something to work with. Ask Him what He wants you to do this year and write it down. Then don't leave it floating in cyberspace, or on your smart device, or shoved aside on your desk. Habakkuk 2:2 (NKJV) also says, “that he may run **who reads it.**” Don't worry, I'm not getting you on an exercise plan ... yet. Run means to move or pass in almost any manner; to move in a hurry. Write the vision for the year and read it throughout the year. The Lord will use that to strengthen and encourage you to move forward and enjoy the journey along the way. So what are you waiting for? Get writing!

Ministry / Personal Updates –

- In December, we had the opportunity to help a family living in a shanty house get groceries and gifts for Christmas and make plans to replace their roof damaged during Hurricane Lisa, which poured in rain in the weeks following the storm. All glory to God and thanks to you our partners and friends, we were able to purchase new zinc and roofing screws which will be delivered early January for installation. We have also been ministering to them and reconnected them with a local church and pastors. Wahoo!
- I am working on our separate ministry newsletter so we can share more updates and testimonies there. Say a prayer for us as we prepare the newsletter. Our desire is to have the first one out in February 2023.
- We will be in Houston January 14-31 to attend the KCM Minister's Conference, purchase items for our home here, and get final documents needed for Jordan's Belize citizenship application. Agree with us for a fruitful trip and refreshing before we return to Belize and start diving into ministry.



Remember, you are family to us. When we pray, we daily bring you before the Father. You are, and never will be, a day without prayer. If you have specific requests, don't hesitate to send them to us through our ministry website or email (both listed in footer). We'd also love to hear what the Lord has done, send us your testimonies as well.

Until next month, remember, your Heavenly Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus!

With His Love,

Pastors Jordan & Melissa Mack

Psalm 23, **Psalm 91**, Isaiah 54:17, Ephesians 3:14-21, Exodus 3:21, Numbers 6:24-26, Ephesians 1:15-21
Has this letter BLESSED you? Pass this letter on to a family member or friend and be a BLESSING to them.