

youth ministry January 2013

January
2013
Bible

RESOLUTIONS ARE

SUPER!



It's a new year, which means that for the next month, gym membership sales will rise, cigarette sales will fall, and Richard Simmons VHS tapes will emerge from dusty closet shelves to embrace the warm, mechanical hug awaiting them within the VCRs of pudgy new year's resolvers (for our younger readers, Richard Simmons was a weight loss guru in the 1980s famous for his "Sweatin' to the Oldies" aerobic workouts; he has an eccentric personality and hair that looks like what I imagine Brent Wood's would look like if he'd let it grow out).

These January trends are a result, of course, of a yearly phenomenon known as the "New Year's Resolution"--a goal that someone sets in the new year to aid him or her in becoming a better person. And although the years may change, resolutions themselves often stay the same. In fact, one website ranked the 10 most popular pledges folks make this time each January; here are a few of them:

- Get organized
- Spend less, save more
- Fall in love (ok, sure; like you can make that happen...)
- Quit smoking

And, of course,
• LOSE WEIGHT!

But before you commit yourself to one of these same ole', unoriginal resolutions that everyone's already made, allow me to introduce a few other possibilities that are sure to help you be a better you in 2013:

Read the Bible More

I'm not saying commit to reading the whole thing, but wouldn't it be nice to master a book or two? Why not dedicate yourself to really knowing one of the gospels this year, or maybe a letter by Paul? This is a tremendous way to deepen your faith--one verse at a time.

Go to Sunday School and Worship

Our culture caters to us in such a way that we get to the point where, if something isn't flashy or tailored specifically for us, we aren't going to do it. Well Sunday School might not be the flashiest thing in the world, and

worship might not be crafted with your specific age group in mind, but neither is about YOU. They are about GOD. No, they aren't perfect, but somehow God has a way of working through our imperfect structures to communicate his love and truth to us. When we skip out on either of these two opportunities to grow in faith simply because they aren't "fun," we put limits on the ways we let God teach us. So why not make 2013 a year without limits?

Establish a Quiet Time

How often do you think on Scripture and pray? Each day, you have an opportunity to hear from, speak to, and simply BE WITH the Creator of life; seizing this chance can be a transformative practice if you make a habit of it! So find 15 minutes in your day to read a short verse from the Bible, listen to what God has to say to you, and respond. It's a little resolution that can affect your life in a big way.

Learn More About Your Faith

Your faith shouldn't be something you strengthen only within the church walls. If your belief is going to be real, it needs to be something you own. Hence, take some time to learn more about it. What interests you about Christianity? Do you know how we got the Bible? What's the history of our faith? What are the differences between Baptists and Methodists? Between Protestants and Catholics? Between Christians, Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists? Our faith is a truly intriguing one, vast in its history and rich in its identity, so why not start learning it now?

They might not increase the cash in your wallet or the muscles on your form, but they'll surely do wonders for the size of your faith. And trust me, if you resolve to make 2013 the year you get your faith in working order, then all of that other stuff will fall in line as a result, which means you can take Richard out of the VCR and finally put him on eBay, which will make some tank-topped, head-banded, eager-to-sweat-the-pounds-off bidder out there very happy, indeed.

ANDREW LEE'S OUTGOING VOICEMAIL MESSAGE: THANK YOU FOR CALLING ANDREW LEE. IF YOU ARE THE PHONE COMPANY, MY PARENTS PAY YOU THE MONEY. IF YOU ARE MY PARENTS, PAY THE MONEY. IF YOU ARE MY FRIEND, YOU OWE ME MONEY. IF YOU ARE A FEMALE, DON'T WORRY, I HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY.

Paul (to Jacob Scott, who was being particularly vocal at the time):

Jacob, have you ever considering miming as a career?

Jacob: Yeah, but I wouldn't do it. I'd be way too scared of getting caught in one of those shafts and never getting out.

The
Youth
Group
Quotes from



It seems that, after a year of memorable sayings and quips from our good friends at Dunder Mifflin, I have exhausted the resources available that allow me to fill the back page of the newsletter with quotes from NBC's *The Office*.

For a moment, this reality caused me panic. "To where will I now turn for the comedic fodder to occupy the last half-sheet of space in our youth group periodical?", I asked myself in angst.

But then it hit me: I'm a youth minister; I have fodder all around me.

Hence, I do hereby dedicate the back of our newsletter to you, the quotable people of the FBC Youth Group. Might you fill it with the many ridiculous expressions that emerge from your mouth (and that I am conscious enough to write down so I remember them).

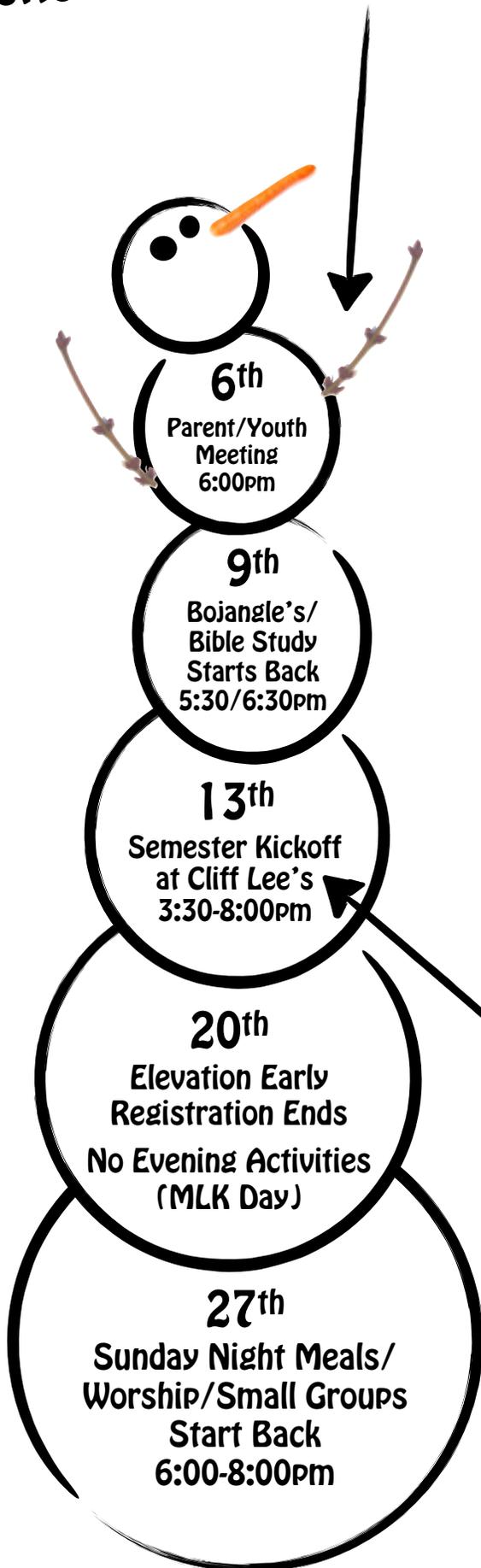
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IT'S COMING.

FEBRUARY 22-24

better SNOW these dates!



It has been and will continue to be difficult for us, as a youth group, to deal with the death of our good friend, Hogan. One of the things that makes a death like Hogan's so difficult is that we want to DO something to make it better; we want to DO something in response to the pain we feel.

And while the reality is that we cannot do anything to take away our grief, we can do something to help us deal, something that will honor Hogan, something that we know would make him glad.

That something can be found in the Miracle League, a tee-ball league for children with disabilities. The Miracle League is trying to build a field in Johnston County and is in the process of raising the necessary funds. Hence, as we journey onward from Hogan's loss, our youth group will be promoting various opportunities to raise money for this cause that meant so much to him.

A few projects are already in the works, but if you have any ideas of how we can help the Johnston County Miracle League, feel free to let Paul know!

*this will be awesome!
there'll be games, food, music, and
a bonfire--don't miss this epic
opportunity to kick off the spring
semester as only the fbc youth
group can!*