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MINISTRIES

January 2026

New Year, Same God

January 2026. There was a time, some years ago, when that could have been the start of a science fiction novel or a voice-over for a similar movie. Self-driving cars are common now and will soon be everywhere. Quantum computing is a thing now. Laser weapons are no longer future tech. It is possible to attend a concert by a long-dead performer and watch their hologram sing their greatest hits. An individual can trade stock, pay their bills, order dinner, and video chat with their friends using only their smartphone, all in the time it takes to get home from work. A person with quadriplegia and an ALS patient are communicating and playing video games today with only their thoughts.

We can acquire virtually any book within a matter of moments. If we want a hard copy, we can probably get it shipped. We can Google specific questions like “what does this code mean on my Whirlpool refrigerator model so and so, and the answer will pop up on our phones immediately. Usually, it even comes with a very helpful video showing some industrious fellow walking us through how to fix said problem. I have virtually every English translation of the Bible on my phone, for free!

My children have never missed a meal, unless by choice. They have never been without medical care. They have never had to grapple with homelessness. They have never been without clothing-Glory to God! I’ve seen people in Haiti washing their clothing in a stream and drying it in the sun. My washing machine and dryer are running in my home as I type. I love chicken. I love eggs, and have eaten so many of them. I’ve never raised a chicken. I love hamburgers and milk. I’ve never raised cows either. (Cows are excellent. I

have greeted many cows as I’m driving with a smile and a wave.) Grocery stores are a wonder that is easy to take for granted. One of my family members doesn’t do well with dairy. They’ve now figured out how to do extraordinary cow things that make special milk that my family member can drink. We own an air fryer. It’s like a microwave, but it does all the work for you. My wife makes bread. I love it, and she can do it in a few hours with a breadmaker. I mow my lawn, and it is almost fun because I get to ride. On top of that, we have a minivan with automatic doors, and our garage opens when I hit a button inside said cozy minivan. Some of us have even started our cars remotely in the last few days with sub-zero temperatures. We have much to thank God for!

We have **never** in human history led more convenient lives. In a rapidly changing world, technological advancements have enabled us to experience things our ancestors could never have imagined. At the same time, however, Gallup data shows that Americans are, as a whole, more stressed and anxious now than in the 90s, 2000s, or even the early 2010s. Globally, the odds of someone frequently being stressed have roughly doubled since the mid-2000s. The data will tell you that the traditional significant life stressors like work, finances, and relationships, have been joined by heightened media exposure, increased housing costs, inflation, and even political division as major factors in our stressed-out lives. These factors, along with various other post-pandemic effects, have contributed to increased stress and anxiety across society, it seems. This is unfortunately not limited to secular society, but also includes those who profess to be Christians. If we are wealthier than ever, live more convenient lives than ever, and are seemingly more stressed than ever before, what should we, as the Church, do?

*"What has been will be again,
what has been done will be done again;
there is nothing new under the sun.
Is there anything of which one can say,
"Look! This is something new?"
It was here already, long ago;
it was here before our time."*

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10

Be anxious for nothing. Fear not. Be strong and courageous. Recognize that our Heavenly Father knows what we need before we ask. These are all things that we have been taught and should "know" as professed Christians. We've been taught to pray by faith, believing that we will receive what we ask for. In so doing, we've also learned that our Heavenly Father knows what we need best. The answer may come quickly, it may be a while, but it will always come in its proper time. "Why are you worried about these things?" Jesus said. It is important to slow down and recognize that there really is nothing new under the sun. In every generation, there have been great stressors. In every generation, there has been a spiritual battle for the souls of men, and men have either chosen faith in God or themselves. It is important to remember why we are here and that we have a job to do—*see the great commission*. The world would have us believe every day that the world is ending and looking for ways to save ourselves. **Fear is the greatest motivator towards selfishness there is.** With such access to information and news now, it is easy for any of us to become discombobulated and have our spiritual discernment clouded. This has Christians looking inwards rather than outwards, batten down the hatches and waiting for the end, rather than leaving our proverbial nets behind and heading to Nineveh. Jonah knew Nineveh meant death; he had heard the reports. Fear had him running from the truth and hiding to save himself. I'm thankful Nwe have him as an example both of God's faithfulness and our weakness under trial. If Jonah could preach and see a whole city repent, *then so can we!* Of course, without Him it is impossible. We must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. We must be getting our "news" from our God first and foremost. Our secular news sources have become merchants of fear far more than purveyors of truth. This isn't new. Fear sells. Good thing we have access to THE primary source of Good News!

Malachi 3:6 tells us, "For I, the LORD, do not change." Hebrews 13:8 says that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Psalm 102:27 says, "But you are the same, and your years have no end." James 1:17 tells us that our Father is one with whom "there is no variation or shifting shadow due to change." This is good! In the world, sameness is seen as boring. Every advertisement tells us what is new and desirable. New is thought to be good, and change is sold as something to be desired. Who doesn't like a new pair of shoes or a new car? In the kingdom of God, however, sameness is paramount. He is perfect and unchanging always. All things are in Him and through Him. How many facets of God are there? How many unique characteristics? The same God is only boring to those who don't recognize Him for who He is. Art, music, poetry, literature, philosophy, every invention, every discovery, and every accomplishment of mankind throughout all of history have been through the grace of the one true God. We've been so conditioned that we are special and unique, that it is all about us, that it is an affront to our earthly senses to think of ourselves as the same as anyone or anything. Who is greater, the potter or the clay? If the same God abides in you and in me, what should be considered of greater importance, that GOD is in each of us, or that our earthly bodies are a bit different in appearance? It is earthly-thinking to be concerned about my identity, my calling, my uniqueness as it relates to others when He is commanding me to follow Him! If Christ is speaking, why do I care what I look like? Why must I be in a place of honor? None of us will care on judgment day. We are all individuals, unique and loved, and yet called to be one in Him. One in the same God.

Each of us is being sanctified to become more like what He already is. He is abiding perfectly in us. We are learning to abide in Him. He loves us perfectly. We are learning to obey the command to love others as He has loved us. In other words, in Christ we are all one and the same body, and in that body we will experience every good thing for eternity. Every word God speaks is eternal. His Word is truth. He is perfect. If He were only an idea, or an ideal, this wouldn't be a big deal, but He is a Living

God. He is active today, through His Word and His Spirit. Lay down defending your uniqueness. A servant of God—anyone endeavoring to follow Jesus—is already the greatest among us. Love God and love your neighbor. There is abundant life there. The world is full of minions all conforming, believing the lie that they are unique in their rebellion. Such were we. Being one in Christ is where we will find true freedom and purpose, true life and beauty. After all, what in all of creation will be more beautiful than the sanctified Bride of Christ? If God is within us, why do we fight one another? If Christ is in us, why would we worry about tomorrow, or anything for that matter? *Lord, renew our minds to see from a kingdom perspective when we are tempted to fear and save ourselves.*

How did you get saved? The same God who saved you keeps you now. When and how did He call you into His service? The same God who called you is sending you today. The Jesus who raised Lazarus from the dead is the one who will save the person you are praying for. Is He able to again? Of course He is! The same God who saw the early Church through severe persecution in the Roman Empire will see His Church through now. The same God who burned in the hearts of those on the road to Emmaus is the one stirring in you now. The same God who created everything is the One who has made all things new in you. The enemy of your soul wants you bogged down, too distracted to see clearly that Christ is coming soon. He wants you too distracted by screaming, talking-heads to see that our youth are being drawn to Him like never before. There may be war in various places, famines, persecutions, and the like. But make no mistake, in every place that may be true, people are coming to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, by the tens, hundreds, thousands, or millions! Christ is calling many unto Himself, and many are answering the call. The same God who said “Let there be light” is bringing light to the world through you, His Church. We’ve always known we may be in a generation that sees everything shaken. If it is, so be it. The louder the news gets, recognize that it is a sign, and a good one. Bibles are flying off of shelves. Young men are returning to the Church. Preachers are repenting, and the wheat is being separated from the chaff. Fight the good fight, knowing that he who endures until the end will be saved. The same God who said these things will

soon return. Quiet the noise without and remember why you are here. Nothing else will matter in the end. Rejoice and be thankful, you are a son or daughter of the King! Take up your cross for a little while longer, deny yourself, and follow Jesus for these few days we all have left before eternity. We will be able to rest completely then, but not yet. The fields are white unto harvest. May you become the laborer the Church has been praying for to be sent. May the Lord bless you and your house. May He be your peace today and every day.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Simms', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aaron Simms

A Couple Notes from the Executive Director

- The Lord has led for a Waiting on God! April 17-19, in Parker City. Special hotel rates have been arranged at The Randolph Inn and Suites in Winchester. Mention Found Ministries when you call (765) 584-8281 to make your reservation. More information can be found by visiting our website.
- Fellowship Youth Camp is July 12-18 at a NEW LOCATION! We will be gathering at the birthplace of the Wesleyan denomination in Fairmount, IN at the Fairmount Wesleyan Campground. The Holy Spirit has already been speaking about this year's theme and whispering of great things! If you would like to register a camper or get more information, please email fyc@foundministry.org.
- If you would like to support a camper going by paying their way, navigate to foundministry.org/give and select Fellowship Youth Camp from the dropdown menu. Additionally, feel free to send a check to P.O. Box 482, Parker City, IN 47368 and include Fellowship Youth Camp on the memo line.
- Reminder: We will no longer be sending paper copies of the newsletter, except once a quarter. We *will* continue publishing them as the Lord leads, but they will only be emailed and posted online for download as a PDF. Head on over to foundministry.org/newsletter and scroll down to explore all your options.
- Some of you may have seen the previous email we've sent or the social media posts, but in case you missed it we wanted to make sure you know about the RFOD Newsletter Archive. Every newsletter we had (we believe we got them all) from 1962-2000 have been digitized and are

available as free downloads at foundministry.org/newsletter so please enjoy!

- Our website is full of great resources that will help you deepen your walk with Christ. Please take some time to browse and enjoy. Also remember, we offer an app available for Apple, Android, Roku, and more. Visit foundministry.org for more information.