



Newsletter

December 2008

Establish my footsteps in your Word... Psalm 119:133



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Established Footsteps

December is a unique month... and during all the hustle and bustle we wanted to take a moment and wish you many blessings. One of the things I really enjoy about Christmas is the music that moves my heart. Recently I heard a song on my new Mandisa Christmas CD called "Christmas Makes Me Cry". I am not sure if you have heard this or not but suffice it to say, when you do, it will make you cry! Some of the words are,

***I think of loved ones who've passed away, and I pray they're resting in a better place.
I think of memories of years gone by, and sometimes Christmas makes me cry.***

Christmas seems to evoke memories and emotions in us that are at other times locked away. The song goes on to say,

***I think of Mary and the virgin birth; I'm amazed by how much God thinks we are worth.
That He would send His only Son to die, and sometimes Christmas makes me cry.
Tears of faithfulness, tears of hope, I cry tears of joy at Christmas because I know,
There is peace on earth for every heart to find, and sometimes Christmas makes me cry.***

It is my own conviction that during the month of December, the Spirit of God unleashes a measure of His anointing on us to see things as God sees them. He gives us the opportunity to view life as it really is. That can be wonderful and that can be painful. We can view life, its beauty and its ugliness, its wonder and its pains, its hope and its fear. I am thankful we can behold all of that against the backdrop of grace... grace that sent our Savior to the World, Jesus, who became our Emmanuel, God with us. God with us, walking through the beauty as well as the ugliness, beholding the wonder as well as the pain, giving us hope and dispelling our fear.

One of my favorite sections of scripture is in John 1. It allows us to see Jesus, our Emmanuel as the Word of God. When Jesus was on the earth, He was literally the Word of God in the flesh, walking among men. Today, Jesus resides in our hearts and He uses the written Word of God to walk through life with us. At Established Footsteps our hope is to encourage women to walk with that Word everyday. That is what Christmas is all about. Jesus, the Word, coming into our world. Because of that, we don't have to spend this season in reflection and end up barren. No Jesus has been born in our hearts, and the tears that seem to come at Christmas can be tears of hope and tears of joy because we know there is a peace on this earth for every heart to find, every day, every moment, every month in this life as we walk in the Word of God!

As you finish out this Christmas season and move into your new year, we encourage you to purpose to be in the Word of God. We have many resources to help you do that and we know it will make all the difference in your world. Because of that, we can say, "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Established Footsteps Ministry!"



New Year Plans to Be in the Word



Recently I had a conversation with a woman who is thriving in her relationship with the Lord. Her words to me were, "Thank you Sharon for showing me that I needed to be in the Word everyday!" I could only smile and be glad for all that I see God doing in her and through her. Not only is she growing, she is now taking many on the course with her. I had to reflect on the purpose I have seen her living in. Over the last several months I have received numerous emails from her stating her commitment and telling me how she was living it.

As we begin this new year, I want to ask you, what have you purposed to do with the Word of God this year? Are you planning a Bible Study? Have you thought about memorizing a passage? Do you have time set aside for your relationship with Jesus and letting Him speak to you in His Word? What plans do you have for bringing the Word into your family life?

I would encourage you to remember several things:

- You have a relationship with Jesus, you can't plan it all out, He will surprise you sometimes!
- Even so, if you don't make a plan to spend time with Jesus, the world will distract you!
- Make some plans and purpose to do your part in being in the Word so God can use it in your life!

2009 is a new year! Purpose to be in the Word of God ... we want to help you do that through:

Memorization projects
Women's VBS, Summer 2009
Bible Studies
Encouragement
Speaking and Teaching

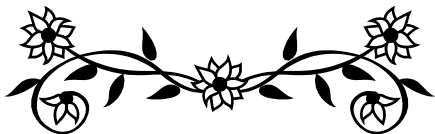
Contact us today... we will help you make a plan!

Please Pray



In the months of January through June, God will be using Sharon to speak 32 messages where she will be affirming and breaking open the Word of God to various groups of women along the East Coast. Although each of these times of teaching and speaking will be different, our prayer is that God will use these times to hold the Word up high and to promote a love for it among the

women who hear. Please come alongside us and pray for these times. You can access a complete schedule at www.establishedfootsteps.com in the News section of our website if you would like to pray specifically for each event. Thank you in advance for joining us in prayer.



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Online Giving Now Available

We are pleased to announce that you can now donate to Established Footsteps on our website using the PayPal service. This secure service allows you to use a PayPal account or your own credit card. Consider giving a year end gift today. Visit www.establishedfootsteps.com and look for Donate.

Women's VBS 2009 Plans

Plans are beginning to take shape for our Women's VBS this coming summer and we don't want you to miss it! Be on the lookout on our website and in future newsletters for soon coming details!

In February we are planning a special info dinner for area women's ministry directors. That night we hope to share the vision of our Women's VBS and draw many churches into this special time for women right here in the VA area. If you are a women's ministry director or you would like the director from your church to attend, please contact us and we will get them the needed information.

We also will need many willing helpers for this VBS so let us know if you want to join in. Coming soon, will be an announcement about our first team meeting, so be on the lookout for that too!