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Big Hairy Audacious Goals

Wade Allen
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In his book, *Built to Last*, Jim Collins introduced the idea of “big hairy audacious goals.” Everyone has goals—so, what makes a BHAG different from a regular goal? Collins explains: “A BHAG engages people—it reaches out and grabs them in the gut. It is tangible, energizing, highly focused. People ‘get it’ right away; it takes little or no explanation.”

About this time every year, people start talking about goals for the new year. In this issue, all of our pastors focus in on the need to pursue and embrace whatever it is that God is calling you to do. What will your goals look like?

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS

Your goals will change depending on where you are in life. I know that my goals are very different today than they were twenty years ago, but the categories of goals remains the same. I need to have goals for every major area of my life—spiritual, mental, ministry, vocational, social, physical, financial and family. If you have never made a list of goals, you could simply start with spiritual, financial and family goals!

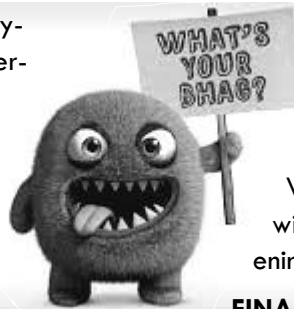
SPIRITUAL BHAGS

What are some examples of spiritual goals? I'm so glad you asked! Spiritual goals include

things like daily spiritual disciplines (i.e., prayer and Bible reading), being a witness for Christ, be accountable to someone who is a mature believer and be in the process of discipling someone. One

goal that I have had over the past several years is to read through the whole Bible each year. I like to read a different translation each time through.

Wherever you are in your walk with the Lord, set a goal for deepening that walk with Him in 2024!



FINANCIAL BHAGS

In a November 2023 article from Ramsey Solutions, they stated that “Just over half of Americans (51%) said they were having difficulty paying their bill in the past three months, and 42% said the same thing about paying for food.” The worries about money are taking a toll on the emotional well-being of Americans too—two out of five say that they have “experienced anxiety attacks due to money stress.” Financial stress is especially difficult on Generation Z, the youngest working generation, “with 67% saying it’s hard to pay bills.” But they’re not the only ones who are struggling, the study also showed that “64% of renters are having difficulty keeping up” with their monthly rent. And almost 40% of all the Americans who have credit cards rely on them to

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Opportunities Before You

Ron Fields

Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

When you get to my age, it seems the past keeps coming up and slapping you in the face. Over the year I have been able to deepen a friendship with a missionary, the son of a young man I was privileged to baptize early in my ministry. I have become closely acquainted with the great-grandson of families I knew when I first surrendered to preach, and who is also the grandson of early friends as well. Then recently, when a new family began visiting our church, we discovered ties going back into the early 1970's.

An old Gaither song says, "You will notice we say brother and sister around here, it's because we're a family and these folks are so dear."

Looking back, I agree with Paul who said in Philippians 4:11b "for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content."

However, there is always tomorrow and the necessity of pressing on for Christ. I am encouraged at the prospects of new acquaintances, new memories, and experiencing life transformations as we grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord.

Take advantage of every opportunity to build relationships, to earn a hearing for the Gospel, and deepen your understanding of Christ and His Word. Encourage someone to join a community group, engage in Financial Peace University and/or participate in Bible Study through Sunday School.

Value of Spiritual Goals

John O'Connor

Pastor of Community Engagement

A New Year is upon us. I find the older I get the faster these year come upon us. I've never been one for "New Years Resolutions." It's not that I think I'm perfect, if you need a detailed list I'm sure one of the members of my family could help you out. I think it's because I'm either disciplined or I'm not—it has nothing to do with it being a new year. Why should I make a resolution I don't actually mean?

I do, however, very much believe in the importance of setting spiritual goals that align with God's Word. It is essential for us as believers to reflect on our spiritual journey and set goals that align with God's will. By setting spiritual goals, we can deepen our relationship with God, grow in faith, and become more effective witnesses of His love and grace.

Here are some areas we all should make spiritual goals towards: seeking His kingdom first (Matt. 6:33), growing in knowledge and understanding (2 Peter 3:18), cultivating a vibrant prayer life (1 Thess. 5:17), and practicing love and service (Matt. 22:37-39). We can experience spiritual growth and become effective witnesses for Christ!

May this new year be a time of renewal, transformation, and deepening our relationship with our Heavenly Father. Let us commit ourselves to set spiritual goals that honor Him and bring glory to His name.

**DEBT IS
NORMAL.
BE
WEIRD.**

Find out how you can change your
life for the better. Sign up today!

FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

What Should I Be Doing with My Life?

David McEuen

Pastor of Family and Worship

A few years ago, I was listening to KLRC Christian Radio when in between songs, the host shared that it was his 30th birthday. As often happens on birthdays, he was reflecting on the quality of his life and shared an interesting thought: “Jesus was 30 years old when he began his public ministry. If Jesus did so much for God’s Kingdom at 30, what about me? What should I be doing for the Kingdom with my life?”

I don’t know why, but that thought struck a chord with me and stayed with me for years. In fact, it prompted me to undertake two significant, personal challenges in 2023, where I lived the majority of year 30.

The first was to go on an international mission trip. I had been on a few trips state-side but I had

never gone internationally. By God’s grace and with His help, I made it to Uganda and back after sharing the Gospel in the slums of Kampala. (And I want to go back again soon!)

The second was to read the Bible in a year. While not technically an “active ministry” goal, this was still a significant challenge for me. Again, by God’s grace and for His glory, I am on track to accomplish this goal by the end of 2023.

I share all this not to gain your praise but because I wonder if God might have you consider the same question: “What should I be doing for the Kingdom with my life?” As you look ahead to the coming year, pause to ask yourself this question. Better yet, take this question to the Lord and see what He has to say. You never know what He might do.



(Continued from “BIG HAIRY AUDACIOUS GOALS” on p. 1)

cover their basic monthly needs—and their credit cards “have a balance of more than \$15,000.”

Let’s be honest, there is no simple solution for the financial catastrophe that is facing our nation or the families units in our communities, but we can help **YOU** get control of your finances today, save money for tomorrow and plan for the future!

If you are struggling to pay your bills or if you are just trying to figure out if you can afford

to retire, I want to encourage you to consider signing up for Financial Peace University with Pastor Ron Fields. A group will be starting in the next few weeks.

FAMILY BHAGS

The family was the first institution created by God and we (fathers) have a responsibility to lead our families in ways that bring honor to the Lord! But we cannot do that if we are distracted by all the things of this world and neglect our family members. We **MUST** devote time to spend with our families, but we **MUST ALSO** devote time in prayer for our families! There is so much that could be said on this issue that space doesn’t permit—so I would invite you to schedule a time that we could sit down together to map out a plan for leading your family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



Jan 4	Christian Seniors 12:00 NN
Jan 7	Community Groups Resume
Jan 10	TSM and Club 267 Resumes 6:00 PM
Jan 27	Ladies' Craft Day 10:00 AM
Feb 1	Christian Seniors 12:00 NN

January 7th, we will start our **Winter Sermon Series** and **Community Groups Session**. If you do not have a group that you attend, this would be an ideal time for you to think about joining one of our Community Groups.

Also, our new **Recharge** books will be ready for distribution next Sunday! We are doing something different this time with the **Recharge** books. In addition to the regular books, there will also be a companion devotional book that will supplement your studies.



The Line of Faith by Bill Elliff is a 40-day journey to deeper dependency on God. We're encouraging each family to purchase a copy of this book, which will also be available January 7. We bought the books at a discounted rate of \$6/book. If you are unable to purchase a book at this time, we want you to take one. If you are able, feel free to pay the regular price of \$10. Your additional gift will help cover the cost of any who are unable to make this purchase. Payments for the books can be made to the church. Please label the payment as "Faith Book."



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