

## Planning — continued

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... knowledge of the Bible, save more souls, develop as a good teacher? What plans have we made to reach these objectives? We will never reach our potential without setting goals. Thus, we must plan, and then work at achieving our aspirations.

A successful congregation must have sufficient planning to establish clear-cut goals in attendance, contribution, meeting the budget, doing the work of evangelism, meeting benevolent needs, the spiritual growth of each member, and soul winning efforts. This all involves having plans to accomplish the spiritual aims just mentioned. The elders will do the planning, but in the body (church), we are "joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16).

Concerning the individual Christian's goal, the Apostle Paul expressed it so well --- "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14).

## News and Notes

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The Reeves' new address is:

604 New Castle Road  
Clarksville, TN 37043

Check out the Warfield church website...

**WBCOC.ORG**

You will find updated material covering recent sermons, bulletins, Bible classes, our fall gospel meeting, and the new radio program.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ  
290 Warfield Blvd.  
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website  
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times  
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm  
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!  
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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

### The Importance of Planning

by R.J. Evans

Life is filled with plans. We plan for our children and their education. We plan for our careers, vacations, retirement, etc. Thus, we plan on what will be involved in our daily activities.

However, as much as planning is a part of our daily lives, the inspired words of James must be taken into consideration as we plan. He says, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that'" (Jas. 4:13-5).

While maintaining the attitude just expressed in the verses above, we must realize that nothing is achieved without effort and planning. Benjamin Franklin supposedly once said, "*If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail.*" We may fail to ac-

complish all we plan to do, but it is certain we will accomplish little unless we plan to do it.

This is true in every area of life whether it be the field of education, the business world, or spiritual activities in the Lord's church. If we don't plan to succeed, we won't. If there are no definite plans, there will be very little achievement or much success in any endeavor.

Many members of the Lord's church accomplish practically nothing for Christ because they don't have a plan or goal for their life as a child of God. Individual Christians, and congregations alike, only reach a fraction of their potential because they move along haphazardly without well defined goals and plans of action.

Some guiding principles to help us in our planning is to be what God desires us to be. For example, consider the following:

**Time and forethought are necessary.** Many times we are "so busy" doing relatively non-important things that God only gets the "leftovers" of our time and we operate only on an emergency ba-

sis. When this happens we certainly haven't taken the time or made the effort in successful planning.

The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to "give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine ... Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all" (1 Tim. 4:13). Hours of meditation, prayer, and planning are necessary for us to achieve the progress we need to be making in our service to the Lord.

**Goal setting is necessary.** Many will say, heaven is my goal. Indeed it is the highest goal of every faithful child of God. However, it has been said: "*Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.*"

When we build a building, setting and meeting certain levels of construction must be met before we reach the final goal of a completed structure. The same is true in the life of a Christian. Christians often wonder why they haven't accomplished more for the Lord. The problem is a lack of a well-defined goal-setting plan. Do we want to increase our ...