



## Happy New Year Welcome to 2009!

Just a few days ago we left 2008 behind and 2009 is before us. We have the fortunate opportunity to leave our failures, mistakes, and heartaches and move into new territory with new challenges.

I encourage you to embrace 2009 with excitement and energy. Believe that God has great plans for you and your family. Believe that God wants to do something extraordinary in your life. Believe that the best is before you and not behind you.

It's time to "move forward." It is the only way to live!



### Praise & Prayer Service

TONIGHT @ 6 pm we will kick off the New Year looking back and giving thanks to God for all He has given us in 2008 and looking ahead to His plans and direction for our lives in 2009. Through prayer, the enemy will be defeated. Through prayer, our families will be stronger. Through prayer, our church will move forward! It is the perfect way to start the year! Make plans to be a part of this special evening.

### Membership @ Sheffield

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Sheffield Church of God, Pastor Mark will be offering a Membership Class in the gymnasium TODAY @ 9:30 am. If you have been attending Sheffield COG for awhile, come see the benefits of becoming a member. Membership Classes are offered the first Sunday of each quarter. Membership has its privileges.

### Men on Fire

We will be going bowling on January 10<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6 pm. Please be prompt to start on time. See Dennis or Errol Torres for details and to sign up.

### Upcoming Sunday Series – January 2009

TODAY we begin a church discipleship campaign called "Living a Life That Counts." In order for our church to continue moving forward, we must commit to making the most of 2009 by becoming good stewards of the things God has entrusted us with.

Messages include:

- Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> – Spending Time – Psalm 90:1-17
- Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> – Finding Financial Freedom – Matthew 6:24
- Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – Living in the Zone – 1 Peter 4:7
- Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – A Sad Man Walking – Mark 10:17-31

Start 2009 off on the right track by committing to live a life that counts!



### Breakfast of Champions

Men, take a break and start the day off right by meeting with Pastor Mark on Tuesday, Jan. 13 from 6 - 8 am at Cracker Barrel. Good food, good fellowship, a word from God. What more could you ask for?

### Small Group Ministry in 2009 – Wednesday Evenings

The new year is here and that means some great new ministry ideas for 2009. Listed below are the upcoming series and small group leaders.

- **Urban Legends** (Debunking Spiritual Myths) Pastor Mark (everyone invited)
- **The Book of Acts** – Homer Browning and the Autumn Lites (ages 50 and older)
- **Connecting with Christ Together** – Jason Hower and Real Life (College/Singles thru 28)
- **Youth Ministry** – Pastor Josh Kirksey (grades 7 thru 12)
- **KIDZ BLITZ** – Pastor Norm Hensley (K – thru grade 6)
- **Pre-school and Nursery provided also**

There is something for everyone on Wednesday nights. Join us and let's grow together!

### Refuge Youth Ministry Activities

- Sponsors are needed for teens to go to Momentum Conference. The cost of \$115 includes lodging, food, service, bowling, laser tag. If you have any questions, see Pastor Josh Kirksey.
- Winterjam Concert—January 31—Cost is \$12. See Pastor Josh for more information.

### Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

Sunday School is a family affair. We hope that you are taking advantage of it. We are studying the life of Jesus Christ during this Winter Quarter. Join us each Sunday at 9:30 am as we study the greatest book (Bible) that tells of the greatest Savior (Jesus) who offers the greatest incentive (Heaven) to the greatest people (God's Children). Join us!

### Support our Troops by covering them with prayer.

"For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands. . ."  
Psalm 91:11,12



For a complete listing of our troops, go to the website.

### Faithfully Present

"The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them." Luke 19:10



Our God is the God who follows. Have you sensed him following you? He is the one who came to seek and save the lost. Have you sensed him seeking you?

Have you felt his presence through the kindness of a stranger? Through the majesty of a sunset or the mystery of romance? Though the question of a child or the commitment of a spouse? Through a word well spoken or a touch well timed, have you sensed him?

God gives us himself. Even when we choose our hovel over his house and our trash over his grace, still he follows. Never forcing us. Never leaving us. Patiently persistent. Faithfully present. He uses all his power to convince us that he is who he is and he can be trusted to lead us home.

- Max Lucado