

# Central CONNECTION

*"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." 1 Corinthians 2:5*

## JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Central Baptist Church of Orange County  
2323 N. Grand Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92705  
(949) 202-5575 \* CentralBaptistOC.com  
Info@CentralBaptistOC.church

### THIS ONE THING I DO

By Pastor Steve Owens

**Philippians 3:13-14** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.



Have you made your resolutions for the New Year? The idea for New Year's resolutions came by way of the Puritans. They brought their custom of annual reflection and goal-setting to America in the 1630's. Their focus on moral and personal growth blended by existing traditions has done a lot to shape our perception of New Year's resolutions.

According to a survey conducted by Wells Fargo, the number one resolution for 2026 is saving more money. The survey said that 70% of people are planning to boost their savings. Other popular resolutions for the New Year include things like: exercise, healthy eating, learning new skills and better time management.

Here is my question: Did you follow through with your resolutions from last year? Many people don't even make it through January before quitting and

going back to old habits.

One of the reasons people don't follow through is because they set broad, unrealistic goals. They want to "get fit" or "eat healthier" but they don't have a clear plan. As a result, they don't accomplish much toward their goal. We'll go easy on that group; at least they had a desire to improve.

But there is another group. The majority of this group doesn't make resolutions. They don't accomplish goals because they don't make any to begin with. Their plan is to go through life just living and see where each day takes them.

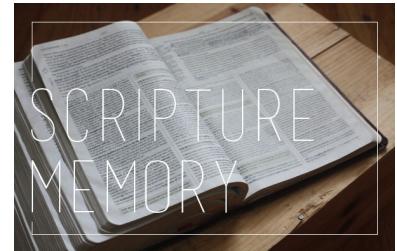
The average American wakes up and goes to work. At the end of the day they go home to eat, do a few chores, and then plop down on the couch to play games, watch a movie, or binge-watch an entire season of their favorite TV show! The next day they wake up to repeat the whole process. This is a simplification, but it's generally true. Most people live their life for no other reason than to exist.

The majority of Christians live the same way. Their spiritual life consists of going to church once a week. The rest of their week is lived in a self-centered way accomplishing almost nothing for the cause of Christ.

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### January Memory Passage

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*  
**2 Timothy 2:15**

**MOST PEOPLE  
LIVE THEIR LIFE  
FOR NO OTHER  
REASON THAN  
TO EXIST.**

### Monthly Events

**Phebe's Fellowship**  
(Women's Missionary Society)  
Wednesday, January 7 @ 7:00 PM

**Spanish Bible Study**  
Wednesday, January 14 @ 7:00 PM

**College and Career Bible Study**  
Friday, January 23 @ 6:30 PM

**Street Preaching**  
Last Sat of the month at noon.

## THIS ONE THING I DO

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Most Christians have never read through the Bible one time. They have never led a soul to Christ. They rarely give out gospel tracts. And when it comes to praying, they don't remember that last time a prayer was answered. If you are going to do anything for the cause of Christ, you have to resolve *in your heart* that you will do something.

In our Scripture passage, Paul is making a determined resolution to do one thing. His focus is clear and sharp. He said, "this ONE THING I do." He didn't say, "there is one thing I am going to try to do." He didn't say, "there is one thing I will make a goal to do." No. He said this one thing I DO!

Paul was pressing toward **the** mark. He was not pressing for **a** mark, he was pressing toward a specific mark – **the** mark. The mark is described as **the** prize. "... I press toward **the** mark for **the** prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14).

When I was a kid, the cereal people put prizes in the boxes. (Do they still do that today?) When I went to the store with my mom she would let me pick out a box of cereal. Of course, I would look for a box that had a prize in it! As soon as we got home, I was determined to get the prize before anyone else. Usually the prize made its way to the bottom of the box, but I didn't care. I would rip open the package and shove my little hand down into the box and dig around until I found the prize! Victory!

The Apostle Paul had the same mind-set. He was determined to achieve His prize. "**I press toward the mark for the PRIZE...**"

The word "press" is an important word. Paul wasn't just *reaching* for the prize, he was *pressing* for the prize. There is a good illustration of "pressing" in Luke 19:3. There was a throng of people jostling and straining to touch Jesus. Because the crowd was so thick and intense, Zacchaeus couldn't get through the *press* to see Jesus. His only choice was to climb a tree! Paul said, I haven't attained it yet, but I am determined that I will. I am *pressing* for the mark. It was the all-encompassing passion of his life.

Paul had one primary goal in his life. All of his tasks revolved around one main purpose in his life. He had one **mission**, one **purpose**, one **direction**, one **desire**. There was **one mark**, there was **one prize** that was higher than all else - "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord..." (Philippians 3:8).

Paul's fierce determination and intense longing was to have a deep and intimate knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul said, "I want to know Christ" (verse 10). He said, "I want to know everything there is to know about Christ. I want to know the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. He said, I want to live like Christ lived. I want to be like Christ. Christ is all. Nothing else matters. Nothing else is important."

Paul wrote, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, **who is our life**, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." (Col 3:3-4)

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### Weekly Schedule of Church Services

Sunday School (All Ages).....	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Preaching Service .....	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Preaching Service.....	5:00 PM

**Thursday**

Scripture Scouts (Ages 4-12) .....	7:00 PM
Prayer and Bible Study (Adults and Teens) .....	7:00 PM

### **BEGIN THE NEW YEAR WITH A SPIRITUAL "SHOT IN THE ARM!"**



### **2026 CBCOC Bible Conference**

**Monday-Saturday**

January 15-18  
7:00 pm each night

**Sunday**  
January 18  
9:00 am \* 10:00 am  
5:00 pm

#### **Guest Preachers:**

**Pastor Steve Andrus**  
*San Pedro, CA*

**Pastor Ken Bates**  
*Hutchinson, KS*

**Pastor Mike Veach**  
*Staten Island, NY*



**Preaching Services are  
broadcast live at:  
Central Baptist Church of  
Orange County**

## Christmas For Christ



**ABOVE LEFT:** Bro. Will accompanies a group of Christmas carolers at the Orange Circle in Old Towne Orange on Saturday evening, December 20.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Joel and Anne prepare to ship several boxes of donated Christmas items to Bro. Velhuis, our missionary to the Cocopah Indians.

**BELOW:** The church choir poses for a picture before they sing for the Christmas Eve service.



### THIS ONE THING I DO

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Christ was Paul's life. Every thought, every action was to be like Christ. Paul desired a daily ongoing conversation with Christ. His determined resolution was to walk with Christ, to talk to Christ, know His words, and to know His perfect will for his life. Paul knew that *in Christ* he had faith, power, a calling and a purpose for living.

We need to be reminded constantly that in Christ there is absolute truth, honesty, virtue, praise, pureness, contentment, strength, and the supply of all our needs.

In Christ there is forgiveness of sins. All the nourishment we need for our spiritual life is through Him. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Him. We have all the advantages and no disadvantages when we seek to know Christ and learn from Him! If you are determined to make any resolution in your life this year, it should be this one thing - to know Christ!

**Are you absolutely certain that you will go to Heaven when you die?**

**There is only one way to Heaven**

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

**Nobody else can save you.**

1. Admit you are a sinner. (Romans 3:10)
2. Be willing to turn from your sin (repent). (Acts 17:30)
3. Believe that Jesus died for you, was buried, and rose from the dead. (Romans 10:9-10)
4. Through prayer, ask Jesus to come into your heart to become your Saviour. (Romans 10:13)

### What to Pray

"Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus shed His blood and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from my sin. I now ask Christ to come into my heart and save me. In Jesus' name, Amen."

**If you made the decision to trust Christ as your Saviour, please contact us. We have a free book that will help you grow as new Christian.**

**Call us  
(949) 202-5575**

# CONGRATULATIONS!!!



*"Hello Everyone, I have finally arrived!"*

**Luke Henry Atkins**  
**Born: December 31, 2025**



## VITAL BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

Every church service is unique from the others and emphasizes a different area of Bible knowledge. In order to receive a well-rounded diet from the Word of God, we encourage you to attend all four services.

*Survey of the Old Testament* ..... Auditorium Sunday School (9:00 AM)  
*Lessons from the Life of Christ* ..... Sunday Morning Preaching (10:00 AM)  
*Lessons on the Local Church* ..... Sunday Evening Bible Study (5:00 PM)  
*The Book of Revelation* ..... Thursday Evening Bible Study (7:00 PM)

### What Members are Saying

*My family and I started attending Central Baptist Church of Orange County in February 2023. Before then, we tried out a couple of other churches but we did not feel a deep spiritual conviction to continue attending them. We got to know about Central Baptist Church using Google search. The question that is of interest will be, "What is different about this church that made you stay"? The answer is, the mode of fellowship and the way the undiluted word of God from the 1611 authorized King James Version is being taught, provides a deeper understanding of His word and what it means to be a Christian. The whole family came to the same conclusion that this is it after our very first time worshiping at Central Baptist Church, and it has been this way since then. I thank God for his grace upon my family, because I see us growing in the Lord. The Lord is teaching me day by day on how to give him total control of my affairs, how to practice being patient, a virtue which I struggle with, in all, teaching me how to serve him better.*

**Peter and Tega Igbedo  
Efuo, Noel and Precious**

*We first visited Central Baptist about a year ago, and what drew us in right away was its warm, close-knit family atmosphere. We were looking for a small Baptist church that faithfully teaches sound doctrine, sings the timeless hymns of the faith, and has a heart for missions, and we found exactly that here. Over the past year, we've been blessed not only by the clear, Bible-based preaching, but also by the genuine fellowship of believers who love the Lord. We've also been thankful for the opportunities to serve—my husband plays guitar for the Spanish ministry (even though he doesn't speak Spanish), and I teach children's church. We are so grateful that God has led us here."*

**Robert and Maria Franco**