

Happy New Year!
Lisa, Pastor Ben,
Steven, Sara, & Ethan



Sunday, January 7, 2024

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Don't make plans; make options. —Jennifer Aniston

The headline screamed an amazing and unheard of development: “105-Year-Old Sprinter Hidekichi Miyazaki Sets New Record!”

This was not fake news. On September 23, 2015, Miyazaki did, indeed, compete and win, and thereby became the Guinness World Records oldest competitive sprinter. Miyazaki ran the 100-meter dash and did it in 42.22 seconds.

There are three things impressive about Miyazaki. First, *he was not satisfied*. Published reports said he was not impressed by his performance. He complained of not being in good condition. He expressly said that he was not satisfied with his time.

Second, *he had a goal*. His target for this particular race was 35 seconds.

Third, his philosophy was that *it is never too late to start a new thing!* Miyazaki did not begin to participate in track and field sports until he was in his 90s!

What goals and records have you set your sights on for 2024?

The story of this Japanese centenarian has some valuable lessons for us.

First, it is easy for all of us, regardless of our age, to be satisfied with the status quo. We might be just fine with our level of physical fitness, or our spiritual growth. Perhaps we are okay with the state of our family relationships. They might not get better, but at least they won't get worse. “It is what it is,” we say.

Is this the attitude we want to have going into 2024?

Second, Miyazaki had a goal. Even though he was 105, he understood the importance of striving toward an objective. The apostle Paul acknowledged the importance of goal-setting in his letter to the Philippians: “Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own ... This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus” (3:12-14).

Third, Miyazaki believed it was never too late to start over. This, indeed, is the essence of the gospel. Today is the day of salvation, renewal and change!

After his amazing record-setting event, Miyazaki lived for another three years, dying on January 23, 2019, at the age of 108. But while he was alive, he lived ... as though there was no tomorrow.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of another year, for allowing me to see the dawn of new opportunities. May I be strong and courageous and accept whatever challenges face me in 2024. In your name I pray. Amen.

Week of January 7, 2024

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- Sunday:** Genesis 1-12
Monday: Genesis 13-22
Tuesday: Genesis 23-31
Wednesday: Genesis 32-40
Thursday: Genesis 41-45
Friday: Genesis 46-50
Saturday: Psalm 1

**READ
THROUGH
THE BIBLE
IN ONE
YEAR!**

Each week, *HomeTouch* will provide daily readings from the Bible that will take you through the Bible in one year. Sometimes, we will suggest a **Verses to Remember**. Many *HomeTouch* readers try to memorize these verses; memorization stimulates both the mind and the heart!

LEFT OUT

Directions: Insert one letter set from column A in the spaces provided in column B to form a six-, seven- or eight-letter word. Each set in column A can be used only once.

COLUMN A

ARB
AVO
ELL
ETH
GIB
HIN
ILL
KEA
MAC
MOG
NOO
TUI
XIS

COLUMN B

1. FORE _____ N
2. SP _____ XES
3. HO _____ ENY
4. GRI _____ ED
5. LI _____ BLE
6. TAN _____ LE
7. GRA _____ TY
8. FL _____ R
9. UR _____ RA
10. GE _____ OX
11. DW _____ ER
12. SE _____ MS
13. SP _____ WAY

GENESIS PAIRS

Directions: The Bible readings this week are from Genesis 1-50. Sort the names listed here into pairs. Each name can be used only once. (Use the white space to do your work.)

Rebekah
Ark
Cain
Abraham
Adam
Noah
Abel
Ishmael
Sarah
Isaac
Jacob
Eve
Rachel
Leah
Hagar
Esau

January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

ANSWERS:

1. forenoon
2. sphinxes
3. homogeny
4. grimaced
5. likeable
6. tangible
7. gratuity
8. flavor
9. urethra
10. gearbox
11. dweller
12. sexism
13. spillway

Genesis Pairs:

Adam/Eve
Cain/Abel
Noah/Ark
Abraham/Sarah
Isaac/Rebekah
Jacob/Esau
Rachel/Leah
Ishmael/Hagar