

Local Church Budget

New Year



“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

“Happy New Year!” will ring out across Sydney in a couple of days. But a hopeful greeting may not cut it; we need something more. Listen to the promise made to Joshua 3,000 years ago. As Joshua was about to lead God’s people into the Promised Land, he had every reason to be afraid. He was aware of the dangers. He needed God’s encouragement.

In the same way, we need God’s encouragement. A new year brings questions: Will my health hold? Will my marriage last? Will I keep my job? Will I get into the right school? Will the economy improve? The Creator of the universe says, “Don’t be afraid; don’t be discouraged”. What happens this coming year is not left to chance. God is in charge, and He promises to stay close—if we let Him. The key is to trust Him with our lives, families, jobs, homes, faith and finances.

As 2019 draws to its close, take a few moments to reflect on the past and peek into the future. Have I really trusted God

with every part of me? Is there more that I can give to Him? Have I trusted God with the difficult times and the easy times? Have I been faithful with my finances, tithes and offerings? Did our church reach into the community and share Jesus? Now is an opportunity to recommit and reconnect! As we enter the New Year we may face challenges, but these are just opportunities to trust God more.

Appeal

As we take a collection this morning for our local budget, let’s recommit ourselves to putting our full trust in God.

Prayer

Dear God, help us to claim the promise given to Joshua that You will be with us wherever we go. Amen.

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