

# MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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## RESET

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*2 Timothy 4:11  
Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.*

This request for Mark is an incredible example of redemption and restoration.

Previously, Paul had adamantly rejected Mark as a ministry partner because Mark had abandoned them on their first missionary trip (Acts 13:13). Barnabas, who had vouched for Paul when the church doubted his conversion (Acts 9:26-28), mentored him (Acts 11:25-26), and became his first ministry partner, wanted to give Mark a second chance. Their disagreement was so sharp that a rift resulted. Paul formed a new team with Silas. Barnabas took Mark and basically disappeared from the pages of Scripture (Acts 15:37-40). That is, until Paul made this stunning request years later to bring Mark

to him because he now believed him to be useful for ministry. How did this remarkable turnaround occur? It required at least three resets.

Mark demonstrated a reset in his thinking about ministry. We are not told why he abandoned the enterprise the first time (Acts 13:13), nor what caused the change in him, but clearly by the next trip he was willing to go again. Despite his initial failure he was willing to have another go at it. There will be times when we fail at ministry, or in our walk with God, but for those who are willing to repent and re-try, failure is never fatal. Mark's humility, courage and tenacity eventually made him profitable for ministry.

Barnabas was also pivotal in facilitating the reset. When Paul was unwilling to give Mark a second chance, Barnabas risked his ministry relationship with Paul to invest in Mark. We do not have the details of how Barnabas mentored Mark, but we know that he began by demonstrating trust in him – again. Barnabas' support and guidance helped to forge Mark into a useful minister.

Paul later had to demonstrate humility by recognizing the transformation that had occurred in Mark and reset his opinion of him. To Paul's credit, he not only declared Mark profitable for ministry, but also requested to partner with him again.

As you ponder this inspiring story of redemption, where do you fit? Like Mark, do you need to dust yourself off from a past failure and try ministering again, or return to a committed walk with Christ? Or maybe like Barnabas, do you need to draw near to someone who has messed up, and help restore them to usefulness? Or perhaps like Paul, do you need to offer forgiveness and opportunities to someone who has failed, but has repented and returned?

May God help us to reset and/or facilitate reset as necessary in 2023.

God bless you,

Pastor James

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
TUE @ 7 PM

**JAN 3**

Join us via Zoom video  
Please contact Pastor James for log on information at [rcantio@gmail.com](mailto:rcantio@gmail.com)

**YOUTH GROUP**  
FRI @ 6:45 PM

**JAN 6**

In-person at church.  
For teens ages 13 and over

**EVENING SERVICE**  
1st & 3rd  
SUN @ 6 PM

**JAN 15**

Join us in-person at church

**KIDZONE & NURSERY**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**JAN 8**

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

**GROWTH GROUPS**  
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

**FEB 9 & FEB 10**

In-person at church.

**BEGIN in FEB**  
Plan to attend one convenient to you. Sign-up on our website or the Info. Ctr.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**JAN 8**

In-person service & livestream

Livestreaming is only on Facebook and our church's website.

- Growth Groups begin February 9 & 10 at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Center or online to attend one convenient to you.
- Join us on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 3:15 at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- The Church's Annual General Business Meeting will be on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at church. All members, please plan to attend.
- Bible Reading plans for 2023 are available at the Information Center. Also, read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings via the link on our website.
- Calvary School of the Bible (CBS) offers a 3-year program with courses on Christian living, ministries, theology, and Bible book surveys. Check out this link to some uploaded classes [www.cbpcocoonos.org](http://www.cbpcocoonos.org) and contact H. Lee Thompson directly at [hleet1412@gmail.com](mailto:hleet1412@gmail.com) for more information.
- Have a Blessed New Year.

### QUICK TIPS ON WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Traditional during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!