

**PASTORAL NOTE**

The Christian life is illustrated by running a race. In Galatians 5:7, the apostle Paul writes that some believers had run well in the past. Let us start or re-start the race this new year in the following ways:

1. Run with Purpose (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
2. Run with Pleasure (Philippians 2:12-18)
3. Run with Patience (Hebrews 12:1-3)

**PRAYER REQUEST**

Please pray for a great start to the new year with all of the ministry opportunities God has given to us.

**MEMORABLE QUOTE**

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” —Albert Einstein

**INTERESTING FACT**

The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year’s resolutions, some 4,000 years ago. They were also the first to hold recorded celebrations in honor of the new year—though for them the year began not in January but in mid-March, when the crops were planted. —Sarah Pruitt (History®)

**DECEMBER REPORT**

- 4 sermons & Bible studies
- 8 funerals & memorial services
- 25 spiritual & grief counseling sessions
- 9 music therapy & support appointments
- 25 bereavement groups & seminars
- **4 decisions for Christ...Praise the Lord!!!**

**OUTREACH FOCUS**

Mark Ministries is reaching grieving children who are facing a variety of different losses. This monthly group meets in Somis/Camarillo, but support is available throughout Ventura County.

**HUMOR MOMENT**

Q: Why should you stand on one leg on New Year’s Eve?  
A: To start the new year off on the right foot.

**BIBLICAL TRIVIA**

What man in the Old Testament outran a horse and chariot? (1 Kings 18:45-46)  
A. Usain Bolt the sprinter  
B. Elijah the prophet  
C. Saul the king

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Mark Ministries is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community outreach organization whose goal is for people to experience God’s love through grief counseling, spiritual guidance, and music therapy.*