2017 was quite a year in our nation and around the world. We swore in a new president, and unfortunately we have seen political unrest and a culture that seems to be more and more filled with distrust and bitterness. As a body we declared that the theme for 2017 was BE THE CHANGE. What does that really mean? How can we affect the culture in a positive way?

There is a scripture that comes to mind when reflecting on that challenge: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

We believe the scripture is telling us to set our minds on things that are good. Think about and dwell on pure, noble, lovely, admirable, and excellent things. You may be thinking, 'hey I'd love to, but those things are hard to find today!' Let this encourage you: Jesus is good; Jesus is worthy; and Jesus is excellent. When we follow after Him and love as He loves, we will not be drawn into the unrest that is around us. Actually, the verses preceding verse 8 say it best:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Theresa and I are so blessed by you—the people of Morning Star Fellowship. You have chosen to give to the benefit of so many. You have chosen to serve for the greater good of the body. You have chosen to love and care about one another. 2017 was a great year because of Jesus and because of you. Thank you for being part of Morning Star Fellowship!

We love you,
Pastor John and Theresa

In 2017 Morning Star Fellowship was introduced to Gil and Dolfi Maunda and to the work they are doing with the Datooga tribes in Tanzania. Gil and Dolfi bring the Word of God along with WorldServe International who bring the desperately needed water by digging solar wells. This partnership has become a vital link to the Good News of Jesus being spread throughout the land.

Easter is always an amazing Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On Easter Sunday, 2017, we gave an offering of $71,000 to the work being done in Tanzania! YOU are part of changing a culture and region of the world! THANK YOU for INVESTING in this! We are better together.

And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."Matthew 10:42 (NKJV)
Let’s have a prom!

2017 was our first year to host NIGHT TO SHINE! We were invited by the Tim Tebow Foundation to be one of the churches that hosted NIGHT TO SHINE, a prom for the members of our community with special needs, and we were thrilled to accept the offer. Since we hadn’t done this before, we were coached through the event by Morning Star Fellowship Bechtelville, and we formed a leadership team to help make this event happen. Melissa Moyer and Cyndy Dumire took the lead, and then many, MANY volunteers jumped in to help! The smiles were endless, and the love that was shared was amazing. It became not just a Morning Star outreach but a community outreach. So many volunteers came from all over our area just to lend a hand and to help make our community with special needs feel like kings and queens. We are truly better together!

Helping the less fortunate in Quakertown

Homelessness and a lack of resources are a large problem in Quakertown. Sometimes problems can seem so great that we don’t know what we can do to make a difference. Several years ago, Morning Star Fellowship received a call from the Wawa Harvest Program to partner with them to stamp out hunger by picking up and delivering their surplus food. This is a great program, but without a great volunteer, it could not happen.

Meet Anthony Cenaio (and Daisy). Anthony has given himself to this ministry of sharing the food with those in need. Each weekday, he goes to Wawa and picks up the available food. He then organizes it and delivers it to the Bush House in Quakertown. He doesn’t just dump it there—he takes time to present it in a dignified way while taking the time to speak with and minister to those he meets.

Anthony is a veteran, and Daisy is his service dog. He has chosen to BE THE CHANGE. It’s true we can’t all do everything, but if each of us would do something, little by little the love of Jesus is spread. Love will win, grace will win, and Jesus will be lifted high for all to see!

My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn’t know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can’t know him if you don’t love. (1 John 4:10  (MSG)

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: “God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20 (MSG)

The Making of a Morning Star Missionary: Tia Reinhart to Haiti

In January 2017, we had the wonderful privilege of partnering with Convoy of Hope and sending a team to Haiti. The experience was amazing for those who went. We were able to see firsthand the great need in Haiti for education, food, water, and the message of hope—the Gospel.

Tia Reinhart was part of the team and had plans to return to Haiti for the next eight months and serve with the Ibsen family in an “organic” mission of agricultural and spiritual development through AMOVEO. Those eight months were life changing for her. She came back to Morning Star Fellowship in September 2017 with a call and dream to go back to Haiti for the next two years.

Tia is 22 years old and has been part of Morning Star Fellowship since she was 11 years old. Her parents Wike and Gretchen, sister Erin, and brother Shea can be seen every Sunday serving in some area. Week after week, they all make serving a priority in their lives.

Tia was raised to do great things for God. When she was a preteen, Pastor John remembers her bringing in an offering to help support one of the causes for which we were raising money. She was young, but she was determined to give all she had back then. Her heart was moved to action, and she did what she could.

Fast forward to today. Tia is now the one on the ground sharing Jesus in practical ways. We are proud to call Tia our first missionary. If you would like to follow her ministry in Haiti, she can be found on Facebook at the link below. Remember to pray for her and her partners, the Ibsen family.

https://www.facebook.com/TR-HaitiJourney/

Water Baptism

One of the greatest joys we can experience as a Christ-follower is to “go public” with our faith through water baptism. This past year, Morning Star Fellowship had the great privilege of baptizing over 60 believers. We are grateful and thankful that we have a church where people are continually coming to faith in Christ and then have the opportunity to grow in the faith through discipleship, worship, and service.

In 2018 we will be Un-de-tered!

We are looking for ward with determination and faith to 2018. We are not asking for God to bless what we are doing; we are asking Him to allow us to be a part of what HE is doing.

Our 2018 Easter offering is designated for two ministries that we know well, love much, and believe in greatly: Convoy of Hope and World Serve. By partnering with these two ministries we will literally change thousands of lives physically and for all of eternity. We have set a goal of raising and giving away $75,000. Please pray with us as to what the Lord would have you give Easter Sunday, April 1. We can’t wait to see what God is going to do through us.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastors. It’s an honor, and you have made it a joy for us.

Much love, John and Theresa

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord (always doing your best and doing more than is needed), being continually aware that your labor (even to the point of exhaustion) in the Lord is not futile nor wasted (it is never without purpose). (1 Corinthians 15:58 (AMP)