

A New Year

A friend of mine who has done extensive mission work in Rhodesia once spoke of the grace and beauty of the impala and, especially, of its athletic ability. Apparently, this small deer-like creature can jump forward from a stand-still some 30 feet, and can jump straight up some 10 feet. In the Texas Hill Country, many game ranches are given to stocking their property with exotic animals but impala is not often found. And, you would think that these animals would be almost impossible to keep in containment as most “game fences” are 10 feet in height. However, he explained that Rhodesians had discovered that a solid wall only around 4 feet in height would stop them cold. The reason: they will not jump where they cannot see! And, so, the potential freedom of this athletic impala is suppressed and stymied by so puny a little obstacle as a 4 foot fence.

Christians are often subdued, stifled and sometimes stopped cold in their tracks because they cannot imagine a future full of growth. As a church, they suppress their future in a panic over the thought of dying and refuse to adopt the Divine vision that comes by faith in God’s expectations of growth, characteristic of a healthy body. All some poor souls can “see” is this present state of “look where we are” and a fuzzy, biased fantasy of a “what we used to be” past. Honestly if faithful Christians were to rely on the Father, look beyond the here and now, and just **trust God**, we would invest in the faith that boldly states: “*I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase*” (1 Corinthians 3:6). Time, talent and legal tender, allotted wisely and efficiently to the Lord’s work, will pay rich and eternal dividends.

Paul, from the dank, dark recesses of a prison cell, said: “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*” (Philippians 4:13). If the Lord wills, the New Year will begin in a few days and the searing question that should be our chief concern in the Lord’s body here at Park Heights is: what can **I** do for the Lord in this next year? If we apply ourselves like there is no tomorrow, when time is no more, tomorrow will turn into a forever with God. What could possibly hinder you and me?

JDS