



bits from bob....

I didn't see it coming -- but it didn't hurt!
July 13, 2020

I was six or seven. When Kent, my best friend, threw a rock and hit me right between the eyes, two memorable quotes emerged. My quote, "I didn't see it coming—but it didn't hurt!" His quote, I wasn't aiming for his eye."

Recently I was asked, "How are your 2020 plans going now?" I thought of my experience with Kent. "I didn't see it coming – it didn't hurt." The last day of 2019, I wrote an article about the importance of setting goals rather than making resolutions. If you missed the article then, I encourage you to go back and read it now: http://www.bobyoungresources.com/articles/goals_priorities.htm.

"How are my 2020 plans going now?" The question deserves a reply – a quick overview, an informal "ministry and mission report." I share my "Top Ten" – goals and priorities, copied directly from a file on my computer, dated January 1, 2020.

- Focus on my SPIRITUAL LIFE
- BIBLE READING; GENERAL READING
- WRITE more consistently
- DO MORE Audio-Visual RECORDINGS
- Evaluate PERSONAL EVANGELISM opportunities and needs
- Continue MISSION and MINISTRY work, evaluate future plans, Virtual Classrooms, and Zoom
- HEALTH – maintain and improve physical health
- TRAVEL to be with FRIENDS and FAMILY
- HOME filled with laughter, love, and life
- SIMPLICITY – enjoy the simplicity of home, home projects

"How are my 2020 goals going?" Pretty well, thank you! Here is an update.

Life has changed dramatically. The way the goals are being met could hardly have been anticipated, but the 2020 priorities and goals are intact – most of them ahead of schedule!

- The virus has given me more time for devotional reading, meditating, and prayer
- My Bible reading has increased (although my general reading is a little behind last year)
- I have written more consistently – two new books are scheduled to be released before the end of the year
- The number of AV recordings has grown exponentially
- Personal evangelism efforts have grown – I am training remotely; I did not anticipate that so many new Christians would immediately begin sharing their faith, the work of evangelism has changed but it has slowed very little
- The ministry and mission work has continued remotely; the future of Zoom is now
- I am on-track with my health goals
- The travel has not occurred, but increased time with family has been possible
- Our home is full of love, life, and laughter – partially because the family is present together so much more
- I have enjoyed the simplicity of home – more time for cooking, projects, and dreams

Some people belittle the value of establishing goals and setting priorities.

At our 50th wedding celebration, one of those present observed, "You sure have put a lot of stuff into your 50 years!" Perhaps so, but we bemoan the lost opportunities. Looking back almost makes me tired -- complete our college education, 25 years of full-time church ministry, a dozen years in domestic mission work, one church tripled, another church doubled, 7 more years of education to earn a terminal degree, a dozen years in the university, almost 30 years of involvement in Latin American missions, the last dozen years focused in ministry and mission work to help develop churches, leaders, and church planting. Above all, I rejoice that "my students" and I are participants in the phenomenal advance of the gospel and the kingdom.

I believe one thing. If Jan and I had not had a plan, if we had not dreamed a dream and asked God to bless us within his plans and purposes for our lives, we would look back with sadness.