

Are you one of the thousands of people who make New Year's resolutions? If you are, first, you are not alone. Second, many of these resolutions are probably broken by Easter. Well, I've thought about this for awhile and I think I could come up with a challenge instead of a resolution for all of us: **BE BOLD** this year!

What do I mean? Try something you've never done before. We are surrounded by an urban area in great need. Our District Superintendent is working hard to make a New Akron Plan a fact of life; a Plan to get us out of our churches and into the surrounding neighborhoods. A Plan to get us out of those Open Doors.

I know, it's very easy to say "we've never done it that way before." Perhaps its time to remove that phrase from our vocabularies. Or, perhaps its time to rephrase it and say, "we've never done it that way before, but we're willing to try something new." I know - it's a risk. So what? We are children of God sent on a mission to bring hearts to Him. He has our backs. You can count on that.

My husband's grandmother had this great saying; "You're never too old to learn something new." We always see youth groups going overseas to help with mission trips. That's fabulous - except we have challenges right here in Akron that desperately need our help. This coming September, our area has been chosen for the Mission Saturation weekend, which will be September 17 through the 19th. We should be working on getting projects together, so that we can put work teams together, so that we can fix what needs fixn'!

**BE BOLD** this year. Go into a community that needs its hurts healed. Go with a group to help feed those who need fed. Go and help with a mission project to help a local family. Go join a group of men or women who just walk through the malls so that we can get much needed exercise, to help us live longer, to serve our loving and just God.

**BE BOLD** this year. Love someone who has never experienced unconditional love.

**BE BOLD** this year. One of our Canal District pastors took his church out into the neighborhood to work with the neighbors instead of having a Sunday morning worship service - because that WAS his Sunday morning worship. Now THAT was Bold!

**BE BOLD** this year. Try something new and don't be afraid to try something new. As a church, our challenge will be **NOT** to use those words - "we've never done it that way before." We have used that for far too long as a crutch to stop us from trying new and bold things.

Get adventuresome! **BE BOLD** this year - **BE BOLD** for God!

Wishing you all much joy, happiness and health for 2010.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Nan