

What's Ahead In 2026?

Only God knows what 2026 holds for any of us! Many of us would like to plan something in the year ahead, a much needed vacation, or some home maintenance and/or renovations we want to do, etc. but with so much uncertainty about the economy and other factors, we might be hesitant to make any plans at all.

It's been said, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." One of my favorite scriptures is Proverbs 19:21: *"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."* (NIV) I can't begin to remember the times I've made plans, whether it's something minor, or some major event in life, only to find out God had different plans, and His plans usually turned out better than mine, but occasionally, His plans have been radically different than mine, with outcomes I didn't really like!

Case in point (my biggest one) was when my wife Vicki and I purchased a home in Tennessee in 2021, and had big plans to do some minor renovations as soon as we got there. But God...He had other plans! Before we ever got to move, we found out Vicki had stage 4 lung cancer, and in less than two months she was gone! Proverbs 16:9 in TPT says: *"Within your heart you can make plans for your future, but the Lord chooses the steps you take to get there."*

So on May 30, 2021, our plans fell apart, but God started working out His plan. The big winner here was Vicki - she got to meet Jesus face to face, because in 1987, she and I made "eternal" plans and received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. I, on the other hand, was a work in progress after she passed! I stayed in Florida for another four years until I heard the Lord say it was time for me to go home to Ohio to be with my family.

I had NOT planned on leaving! I really, really didn't want to leave the weather in Florida to endure the Ohio winters, which I had evaded for 20 years, and it was hard to leave my church family, friends and healthcare providers behind! Truth is, just a few short months after moving here, I knew I was right where I was supposed to be, and now I love it - even heading into winter!

So why did I share all of this? I want to encourage you to make plans! For 57 years, Vicki and I made plans every year; we went where we wanted to go, did what we wanted to do, and saw what we wanted to see! Don't wait until "later," because many folks never make it to "later!" Live life to the fullest! Make plans!! Make BIG plans! *"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."* (Prov.16:3 NIV) Jesus came not just to give us life, but ABUNDANT life! Live abundantly! Amen!

