

# From the Editor



So far this year has been good, albeit a whirlwind of activity. The FAITH brand is slowly but surely being established, and as with any new venture we've experienced our fair share of teething problems. However, the goodness of God prevails.

All of this made me reflect on the "business" of knowing God, and living within the parameters He has set out for us in the Divine design of humans. Often we banter around the word "faith" as if it is some magical wand we can wield to have our wildest dreams come true without any effort. I have come to realize that faith, just like love, is a verb and requires some conscious effort on our part. Solomon reminds us that we have the power to make our own plans since God has given us the gift of choice. However, he also reminds us that our plans can only succeed when God establishes them. "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans (Proverbs 16:3 NIV). The NLT states, "Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed."

Our faith therefore has to operate at two levels; firstly, we need to have faith in our God-given ability to come up with dreams, ideas and plans; and secondly, we need to have faith in the fact that God will establish our plans when submitted to His will. On both fronts, our faith requires conscious and dedicated action, and our faith in God and ourselves needs to persevere until we have the sweet taste of victory and success.

None of this is possible when we don't intimately know God and how He functions. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that faith is a requirement to please God, and that when we believe in Him totally a reward is guaranteed (Hebrews 11:6). Now, a reward from God is not the same as a reward from a fellow human! No, our great reward from God is that He shields, protects, loves and nurtures us (Genesis 15:1).

Looking back over the last three months, and looking to the future of plans yet to be executed, I am convinced that the hand of God is over me, the company I work for, and the people associated with us. It is indeed a great privilege to be able to declare, "I have faith in God."

My encouragement to you is that 2015 may be a year of faith for you, that all your plans may succeed and that you may enter 2016 a true overcomer!

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