

TIM ALLSTON: "HAPPY NEW DAY'S"??? - p. 5

FREE

"Providing Comfort for Others" - p. 3

Friday
December 29, 2023
Vol. 10, No. 17
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mother Pearl Harris



GLORIA B: Desire vs. Necessity ... - p. 5

"Artists are the gatekeepers of truth." - Paul Robeson

Huntsville Provides Support for Affordable Housing for Seniors, Low-Income

Living conditions for some Huntsville residents will greatly improve, thanks to a program that funds improvement projects for owners of low-income rental housing who seek to rehabilitate their multifamily properties.

City Council on Thursday voted to authorize \$4 million in Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA2) Program funds to Meridian Commons Ltd., which owns the Huntsville Summit Apartments.

Located at the corner of Walker Avenue and Meridian Street, the building contains 100 units for senior and low-income households.

Scott Erwin, manager of Huntsville's Community Development Department, described the project as a win-win for everyone involved.

Erwin called the building, constructed in 1979, a perfect candidate for the program.

"This property needs a significant capital invest-

ment to continue serving low-to-moderate-income residents and ensure ADA accessibility," he said. "Additionally, the overall improvements will benefit everyone from the residents who live there to the surrounding neighborhood."

The \$4 million in funding will leverage an additional \$23 million investment by Meridian Commons Ltd. and its



partner, Neighborhood Concepts Inc., for a total property investment of \$27 million. Erwin said work on the rehabilitation project should begin in fall 2024 and take about a year to complete.

- huntsvilleal.gov



Women's Expo Huntsville Prepares for Spring 2024

The three-day 4th Annual Women's Expo Huntsville will be held at the Von Braun Center March 22-24.

In addition to recognizing the accomplishments of women, the conference will allow attendees to shop and interact with female business owners.

The event will enable participants to "link up" with women from throughout the world. Organizers are calling the gathering "the ultimate celebration of girl power."

For additional information, visit <https://thewomensexpoahsv.com>.

UAH Sets MLK Commemoration

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) has announced its 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration on Thursday, January 11.

The King observance will be held in the Student Services Building at 3:30



p.m.

The keynote speaker will be Birmingham native Lisa McNair, sister of Denise McNair, who was one of the four girls killed in the infamous 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church. McNair is a public speaker on the topic of reconciliation.



AAMU Professor Attends Scientex

Dr. Sadguna Anasuri, associate professor for Human Development and Family Studies, was invited to speak at the third International Scientex Conference on Psychology and Mental Health in Dubai.

Anasuri presented "An Overlooked (Silent) Pandemic: Psychological Impact of COVID-19 on Children and Youth."

"The presentation was well-received and aroused further interest in conducting comparative studies across different countries," said Anasuri. "Efforts are being made to finalize the methodology and collect data in 2024. This would be an incredible opportunity to showcase the scholarship from AAMU on a global platform."

The Valley Weekly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Washington in One Minute, Page 2
Preston Brown's "Spiritual Game Plan," Page 3
"Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 4
Caldwell & Allston: Perspectives, Page 5
Sunday Lectionary, Page 5
Honoring Our Elders, Page 6

Scenes from 100 BMOGH Annual Holiday Fundraising Gala

Von Braun Center -Huntsville, Ala.
Saturday, December 16, 2023 - Photos by Anthony Gibson



The 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville, Inc. (100 BMOGH), a Huntsville-based community service organization, hosted its black-tie/formal dress Annual Holiday Gala on Saturday, Dec. 16th, at the Von Braun Center's Saturn Ballroom.

As a chapter of the national 100 Black Men of America, Inc., the 100 BMOGH states that proceeds from the Holiday Gala will support academic scholarships and the organization's "Four for the Future" overall mission.

"The 100 BMOGH is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with an emphasis on mentoring, education, health and wellness, and economic empowerment." The organization's main purpose is "to empower youth to reach their full potential."

The local chapter of 100

BMOGH, established in 1999, is comprised of 74 people, all volunteers, who must apply and undergo a background check before becoming members.

The Holiday Gala has been entertaining its supporters and partners for 24 years. This year's theme is "Securing & Celebrating the Future of Our Youth."

The guest speaker was Representative Anthony Daniels, State House Minority Leader. Master of Ceremony was Rob Sneed, WAAY-TV 31 weekend evening anchor, and Takara Swoopes, publisher and editor of Huntsville Magazine.

The evening's entertainment featured the Unique Live Band, specializing in rhythm and blues music, who provided the evening's live music. They offered an experience you would never forget.

Submitted by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

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The Valley Weekly

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**VALLEY
DEATHS**



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189
www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral service for MR. JAMES COWAN, SR. (b. 1936) was Friday, December 22, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral services for MR. CARLTON J. TURK (b. 1975) was Thursday, December 21, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral services for MRS. LAURA H. DANIEL (b. 1928) was Wednesday, December 20, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Jesse Daniel eulogist and Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481
www.royalfh.com

Funeral service for MRS. FANNY SURLES (b. 1947) is scheduled for 1 p.m., Wednesday, December 27, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses (7757 Wall Triana Highway, Harvest, Ala.) with Brother John Donegan officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. DELZETA AGATHA WYNTER (b. 1933) was Saturday, December 23, at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Funeral service for MRS. LAWANDA MICHELLE NANCE-BURRUSS (b. 1972) was Saturday, December 23, at the Saint Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church (330 Grimwood Road, Hazel Green, Ala.) with Pastor Trevor Briggs officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. ANGELA McGLATHERY-HENRY (b. 1957) was Friday, December 22, at the True Holiness Church (3501 Maggie Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Bobby G. Henry, Jr., as eulogist and Pastor Gregory McGlathery officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW
Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693
www.serenityfuneralhm.com

Funeral service for MR. DAVID COYLE (b. 1963) was held Saturday, December 23, at the Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MS. JEANETTE KEARSE (b. 1932) was Wednesday, December 20, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Valley Weekly
**Spiritual
Game Plan**
PRESTON BROWN'S



**"Providing Comfort
for Others"**

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

You know, once again, there was another senseless shooting. Once again, no one knows why the shooter decided to kill innocent people. Once again, there will be flowers and memorials set in place where people's loved ones have died. And, once again, the families will try to seek closure as to why this all happened.

In 2 Corinthians 1, Paul wants to tell us the truth. And, the fact of the matter is *life can be painful*. When Jesus died upon the cross, it was painful. We all see that sin has made its ugly mark on society, and its repercussions are felt in a

major way.

But guess what? We are not alone. Job was a righteous man and yet he still had to endure pain and suffering. The apostle Paul was no stranger to pain either and yet through it all, He says, *even though I have been given a thorn in my side, I will still give God praise*. You see, if we ever want to provide comfort to others, there are some things we need to understand and realize.

First, God sends us a comforter. Paul says with the affliction, he provides a comforter and his name is Jesus. In times like these, only Jesus can provide the comfort that we need to heal.

Secondly, we need to realize that no matter what happens in our lives, God is still in control, even though there will be mistakes and failures from other people. Remember, God is working them out in our lives for our good. And, finally, when providing comfort for others we need to un-

derstand that God can change the condition of your circumstance. For example, God did not simply just deliver the Hebrew boys from the fiery furnace, He joined them in the furnace. Because the fire was still hot, but the fire was not normal because Jesus, the comforter, joined them in it.

So, if God has not delivered you from your situation, let him join you in it, so that the condition of your situation will change for the better.

Prayer:

God of all comfort, help us to provide others with the comfort that you have given us

Question:

When was the last time you provided comfort for someone going through a difficult time? What did you do ?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life* at amazon.com, Westbow



Books or, if you have a PayPal account, e-mail me at prestonbrown81@gmail.com, and I will send you an autographed copy.

NEXT WEEK:
"Make Time for God This Year!"

**Huntsville
Council
Meetings**



Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.



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A New Generation Of Service

The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

December 30

The Whole Me Gala
The Overlook
Redstone Arsenal
6:30-10:10 p.m.

January 1

Wim Hof Method Fundamentals Workshop by Certified Instructor Paul Stoneking
Movement Massage & Breathwork
[Link](#)

January 4-6

Comedy
Mark Curry
Stand Up Live Huntsville
7 p.m.

January 10

Huntsville Winter Event
Kona Grill
Huntsville, Ala. - 6:30 p.m.

January 12

Jordan Rainer: Straight

Shot Tour

Mars Music Hall
Huntsville, Ala. - 8 p.m.

January 14

"Calling All Titans"
Huntsville Titans Champion Force Athletics
erp.championforce.com

January 26

Concert
American Spiritual Ensemble
Host: Huntsville Chamber Music Guild

March 9

Rosetta James Foundation
"Honoring Our Elders"
Celebration/Day Gala
12 noon

Concert

Lawrence Brownlee
Host:
Huntsville Chamber Music Guild

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NAAACC
Meetings

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

The meeting location varies. Call (256) 564-7574.

DECEMBER 29 - TOM BRADLEY - Thomas Bradley was an American politician and police officer who served as the 38th Mayor of Los Angeles, California, from 1973 to 1993. He was the first and thus far only African American mayor of Los Angeles, and his 20 years in office mark the longest tenure by any mayor in the city's history. His election as mayor in 1973 made him the second African-American mayor of a major U.S. city. Bradley retired in 1993, after his approval ratings began dropping subsequent to the 1992 Los Angeles Riots.

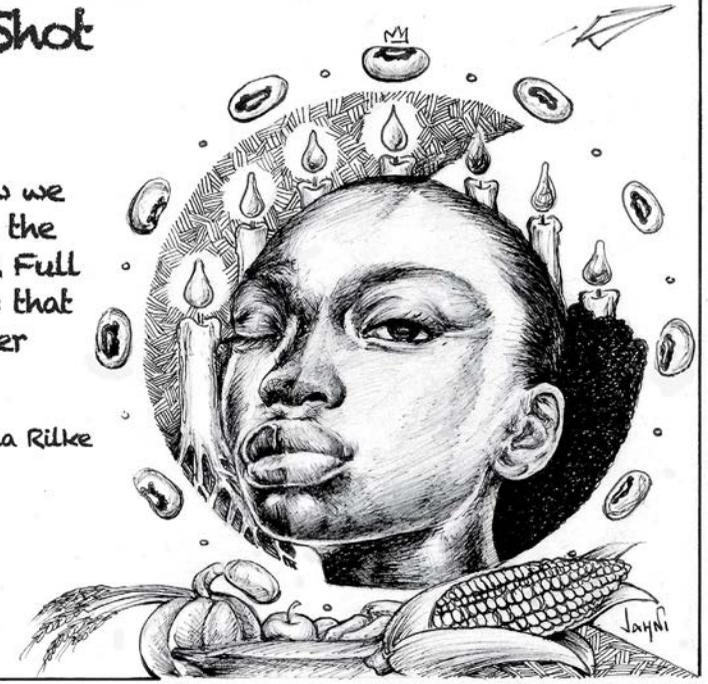


- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org

PowerShot

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been."

Rainer Maria Rilke



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"I will not have my life narrowed down. I will not bow down to somebody else's whim or to someone else's ignorance."

- bell hooks

Desire vs. Necessity ...

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

People often confuse their desires with their necessities. Looking at the two of them and clarifying your non-negotiables, you can put them in the right place of priority, which can change your life. So, let's apply this.

You ask a person why you go to work, and they say, "I have to have a job to live. It's a necessity." Well, no, you don't. I drive around my city, and people walk up and down the streets, live under bridges, and eat

out of food banks. I don't say this to make light of it. I'm saying that you can live without a job, but you choose to make having a job a necessity because of your desire to live life in a certain way. Think about that. If you think about what you deem non-negotiables and shift your mindset from desire to necessity, you can change

your perspective when trying to give yourself an out when you don't FEEL like doing it.

Take this example. I work out five days a week. I moved working out from a desire to a necessity. How? I told myself it was necessary for me to be healthy to care for my children. Can I care for them if I don't work out five days a week? Yes, absolutely, but when I placed it in my necessity column and made it a priority and non-negotiable, I started to benefit from a healthier lifestyle. Turn your deepest desires

into necessities and witness the magic unfold. When you transform your dreams into non-negotiables, you ignite a fire within that propels you toward greatness.

Lace Up, Let's Go!

"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read."

- James Baldwin



Try this:

Happy New Day's (not "New Year's") Resolutions for 2024! (Part 1 of 2)
"Give us THIS DAY our DAILY bread,"
Matthew 6: 11

Most of us will likely make a New Year's resolution that we won't keep. Perhaps it's because we look too far ahead; instead, we should look for a more immediate goal - such as today.

Even as we ascribe a Biblical connotation to our "Happy New Year" resolve, it is not the year that we should be resolved to improve. We should work to improve the day right in front of us.

That's the type of guidance Jesus offered to his disciples when they asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray." He answered them with what we now call the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13.

Verse 11's seven words, "Give us THIS DAY our DAILY bread" (emphases added), can serve as our cure-all for making then breaking New Year's resolutions. This prayer was to get them (now us) to focus primarily on the immediate - the ignorance of which starts most of our failings.

Our greatest gift is today, which is why it's called "the present." Or, stated another way in Psalm 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Therefore, let's all begin 2024 with a new resolution but NOT for the year ending December 31, 2023, but with a New Day's Resolution - even perhaps starting today!

Retired German and folklore professor Wolfgang Mieder once said, "Life is hard by the yard, but a cinch by the inch!"

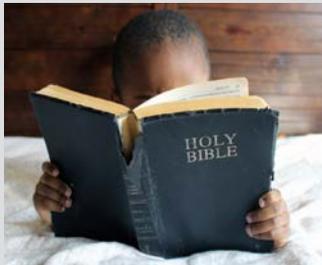
Tim Allston

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Leading from the Middle
 (256) 212-0949

leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, December 31, 2023

First Sunday after
 Christmas Day

(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 147

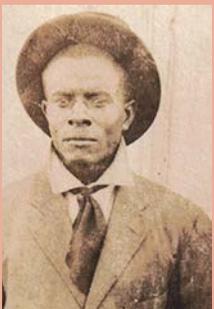
Second Lesson:

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

GOSPEL:

John 1:1-18

ON THIS DAY



On December 29, 1923, the Catcher "Race Riot" started, channeling the creation of yet another sundown town in Arkansas, and resulting in the exodus of every African-American family in town. Above: Charles S. Rucks

"When I went to school, there were no Black philosophers ... who were recognized by Western universities."

- Walter Mosley



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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

Mother Pearl Harris

First Lady Hattie Pearl Harris is a native of Forest, Mississippi, where she was the fifth of 10 children born to Mr. Henry Jones and the late Mother Annie Mae Jones. She graduated from East Scott High School in Lake, Mississippi. She is a licensed evangelist in the Church of God In Christ (COGIC).

Dr. Harris serves faithfully in various capacities in her local church, as well as on the district and jurisdictional levels. She has served diligently and faithfully in the gospel ministry for 31 years with her loving husband of 41 years—founder and pastor of True Light Church of God In Christ (Blessed Hope Ministry), Superintendent Dr. Terrell Harris, Jr.

Dr. Harris is the proud and blessed mother of three wonderful children—Apostle Derek T. Harris (Renee'), Trudy Harris Moore (Charles) and Mark Christopher Harris, all truly miracles from God. God graciously fulfilled Psalm 113:19 in her life: "He maketh the barren woman to keep house, to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord." She is also blessed with four beautiful grandchildren.

In November 1972, Dr. Harris received Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and was later bap-

tized and filled with the precious gift of the Holy Ghost. Dr. Harris believes in fasting and prayer, and she has a victorious testimony that prayer changes things. A loving, kind, caring and God-fearing woman, she has been anointed by God to teach the unadulterated word of God in power and to minister to young, hurting women.

She is founder of "Personal Touch Ministry," which is divinely designed to bring healing, deliverance, restoration and hope to young women whose lives have been changed by neglect, rejection, divorce, depression, emotional hurt, poor self-esteem, brokenness, loneliness, abuse, guilt, as well as from suffering silently through the disappointments of unfulfilled potential and unrealized dreams and aspirations.

Dr. Harris is a conference and seminar speaker and teacher, as well as a facilitator, counselor, encourager, motivational speaker, administrator and organizer. A retired educator, Dr. Harris was an elementary teacher, princi-



pal, curriculum specialist for federal programs, and conflict resolution trainer. She is president of the Ministers Wives Guild on the local and district level. Dr. Harris is the executive director of O. L. Meadows School of Ministry, main campus, Birmingham, Alabama, and former president of the Jurisdictional Sunshine Band. She is the recipient of many awards and accommodations.

She holds an Associate of Arts degree, B.S., M.E., Certification in Administration and Supervision, Certificate in Theology, and an earned Ph.D. degree in biblical counseling.

Dr. Harris graciously embraces Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

CVMA Gives Back to Drake Vets

For the fourth year, The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA)* 28-2 has teamed up with Drake State Community & Technical College's Veteran & Military Affairs office to bring Christmas to the Veteran students. On December 13, the CVMA* was on campus giving \$100 Publix gift cards to help cover the cost

of groceries for the upcoming holiday season. Veterans were also provided lunch by the Drake State Veteran & Military Affairs office. The school recently was awarded the silver distinction as a 2023-2024 Military Friendly* school by VIQTORY.

"We are blessed to be able to assist Veterans and their dependents with

educational goals, but more importantly, it is an honor to be a part of the Veteran community helping each other," said Drake State Veteran Affairs Coordinator Neoka Hambrick.

More information about Drake State Veterans' Services can be found at drake-state.edu/student-services/veteran-military-affairs/.

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"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote **volunteerism** and **activism** in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valleyweeklyllc.com.

WJAB 90.9 FM

www.wjab.org

Scenes from United Way's Open House

701 Andrew Jackson Way - Huntsville, Alabama

Thursday, December 20, 2023 (Photos by J. Saintjones)



Deb Swindle and Lynde Kriese



DollyParton's Imagination Library



Kenneth Anderson, DEI, Huntsville



Daniel Kasambira, Pres./CEO



Sam's Club Management Team



Dr. Charles Karr of UAH welcomed



Dorenda Doyle, Author



Cathy Miller, Impact Director



UW's Branden J. Gaddis engages



Julie D'Ann, Author

Taking Charge to Create Family Security for a Safe 2024

(BPT) - Amidst the many New Year's Resolutions families set at the top of the year, creating household safety habits and ensuring preparation in an emergency should be at the top. With the CDC reporting 48% of Americans do not have first aid kits and 52% of Americans do not have copies of crucial personal documents, it's evident Americans have a lot of work to do to ensure family members are knowledgeable and have safety plans in place.

This year, to ensure safety is a top priority, check out these five important actions to help keep your family safe.

1. Create a home safety checklist

A comprehensive home safety checklist helps create a home environment that promotes security and peace of mind. The checklist should include checking smoke and CO detectors, including changing out batteries, locking windows, ensuring fire extinguishers are readily available in the kitchen and other shared spaces, and properly storing household chemicals like cleaning

products. Regularly review and update this checklist.

2. Enroll in hands-free safety services

Did you know only 28.7% of U.S. households have a landline? Without a landline, it can be difficult to contact emergency services, especially for young children. However, technology can be a valuable ally. The new personal and family safety subscription Alexa Emergency Assist allows anyone in the home to use their voice to call for help, giving more peace of mind with fast access to urgent response agents 24/7 365 days a year - without having to search for your phone in the time of an emergency.

When you say, "Alexa, call for help" on an Echo device, including an Echo Kids device, you will be connected to a dedicated, professionally trained agent who can request dispatch of police, fire, or ambulance, avoiding potentially long call hold or wait times.

Agents also have access to pre-saved critical information during the call - like your home address, medications, or allergies -

saving time spent collecting information on the call and allowing first responders to be thoroughly prepared when they arrive at your home. The Urgent Response agent can also stay on the line with you until help arrives.

3. Teach personal safety habits

Encourage and empower your family members to develop personal safety habits. Emphasize the importance of staying aware of surroundings, exercising caution when speaking with strangers, and practicing basic self-defense techniques.

When talking with your family about safety habits, underscore the importance of paying attention to smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, and to never ignore them. If you subscribe to Alexa Emergency Assist, Smart Alerts allow Alexa to detect signs of trouble - like if your smoke or CO alarm is ringing - and will notify you so you can take action whether you're at home or away.

Don't forget to highlight the importance of trusting your instincts and foster

open communication so everyone feels comfortable voicing their concerns. By learning and practicing personal safety habits, you'll equip your loved ones (and yourself!) with the tools they need to confidently navigate changing situations.

4. Develop a trusted network

When it comes to keeping your family safe, you don't have to do it alone. Cultivate relationships with neighbors, friends, extended family, and community members to build a strong mutual support network. A network of trusted individuals is an invaluable resource that can help provide assistance during times of need.

If you subscribe to Alexa Emergency Assist, you can quickly notify your network in case of an emergency. The Emergency Contacts feature allows you to save up to 25 family members, friends, or loved ones to be automatically notified and informed when a call is placed to Urgent Response. A reliable network not only improves your family's safety, it also fosters a sense of belonging and community.

5. Create an emergency plan

A detailed and thorough emergency plan can make a huge difference in a crisis. Sit down with your family to discuss evacuation routes, emergency contact numbers, and designated

meeting points. Talk about each family member's responsibilities during different types of emergencies. Even young children and teens have a role to play in an emergency, just by taking care of themselves.

Once you have a plan in place, review and practice the plan so everyone is familiar with the procedures in case of an emergency. By preparing for unexpected moments, you'll foster a sense of security and resilience.

Use these five tips to kick-start the new year with a focus on family safety. In doing so, you're laying the foundation for a safe and secure future and creating peace of mind for you and your loved ones.



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