

PASTOR'S LETTER JANUARY, 2021

NUMERO UNO

FROM THE



PASTOR

So who discovered America first, Columbus in 1492 or Zheng He in 1421? Spain or China? Who is numero uno? The reports and evidence are many and seem reliable; it was Zheng He of China. Of course, if you are of Scandinavian descent, you know who REALLY discovered America, it was a Norwegian Viking by the name of Leif Erickson. “Ya, sure, ya betcha.” But did anyone ever ask the Native Americans of North and South America? They have been living here for over 22,000 years or longer.

Human nature is quite interesting. How we love to be in the limelight. How we love to be *numero uno*. But in the whole process of becoming the first and the best, we forget about those things and those people who really matter. We even forget about God in our moments of climbing the ladder to become *numero uno*. And this is even true of God's Church. Oh, how we love for everyone else to know that our church is bigger and newer. Or, that our church has the truth and your church does not.

In Jesus' day, he also challenged the question of who is *numero uno*? Peter came to Jesus and said, Matthew 19:27, “*Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?*” In other words, what is in it for us, Jesus? We want to sit beside you at your throne. We want to be numero uno! And then, Jesus closes this story with these sobering words, “*But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.*”

These words solicit us to remember Jesus' earlier words when he described those who stood praying for all to see how spiritual they were. “Everybody, look at me, see how spiritual I am. I am not like others. I am better, I am holy.” And Jesus replies, Matthew 6:2, “Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.”

For followers of God, it is not about being *numero uno*, it is about being humble servants. It is about going into our “prayer closet” unassuming, so as not to draw attention to ourselves. It is about giving ourselves to God and helping those in need. So, as we move into this new year of 2021, let us not forget who we are—we brothers and sisters in Christ, yes, God's servants.

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