

2017 CONFERENCE EDITION

DESTINY

M A G A Z I N E

CONFERENCE
GUIDE INSIDE



A DESTINY COVENANT FAMILY OF FRIENDS

GATHERING

c o n f e r e n c e

2017 | THE YEAR OF THE CROSS

THE IRONY
OF THE CROSS

SYNC ME UP

DESTINY INTRODUCES NEW WEBSITE AND APP
NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR A NEW GENERATION

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH

6:00PM | Welcome Party

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7TH

9:30AM | Worship

10:00AM | Target Talks

11:00AM | Breakout Sessions

12:00PM | Lunch

6:00PM | Evening Service
Speaker: Landon Galloway
DLI Graduation

Dinner Immediately After Service

THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH

9:30AM | Worship & Communion

10:00AM | Target Talks

11:00 AM | Breakout Sessions

12:00PM | Lunch

6:00PM | Evening Service
Speaker: Dr. Phil Brassfield
Ordination/Impartation

FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH

FELLOWSHIP DAY!

The teenagers will meet during the morning sessions for a time of fun and fellowship until noon and will then join the adults for lunch.

The Kids Gathering will meet from 9:30am-2:00pm each day to allow longer time for fellowship. They will be served lunch during their camp time. They will also meet Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 6pm until service is over.

Nursery will be available during all sessions.



PASTORS TOMMY & DINORA
Calvary Church Pastors

THANK YOU PASTORS TOMMY & DINORA

Dr. Phil & Cathy Brassfield and the Destiny staff would like to express our gratitude to Pastors Tommy and Dinora Brandon and the entire Calvary Church team for hosting this years' Gathering Conference. Thank you for all the hard work and support to make this Gathering Conference an amazing experience for everyone! God Bless you all!

WELCOME TO THE 2017 GATHERING CONFERENCE!



Welcome Destiny family and friends to Calvary Church and to Fort Worth! We are so glad you have chosen to join us this year for what we believe is going to be one of our most important and Spiritually moving Destiny Gatherings in our history. For years now our Destiny Covenant Family of Friends has been gathering for times of spiritual refreshing, renewed relationships and fun and this year is going to be an EPIC version of all the above. We have planned special moments for each of these things to happen

in a big way. The fellowship is going to be awesome, the worship powerful, the messages and ministry times inspiring and moving!

Our Gathering theme this year is the "YEAR of the CROSS". How fitting that our conference venue is called Calvary! We pray that as we gather at Calvary, the message and power of the Cross will be renewed in your personal life and ministries.

Our common goal among the Destiny staff and so many wonderful volunteers from Calvary is to help make your visit here one that is not only memorable but life changing! If you need anything, please let us know! We are here to serve.

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Publisher: Dr. Phil Brassfield
Layout & Design: Stephanie Powers
Editors: Cathy Brassfield & Jeannie Abbott
Circulation: Jeannie Abbott & Amy Dew

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KNOW YOUR COLORS

At this year's conference, we have provided you with color coded nametag lanyards. Each color represents a specific ministry group. We hope this will help you identify others that serve in the same area of ministry as you.

**SENIOR PASTORS
MINISTRY DIRECTORS**

**ASSOCIATE &
EXECUTIVE PASTORS**

**WORSHIP MINISTRY
TECH/PRODUCTION**

CREATIVE MINISTRY

**STUDENT MINISTRY
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

**PRESCHOOL MINISTRY
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

**CONNECTIONS
ADULTS/LIFE GROUP
MINISTRY**

CHRISTIAN LEADERS

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



DR. PHILLIP BRASSFIELD | DESTINY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

God called Dr. Brassfield at a young age to develop Leaders. And he has been, for many years, a trailblazer and designer of innovative and nontraditional ministry and educational concepts. He has served in almost every position imaginable in the local church including Senior Pastor, and in a variety of executive positions with three different non-traditional Christian Colleges whose primary focus was equipping leaders in partnership with the local church. As the Lord continued to develop him as a Leader, He eventually brought into clear focus Phil's life vision and mission. That vision would prove to be Destiny Ministries.

In 1997 Destiny Ministries was birthed and today has grown into a globally recognized apostolic ministry committed to church planting, developing Christian Leaders and ministry efforts internationally. It also includes Destiny Leadership Institute, the division of the ministry that focuses on equipping emerging leaders through formal training and internships. Dr. Brassfield holds a Doctorate of Ministry in Christian Leadership from Laurel University.



LANDON GALLOWAY | DESTINY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

Landon Galloway has been the director of Destiny Leadership Institute since 2011. He is responsible for devising DLI's unique, online platform that allows students to obtain formal educational training while gaining practical experience in their own local church. As director, he oversees the growth of DLI and all its programs, approves all curriculum and course materials, builds and supports the online delivery system, and personally mentors and assists students. Landon loves to travel, run, read and spend time with his lovely wife, Sarada, and their daughters Vanna and Zarra.

Landon has a Bachelor of Arts from Mississippi State University, as well as Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Biblical Literature from Oral Roberts University School of Theology and Ministry. While at ORU, he specialized in the Greek New Testament, particularly the Gospel of Luke, and he graduated Summa Cum Laude. His academic accomplishments and practical experience has prepared him to lead DLI with purpose and vision. Landon is currently working on Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



TARGET TALKS

Join us Wednesday and Thursday in our morning sessions as we hear 6 different speakers give brief but informative talks on different topics that are relevant to ministry and christian leadership. Our version of "Ted Talks" will encourage and inspire you in your personal life as well as in your churches and ministries.

WEDNESDAY

TOMMY BRANDON
Special Needs Ministry

JASON WARMAN
Preaching In Series

MELISSA PHILLIPS
Leadership & Personal Empowerment

THURSDAY

KEVIN BATES
Pastoring Effectively in Rural America

DINORA BRANDON
Worship

JEFF PHILLIPS
Legacy



TOMMY BRANDON

Tommy Brandon, along with his wife Dinora, pastors Calvary Church of Fort Worth and has served in multi-ministerial roles since 1998. They have two beautiful young daughters, Selah and Esmé. He is originally from Louisiana and loves his LSU Tigers, golf, hunting, and other hobbies. He came to Calvary in 1998 as a student pastor and in 1999 married his wife Dinora. In 2015, he was installed as senior pastor of Calvary Church. Tommy's passion and desire to see people experience the life that God has for them is constantly visible through his interaction with all people. His use of wisdom and humor in his communication help us connect with the principles of the Bible.



KEVIN BATES

Pastor Kevin Bates and His wife Kayla are the Lead Pastors of Life Church in Winnsboro, Louisiana. Together they have two beautiful children, a daughter, Bliss, and a son, Boston. Over ten years ago Pastor Kevin felt called of God to Winnsboro, a community of about seven thousand people located in Franklin Parish. Pastor Kevin's vision was to raise up a community of believers, who discover Jesus Christ as more than a religious icon, but as the pathway and provision to Abundant Life. Every week the people of Life Church, now numbered in the hundreds, gather to experience the Life of Jesus Christ through dynamic ministry services, and are sharing that Life around the World through a variety of ministries and missions.



JASON WARMAN

Jason is the Lead Pastor of CoastLife Church located in Venice, FL. CoastLife is a life giving, life changing church that launched in 2010 and is a miracle that God is still performing. He leads CoastLife along with his wife Heidi and their two children Mackenzie (11) and Jadon (8). Jason is also the author of the book Reborn.



MELISSA PHILLIPS

Melissa Phillips is known for her adventurous creative lifestyle, self-motivating high energy levels and the ability to empower others to go above and beyond the average. As a self-taught artist, she loves to paint and her photography is seen worldwide by her photocompositions of brochures, books, advertising, as well as in the music industry. She is successful in leading teams in network sales as well as helps others in marketing their business. She recently purchased Wheatgrass Juice Bar and is completing her Health Coach Certification through HCI. Alongside her husband Jeff, of 34 years, they pastor Owensboro Legacy. She is a Board Certified Biblical Counselor with AACC, and is an ordained minister through Destiny. Apart from her family of 4 Sons and 5 Grandchildren, her most prized accomplishment was her involvement in the mission field in India which brought freedom to children from slavery & prostitution. Melissa believes everyone can be a world changer and make a difference. Her purpose statement in life is to help others find abundant living in all areas of their life.



DINORA BRANDON

Dinora Brandon is originally from California and moved to Texas in 1997 where she met her husband, Tommy Brandon. They were married in 1999 and have served together at Calvary Church of Fort Worth, ever since. Her greatest joys in life are being married to her best friend and a mom to her two beautiful girls, Selah and Esmé. She also enjoys decorating, event planning, and using her creative and artistic talents. She is passionate about women's ministry and encouraging others through worship, leadership, and mentoring. Her desire to see people experience the presence of God is her heartbeat.



JEFF PHILLIPS

Pastor Jeff and his wife Melissa have a heart to see the body of Christ grow and develop both individually and corporately. Leading by example they strive to maintain a disciplined lifestyle that represents Christ. Throughout Pastor Jeff's ministry he has been involved in many different avenues of servant hood. He continues to serve with Legacy Nashville, Mercy 29 and has ministered in several nations including South Africa, Guatemala, and Israel. Pastor Jeff's Biblical Education includes Bachelors in Biblical Studies (B.B.S.) and Master of Theology (Th.M.) with Omega Bible Institute and Seminary. He is also ordained through Destiny Ministries. He is currently the Lead Pastor of Owensboro Legacy in Owensboro, Kentucky.



WEDNESDAY TARGET TOPICS

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY | TOMMY BRANDON

There Is Room At The Table For Everyone!

I was recently invited to a lavish dinner gathering. The table fare was out of this world and the fellowship was second to none. To have a seat at that table was a wonderful experience that will not be soon forgotten. I am so thankful for the invitation! The feeling of being included and welcomed to that table reminds me of when King David reached out to Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9.

We first read about Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 4, where a tragic fall left him crippled as a child. His father had died and his mother was out of the picture so this young special needs child became homeless and defenseless. According to the ISB Encyclopedia, "[Mephibosheth's] life is a series of disasters, disappointments, and anxieties. It is a weary, broken, dispirited soul that speaks in all his utterances." David reached out to Mephibosheth to come and eat at his table because of who Mephibosheth belonged to; He was a descendant of the King. There was room at the King's table for even someone with a disability.

As church leaders, we need to have room for the 17 to 20 percent of families affected by disabilities. We must embrace the Great Commission in Matthew 28 to "therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations...**TEACH** these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you." The question is not can they learn, but can we teach them?

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world,

Deaf and blind, and slow to speak, Some delayed and others weak,

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

PREACHING IN SERIES | JASON WARMAN

52 weekends every year. 52 opportunities to encourage, admonish, edify, equip, and hopefully reach people. 52 Sundays to preach the Gospel to those in need of salvation and to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry. The bible says in Proverbs 21:5 (NKJV):

*The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty,
But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.*

I'm not necessarily proud of this, but this verse, particularly the later part of this verse, could have been descriptive of my preaching patterns early in my journey as a Lead Pastor. There were many surprises in store for me when we launched our church in 2010. Perhaps one of the biggest surprises is that Sundays seem to come every 7 days. I call it "the grind." It's all fun and games at first and then you feel the weight and responsibility of leading and feeding a church 52 weeks out of the year for the rest of your ministry. Like most people, I value excellence, and want to live a life and lead a ministry that is marked by it. I'm also an artist at heart. I love to write. I love to create sermons, and I love to feel the burden of a word that is freshly spoken. The patterns of my preaching early on were to go on a week to week basis, but it was hasty and it wasn't productive. The biggest shift in ministry was only a few months into our church when we began to preach in series. The next biggest shift was when we began to plan those series a year in advance. It requires diligence, it requires planning, it requires believing that God can speak clearly a few months in advance of a sermon or series, but it also leads to more productive preaching.

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL EMBPOWERMENT | MELISSA PHILLIPS

In this world of fast-pace, toxic-overload, leaders make a difference, know their purpose and guide others to do the same.

7 Strategy Tactics

1. The Other Side of Fear
2. Generate Satisfying Results
3. Aspects We Must Abandon
4. Authenticity vs Realism
5. Creating Alliance in a Changing Culture
6. Edifice & Synergy
7. Liberating Solutions

THURSDAY TARGET TOPICS

PASTORING EFFECTIVELY IN RURAL AMERICA | KEVIN BATES

Planting a church and pastoring in a rural community in America has its own unique set of challenges to say the least. But, there are also great opportunities and great rewards for those who let love lead the way. Pastors in a small community often have a greater opportunity to not only lead a church but to impact an entire community with their life and message. In this Target Talk Pastor Kevin will share the Life Church story and what he has learned about ministry effectiveness in the community of Winnsboro.

WORSHIP | DINORA BRANDON

WORSHIP- OUR ULTIMATE PURPOSE

Our purpose is so simple. We don't need to complicate it but we often do. Tossing and turning, toiling and wondering what in the world am I here for? Am I called to preach, sing, write, teach, run a business, start a church, lead a group? And while many of us have said yes to those callings (and thank God we have), all of that pales in comparison to the fact that our ultimate purpose is to worship. Before creation, throughout the generations, right now in this moment, and into eternity, worship has been, is and always will be God's main idea for our existence.

Jesus tells us that he came into the world to "seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 9:10), but then he goes even further in John 4:23-24 and He reveals the purpose for His seeking - He is looking for those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. He came to seek and to save for the specific purpose of producing a worshipping people. We were saved to worship. It is the true purpose for which everything was ever made. If I lived my life with this central theme in mind, how different would my life look? After all, just being a worship leader or a pastor's wife, does not automatically produce a true worshiper. Worship is a whole-life commitment. Worship is ALL that I am, reacting rightly to ALL that He is.

But we can't react rightly to all that He is until we have experienced the cross of Jesus Christ and all that it did for us. We need to be reminded of it daily. So here is my friendly reminder: God is Holy. God doesn't conform to a holy standard - He is the standard. There is no sin in Him. He can do no wrong. He is absolute perfection! We on the other hand are sinful. Our very nature is tainted to the core with junk. We can't be perfect. We are already deeply imperfect with wrong thoughts, wrong motives, wrong desires, corrupted by sin. To make matters worse, Hebrews 12:14 clearly tells us that without holiness we will not see the Lord. But then comes Jesus Christ, God's plan of salvation solving the whole dilemma. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." (II Corinthians 5:21.) Wait! What? Because of His death on the cross I am able to receive the righteousness of Christ! When I consider His holiness, my sinfulness, and His redemption plan, the only right response is true worship. This type of redemption deserves a whole-life commitment in which my ultimate purpose is to worship and bring glory to God.



LEGACY | JEFF PHILLIPS

THE GENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

It's not just about you; it's not just about now!

I saw behind me those who had gone, and before me those who are to come. I looked back and saw my father, and his father, and all our fathers, and in front my son, and his son, and the sons upon sons beyond. And their eyes were my eyes. – Richard Llewellyn

Purpose asks us to understand why on earth we are here. Legacy asks us to grasp what on earth we will leave. Life is not just about how you live but what you leave.

Legacy is organizing the way you live your life so that you will be a blessing to other people for generations to come. It's nothing more than taking the responsibility to ensure that your relationships and resources will outlive and outlast your time on this earth.

Everything about our life matters! Every trial, test, and triumph is not just personal, but generational with eternal consequences.

My ceiling truly must be the floor for the next generation. What you believe is what you will leave. Your faith becomes the foundation for those who follow you to build a legacy upon.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT)

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Our perspective matters!



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY

Plenary | Bishop Ron Liles
Special Needs Ministry Facility Tour / Q&A
Speaking to the Culture
Destiny Ladies' Gathering

THURSDAY

Plenary | Legacy Roundtable
Social media, Technology, & Culture
Worship

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Relationships are a core value at Destiny, and there's no better way to build relationships than over a great meal. Below are the fantastic meals we have planned for you at this year's Gathering.

Meals Tickets for the entire event are available on Tuesday Night only and are: **Single \$75, Couple \$125, Family \$175**

Any individual meal can be purchased for \$20 per person at the door and is based on availability.

TUESDAY DINNER: BBQ Smoked Brisket, BBQ Roasted Chicken Breast, New Potato Salad, Charro Beans, Rolls & Dessert

WEDNESDAY LUNCH: Assorted Wraps (Roast Beef, Turkey, Ham, BLT, Chicken, Vegetable) Fresh Fruit, Homemade Potato Chips, & Dessert

WEDNESDAY DINNER: Beef Fajitas, Cheese Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, Black Beans, Southwestern Salad, Tri-Colored Chips, Guacamole, Salsa, & Dessert

THURSDAY LUNCH: Baked Potato Bar, (Chopped BBQ Brisket, Pulled Pork, Butter, Bacon Bits, Chives, Cheddar Cheese, Sour Cream) Salad, & Dessert

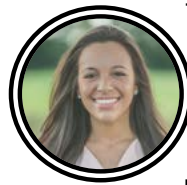


KIDS AND TEENS



THE DESTINY KIDS' GATHERING

This Kids' Gathering will take place on Wednesday and Thursday from 9am-2pm, and from 6pm until service ending. Our nursery will be available to infants from the ages of 0-23 months old. Kids from 2-12 years old will participate in worship services, outdoor water games, team building challenges, and crafts. The kids' services will include worship, a Bible story, lesson, and application activities. The speaking topics for our kids' services are *I Am Loved*, *I Am Valued*, *I Am Called*, and *I Am Empowered*. We look forward to having your children joining us for a great experience at The Gathering.



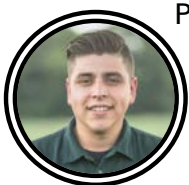
The Kids' Gathering is under the direction of Pastor Katherine Watts. Katherine has been married to the incredible Dustin Watts for 9 years. She is the mother of two young girls named Aimee and Whitnee. They have a white schnauzer named Bailee. Katherine has a Bachelors of Science in

Education with Honors. She has been teaching for the past three years in a local elementary school. She is currently working towards her masters in Marriage and Family Therapy (Counseling). Katherine has a passion to inspire, educate, and equip children with the word of God to make a difference in the world.

DESTINY TEEN HANGOUT

During Wednesday and Thursday Morning from 9:30am-12:00pm, teens will have a chance to hang out, snack and play some games in our Teen Lounge. Corn Hole, Pool, Ping Pong, Air Hockey, Foosball and more. There will also be a few hilarious group games we will play together in the AO Worship Room with giveaways.

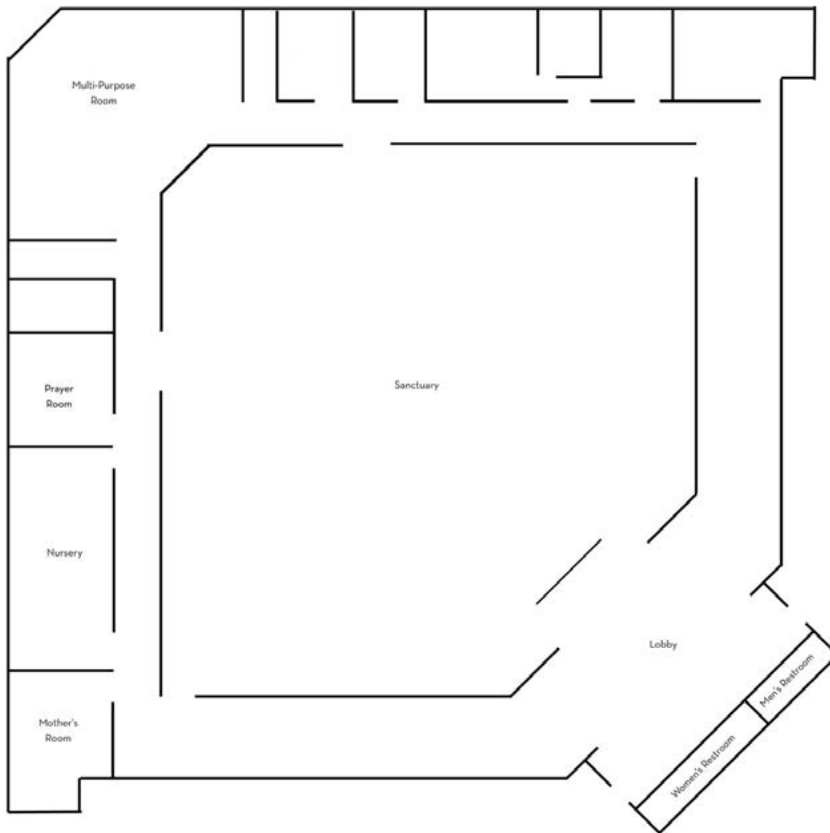
Pastor Manny Gonzalos will be hosting the teenagers.



Pastor Manny Gonzales, 23 is a DLI Graduate class of 2015. Starting as an intern for Calvary Church, Pastor Manny poured his love for God and people into numerous areas of the church. From kids to students to young adults, and even media production. Today, He is the lead student pastor for Calvary Church.



CAMPUS MAPS



SANCTUARY BUILDING

SANCTUARY

Target Talks
Evening Session
Plenary Breakout Sessions

NURSERY

Babies & Toddlers Drop Off (0-23mo)

LOBBY

Registration (Wed.)
Special Needs Ministry Building Tour
Breakout (Wed.)

BLACKSTOCK CENTER

GREAT HALL

All Meals

STUDENT WORSHIP

Teen Hangout Drop Off

C KIDS WORSHIP

Kids Gathering Drop Off

LOBBY

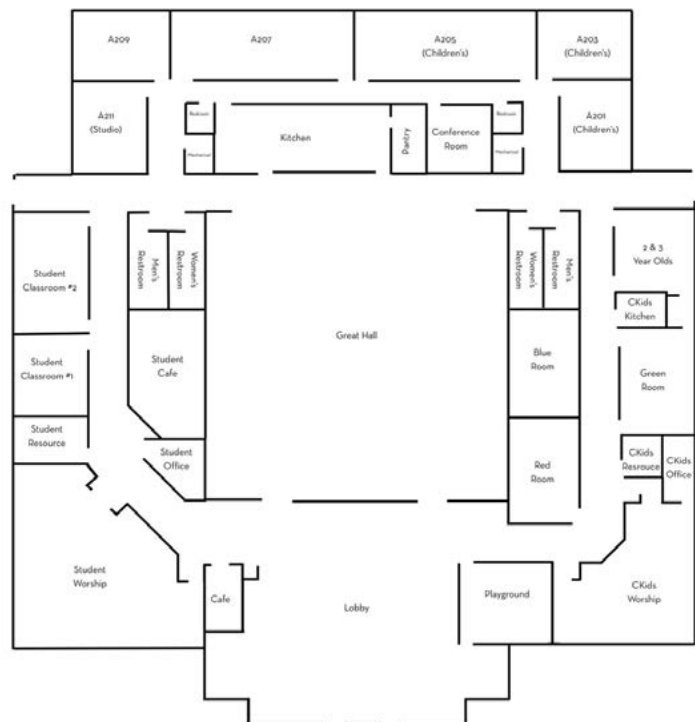
Registration (Tues.)
Destiny Ladies' Gathering Breakout (Wed.)

STUDENT CLASSROOM #2

Speaking to the Culture Breakout (Wed.)
Worship Breakout (Thurs.)

A 207

Social Media, Tech & Culture Breakout
(Thurs)



GIVE

To donate to Destiny Ministries during the Gathering Conference, you can GIVE during offering time in our evening services using the envelopes provided, or you can GIVE online anytime by visiting destinyleaders.com/give or by scanning the QR Code below.





SYNC ME UP

DR. PHILLIP BRASSFIELD

The invention of Bluetooth technology has radically changed the landscape of the digital communications world. No more cords or cables, now we can connect various devices through built-in receivers and transmitters that recognize each other and communicate, regardless of brand or system - very cool stuff.

When you buy electronics with Bluetooth capabilities, you first have to connect your new device with your existing device through a process called syncing. Whether it is a new phone synced with your car's audio system allowing you to talk on the phone hands-free, or simply connecting your iPod to a sound system or an external speaker, they must first be 'synced up' if they are to work together.

I have found this analogy is a great way to explain effective teambuilding. In this sense, you could say teams are composed of various, often diverse, individuals, each with their own software operating systems that must be synced if they are to work together effectively. They each have been programmed through life's experiences. They have developed personality traits, talents, skills and abilities, as well as weaknesses. If they are to function as one cohesive team, they must be synced together. When conducting leadership seminars I often teach leaders to follow a progression in their leadership strategy as a way of tuning in or syncing their team into one focus.

This progression begins, first, with defining **Values** (what's important), then

allowing them to birth a clear **Vision** (being what those values should look like in action), followed by identifying achievable goals that constitute an active **Mission**, and then planning a list of action steps that form a **Strategy**. This process may take some time or happen rather quickly, but it must happen. It is the process through which a team made up of individuals becomes one and can share in a life of collective purpose.

This template is also recognizable throughout the Scripture as it relates to God and His dealings with man. God has a system of values, a vision, mission and a strategy, and Jesus Christ is the centerpiece and revelation of that plan and process.

SYNCING TO GOD'S VALUES

Now, with that said, this year's theme for the Destiny Gathering is, "The Year Of The Cross". I know what you're thinking, "Shouldn't every year be the year of the Cross?" And, of course, you're right. But sometimes as believers we can know things like this in our heads, yet, get out of sync with them in our hearts. We can become so focused on systems, forms and methods, that we lose our sense of connection to what Heaven values most. Therefore, it is necessary for us to occasionally refocus, to get synced up again.

So we have to pause and remember, what is important to God? What does God value? What is so important that it would ultimately lead to the Cross? The simple answer is you! Me! Everyone! People! The entire Bible declares that this is the core value of Heaven! Each gospel expresses this truth in unique ways, but the message is clear, **God values people, the lost, the Harvest!** When we discover what is important to God, we can then understand why the Cross was necessary; the Scripture reveals it, Jesus came to demonstrate it. The story of redemption with its centerpiece being the Cross, is the story of a rescue mission initiated by God to save mankind from destruction.

A PASSION FOR PEOPLE

Let me coach you through several steps to syncing your heart to God's heart for the harvest. When you develop a fresh heart for the harvest, you will develop a fresh appreciation for the Cross. Follow these steps to align your values to the values of Heaven:

1. THINK ABOUT THE HARVEST

Put it on your radar. A fresh awareness of the harvest will help you to learn the value of an individual soul. Make up your mind that if they matter to God, then they matter to you. If Jesus would come from Heaven to save them, then what will you do to reach them with the good news that they can be saved? Think of yourself in a lifeboat floating in the debris of a shipwrecked world surrounded by desperate and drowning people. Imagine many of them are within your reach. And don't forget to remember that you weren't always saved. There was a time when you were lost too. Someone reached for you; someone threw you a lifeline.

2. PRAY FOR THE HARVEST

Jesus said to pray for the harvest today. Make the harvest and the lost part of your daily prayer regiment. *"Then He said to them, 'The harvest truly is great, but the*

laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'" (Luke 10:2 NKJV).

Think of specific people and call them by name. Make a prospect list and fight for them in the Spirit. Don't give up on them! Don't put it off. Jesus said, *"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" (John 4:35 NKJV)*

3. TALK ABOUT THE HARVEST

We have all read the Scripture in Luke 6 that says, *"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks"* and it is true. But that also works in reverse as well. Your heart hears what your mouth speaks and believes it. The words you say and repeat will sink into your heart over time.

NEXT STEPS IN SYNCING UP

1. Make it your daily pattern to talk with someone about the harvest. As your heart hears you speak about it, it will become a greater and greater value in your heart.

2. Start an evangelism/missions small group. Studying as a group is a powerful way to not only stir your heart with what moves

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

the heart of God but will be contagious to others as well. Study the lives of great missionaries and evangelist from the past and I promise you will be challenged and inspired. As you become familiar with their stories you will begin to feel a sense of responsibility growing to create your own.

3. Know the harvest by the numbers. Find out how many people are saved in your community, how many are in church on Sunday- know the numbers. As you master the numbers, you will begin to feel the importance of being involved in sharing the Gospel with those who don't know the Lord.

4. Make it personal. Remember the harvest has a name. Sadly, for many, the harvest is an undefined, generic "them" or "they", not real living and breathing people who will spend eternity one of two places. The harvest is not an abstract concept with undefined participants. Its name is your children, your spouse, your neighbors, the people you work with. This is perhaps the greatest challenge in this process. But, once you have personalized the harvest, suddenly everything will change as your perspective changes to seeing the harvest from a more personal perspective.

5. Rehearse your testimony. Most people reject being

"preached at", instead think through your conversion process and be prepared to tell people why and how you made the decision to surrender your life to Christ. Develop what publishers call, your elevator pitch. This is a brief synopsis of your testimony that can be communicated in the time it would take to ride the elevator from the top floor to the bottom floor. And then listen for opportunities to tell it.

Then, get ready for impact. As you follow these steps, your heart will be tuned-in to the values of Heaven and your heart will yearn to spread the good news, a message that Paul calls the "Message of the Cross".

CREATE A NEW STUNNING WEBSITE
WITH MOZAIK CREATIVE

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ABOUT
MOZAIK CREATIVE


A silhouette of a group of graduates standing on a hill, throwing their caps into the air against a sunset sky. The caps are captured in mid-air, forming a semi-circle above the group.

CONGRATULATIONS 2017 DLI GRADUATES

DANNY BEAVERS
PATRICK BICKHAM
CHARLES BONNER
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KIMBERLY BUXIE
STEPHANIE CAMPBELL
AUBREY CHERRY
RYAN DARNELL
CASSANDRA DAVEY
PAUL DAVEY
DEANNA DILDY
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SHANNON POWERS
ISRAEL RILEY
JOHN RILEY
DOUGLAS SCHULTZ
TAYLOR SCHWARTZ
BECCA SWANSON
TIM TACKETT
TIMOTHY WILSON

A large, solid black cross is positioned on the left side of the image, extending from the bottom towards the top. The background is a sky with a gradient from orange at the bottom to purple and blue at the top, filled with soft, wispy clouds. The cross is a simple, bold silhouette.

THE IRONY OF THE CROSS

Irony is a valuable literary device, often employed by writers and communicators to convey important truths. Irony expresses meaning by using words that usually signify the opposite for the intent of humor or emphasis. Biblical writers often use irony. For example, Job replies to his pseudo-philosophical companions' musings about the meaning of his suffering: *"No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you (Job 12:2)."* Obviously, despite the literal meaning of Job's words, he means that his friends are neither as significant or as wise as they presume themselves to be. This is an example of explicit irony. However, other biblical authors used irony in more conspicuous ways to emphatically convey truths.

Matthew, for example, weaves irony throughout the narrative of the cross to emphasize the significance of Jesus' death. This article will briefly highlight a few of the ironies of Matthew's passion narratives.

Before Pilate, the crowd chose Barabbas because they wanted to stop Jesus and His mission. Ironically, releasing Barabbas was Jesus' mission (Matt. 27: 15-23). Those following Matthew's story line will be outraged at Jesus' conviction and Barabbas' release. Barabbas is a murderer, a rebel, and a warmonger. He is guilty and shows no remorse for his actions.

Jesus, on the other hand, has been healing, teaching, and loving people. He is not only innocent of the crimes of which He has been charged, He is the only completely pure and innocent person to ever live. So when the crowd chooses the criminal over the King, the readers' sensibilities are greatly offended. How could they choose Barabbas and kill Jesus? Don't they watch Law and Order or any other TV courtroom drama? This isn't how the story is suppose to go. The good guy should go free while the bad guy faces the consequences of his actions.

However, Barabbas' release is exactly how the story should go according to God's divine plan. The crowd wanted to stop Jesus and his mission; however they only manage to further His mission. The Gospel is that Jesus came to die so that law-breakers like Barabbas could be set free. The cord of irony continues when the crowd condemned Jesus: *"May His blood be on our hands and on our children's"* (Matt. 27:25). They were of course, speaking of the guilt. "Don't worry about it, Pilate. We will take the blame. This is our decision not yours." However, Jesus knew (and we know) that His blood was shed not for their condemnation, but for their forgiveness. The cross was the designated way for "His blood to be upon them."

The actual crucifixion is also rife with irony. Jesus

received His customary floggings, then the soldiers engaged in the unsophisticated and juvenile humor often acquainted with the barracks. They placed a scarlet robe on His body, a scepter in His hand, and a crown of thorns on His head. They then mockingly prostrated themselves and cried out: *"Hail! King of the Jews"* (Matt. 27:27-29)! Ironically, their actions were appropriate as the cross was, indeed, His coronation as King of all. The resurrected Jesus would proclaim: *"All authority has been given to me (Matt. 28:18)."* And, Paul reminds us that because of the cross that *"every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord (Phil 2:10)."*

A passer-by joined the mocking soldiers by taunting the crucified Jesus: *"You said you could destroy the temple and in three days, rebuild it. If you are the Son of God, save yourself"* (Matt. 27: 40). Ironically, it was because of His identity that He chose not to save himself. By not coming down, Jesus was establishing Himself as the true rebuilt temple. He appeared completely helpless and hopeless: however, His temporary powerlessness would soon yield to eternal omnipotence.

The scribes soon added their own derisive commentary: *"He saved others, but can't save himself (Matt. 27:42)."* Ironically, His decision not to save Himself will save many, many others. Though He appeared powerless to save Himself, He was powerful enough to endure the cross so that multitudes could be saved. A few of the Jewish elders joked: *"He trusts God, let God save Him (Matt. 27:43)!"* Once again, the irony is difficult to miss. Enduring the cross was the greatest act of trust in history. The mockers were reciting the common misunderstanding that trusting God always means deliverance from hardship, rather than sustenance in hardship. The cross confirmed Jesus' cry in Gethsemane: *"Father, not my will but yours be done (Matt. 26:49)!"*

This irony of the cross is also true in the lives of Jesus' followers. We become powerful by suffering, influential by serving, prosperous by giving, and trusting in God's goodness by enduring life's hardships. The irony of the cross allows us to reevaluate our seasons of suffering. Sometimes, God's greatest gifts are hidden in our greatest griefs. God is doing something in us that is greater than what is happening to us.

Landon is currently booking venues for the summer and fall. If you would like Landon to come speak at your church or ministry you can fill out a request on his website at landongalloway.com; or email info@destinyleadershipinstitute.com

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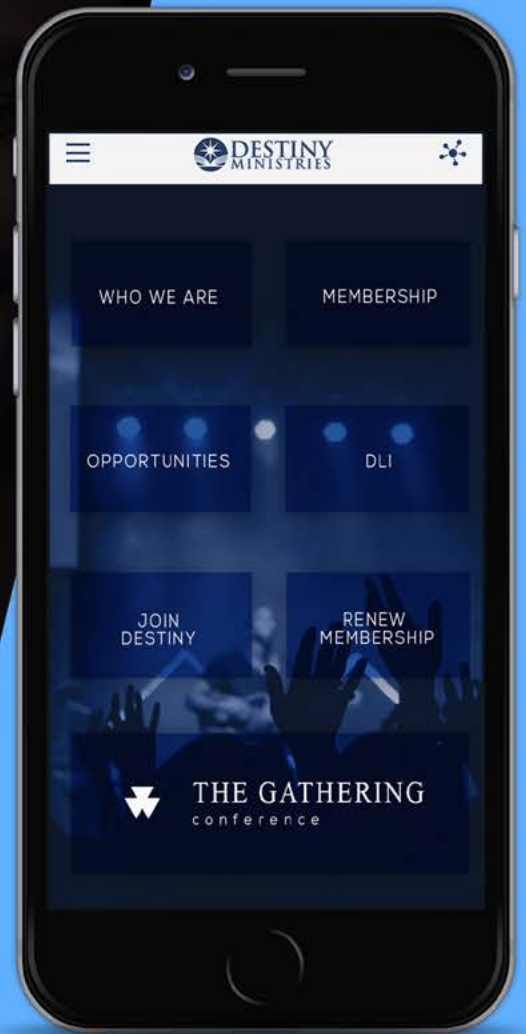
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REAL CHURCH CLEARWATER LAUNCHING AUGUST 2018

DAVID JOHN PHILIPS

In August 2018, we will launch a new church called Real Church in Clearwater, Florida. We are beyond excited and humbled that God would choose us to embark on this journey. We believe that every person has a passion inside them. While the world may not see it, we know that this passion is just the beginning of a person recognizing his or her God-given purpose, and we believe that the place for people to discover and begin to utilize their purpose is the local Church.

Why REAL CHURCH? I (David) grew up knowing who Jesus is, but not knowing who He says that I am. God stepped in and used His Church to help me understand how He sees me. Knowing who I am in Christ enabled me to live out my purpose. So, I am starting a church that will do whatever it takes for people to know the love of Jesus and fulfill their God-given purpose.

THE MISSION OF REAL CHURCH IS THIS:

Engage the Culture with the love of Jesus Christ.

Equip the Believer to engage the culture.

Empower the Ready to live their God-given purpose.

God has given us a burden for the city of Clearwater. Statistics show that there are 700,000 people within a 10 mile radius of the center of Clearwater, and only 10% of those people are in church on a Sunday morning. That means that there are 600,000 people in a small area who don't know what it's like to belong to a Body of believers; there are 600,000 souls longing for a Savior; there are 600,000 people walking around questioning 'Why am I here? Do I matter?' There is only one solution to this: the scandalous love of Jesus Christ!

WWW.REALCHURCH.US | [@REALCHURCH_US](https://www.instagram.com/REALCHURCH_US) | INFO@REALCHURCH.US | [FACEBOOK: REALCHURCH.US](https://www.facebook.com/REALCHURCH.US)

Clearwater, Florida is the international headquarters for Scientology and for the Shriners. The city is visually amazing but spiritually it is very dark. There is a true need in the city, and we are going with the blessing and support of our current and previous pastors to fill that need.

Why is another church needed? The sad reality is that every year, 3500 to 4000 churches close, and only 1100 to 1500 are started in their place. There are several amazing churches in Pinellas County where Clearwater is located. I have spoken with many of the pastors about another church coming to the area, and the response has been the same from each of them: "Please come. The people need it." The local pastors recognize that we are better together and are excited for more brothers and sisters coming to the area to impact the city for Jesus, and this brings me joy to know that we will be entering this journey standing on the shoulders of giants.

We are taking a giant leap of faith, trusting that our obedience will be rewarded with lives forever changed by the saving grace of Jesus Christ!

Will you please ask God how He would have you partner with us on this journey? You can pray, give, or join us in Clearwater. Please visit our website, www.realchurch.us where you will find our launch guide which contains more information on the specific things we are praying for.

Our hope in the year prior to our launch is that we build a launch team of 110 people who share in our vision and are ready to see their city transformed! We will be a portable church in the beginning, and we are praying to partner with a local High School to utilize their auditorium and nearby rooms for our Sunday services. Our family will be relocating to the city in August 2017. God has always provided for our family, and we are grateful that we have already begun seeing the provision of the Lord in this journey!



DAVID AND COURTNEY PHILIPS HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR TEN YEARS AND HAVE THREE CHILDREN: TRIP (5), SELAH (3) AND EDEN (2). THEY HAVE BOTH BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CHURCH AND HAVE SERVED AND LED IN VARIOUS AREAS OF MINISTRY FOR MOST OF THEIR LIVES, CURRENTLY SERVING AT RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH IN WINNSBORO, LA. DAVID HAS A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A DOCTORATE IN GLOBAL EVANGELIZATION. THE NEXT SEASON FOR THEM WILL BE IN CLEARWATER, FLORIDA AS THEY PLANT REAL CHURCH IN THE HEART OF THE CITY. THEY ARE EXCITED TO SEE HOW REAL CHURCH IMPACTS CLEARWATER, FL!



THE CALLING

KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS LAUNCHING JANUARY 2018



JEREME & JILL JEANE HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS, AND LIVE IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE WITH THEIR TWO DAUGHTERS JULES & JAYMES IVY. THEY HAVE A PASSION TO BRING PEOPLE INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, AND HIS PURPOSE FOR THEIR LIVES. THEY ARE CURRENTLY LAUNCHING THE CALLING, A NEW COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS IN DOWNTOWN KNOXVILLE.

JEREME JEANE

Nestled at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains, Knoxville is a city that is bursting into bloom, a community coming to life. It's a big-little city, with a combined metropolitan population of over 1,000,000 souls.

Downtown Knoxville is home to the University of Tennessee, with over 28,000 students in attendance. Nearby Pellissippi State College enrolls an additional 11,000 students, joining with various other local colleges and universities to bring the combined number of college students in Knoxville to well over 40,000.

With a budding community of artists & creatives, Knoxville is also home to Scripps Network Interactive, which directs and powers some of the most influential lifestyle brands in media today, including HGTV, Food Network, the Travel Channel, DIY Network and more. The collective brands which make up the Scripps portfolio engage over 190 million people each month!

In addition to the arts & media, Knoxville is home to a growing tech industry and has long been a center for scientific research & development. In short, Knoxville is a little-known but highly influential city, poised to impact the culture and world-view of not only the Southeastern USA, but the entire world.

Not only that, but Knoxville is growing! The population is increasing by roughly 7,445 people each year. That's 155 individuals per week. 22-24 each day. 1 soul every hour!

The highest percentage of our population is 25-34 years old. The percentage of single adults is 12% higher than the national average. Knoxville is a city full of young people and antiquated ministry-models, resulting in a population who are seeking truth, but remain highly skeptical of the religious trappings in which many local churches have packaged the Gospel.

It's a city full of bright futures and big dreams, that is in desperate need of the Gospel. Only 60% of the population claims faith of any kind. This means that 40% are not currently living in relationship with Jesus. Over 400,000 souls are waiting to encounter the life-changing love of God.

We must share the Good News with them. Together we can, and we will!!!

Jill & I are so excited to announce that we will launch The Calling in January 2018. God has given us a dream to create a Life-Giving community of believers, passionately pursuing the High Calling of God for their lives.

Our heart is that everyone in Knoxville would come to Know God personally, Love Him passionately and Live abundant lives dedicated to His purpose for them. We have already begun forming a Launch Team, as well as a community of small-group Gatherings. God is moving on people in our city, drawing them to Himself; we are watching as he breaks down the walls around jaded, skeptical hearts and leads them into a new kind of church family they've never encountered before—and more importantly, a deep new love for Him.

Our hope is to help our city hear the Voice that speaks to each of us. Without words. Deep inside—in our heart of hearts.

God is calling us.

He whispers through our deepest passions, speaks through our wildest dreams. Calling our names, drawing our souls to a Story He began writing long before we were ever born.

There is a purpose to our existence, a reason for our being. There is a place we were meant to go, a Garden prepared as a meeting place with our Creator. And there are people

we were meant to know and love, people whose paths we were meant to cross, who act as catalysts to our faith—a community of believers designed by God to lead us to Him.

A cross that points the way from death toward life. An empty tomb that opens the door to God's ultimate plan for each of us. And there is a life that exceeds what we think is possible. An eternal, everlasting, abundant life. A High Calling.

It is found in Knowing, Loving and Living in a relationship—with One who gave His life so we could truly live.

We believe in the life found in Christ. We believe in the vision He has given us for The Calling. We believe in the city of Knoxville. And we're asking you to believe with us!

Here's how you can be part of the story...

First and foremost, please pray for us! In particular, pray for God to continue drawing the right people to be part of our Team. Also, please pray with us for resources and funding to make the vision God has given us possible! Lastly, pray that we would be authentic ambassadors for Christ to Knoxville; that God would give us grace to effectively lead people into relationship with Him.

Second, if God leads you to do so, consider giving financially to The Calling. This will help us secure the necessary facilities and equipment to accomplish our mission. Your generosity empowers us to share the life found in Christ with our city—we are so grateful!

Third, if you or someone you know feels drawn to Knoxville, or passionate about reaching unchurched people through missional community, consider joining our Team; we'd be honored and blessed to have you with us.

Last but not least: come see us! Knoxville is a great city, surrounded by the mountains and many attractions; it's a great place to get away for a couple of days. We'd love for you and your family to visit us!

We're so blessed to be part of the Destiny family, and so thankful for the relationships God has given us over the years with so many of you...The Calling would never have become a reality without your love, support, encouragement and prayers. Together as a covenant family, we are bringing the Gospel to an amazing city. We can't wait to see all that God has in store for Knoxville

WEB

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INSTAGRAM

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FACEBOOK

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EMAIL

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MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 1750,
Knoxville, TN 37901

"Knoxville is a city full of bright futures and big dreams, that is in desperate need of the Gospel. Only 60% of the population claims faith of any kind. This means that 40% are not currently living in relationship with Jesus. Over 400,000 souls are waiting to encounter the life-changing love of God..."

"God has given us a dream to create a Life-Giving community of believers, passionately pursuing the High Calling of God for their lives. Our heart is that everyone in Knoxville would come to Know God personally, Love Him passionately and Live abundant lives dedicated to His purpose..."



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--NOW ENROLLING FALL 2017--

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