

Spring/Summer 2018

# DESTINY

M A G A Z I N E

**LEADING  
SECOND**

**GROW**

**2018 GATHERING  
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**BUILT FOR DESTINY**

**DESTINY  
COACHING  
NETWORK**

**ALMOST A  
BODYGUARD**



# DESTINY LEADERS

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## A WORD FROM PHIL & CATHY



Welcome everyone to the Spring/Summer edition of Destiny Magazine. We love this time of year and all the hope and promise it brings. Flowers are blooming, birds are singing their spring songs; the fragrance of honeysuckle is in the air, exciting all the senses. For Cath and me, this time of year always brings with it a general feeling of newness and opportunity.

With this particular season, so many exciting things are happening. No doubt, part of our excitement stems from the fact that our Destiny Gathering is just days away and momentum is really building! This is our 19th Annual

Gathering and we have so many wonderful things planned for the people we love so much. There are also exciting new plans and programs being developed for each sector of Destiny Ministries. I can't wait to tell you all about them!

All this said, I believe we have entered a season especially designed by God for growth! This is our word for this season; this is what I'm hearing in my spirit. This is your word for this season, GROW! This magazine is filled with great articles and opportunities that will encourage you to that end. Take this word to heart and step into your moment and grow! Enjoy!

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DR. PHILLIP BRASSFIELD

For some, a new season can be a scary proposition, for others, it is an exciting opportunity filled with possibilities and potential. For those in the second category a new season in our lives awakens the visionary within! We are ready to start fresh, leave the old behind with its highs and lows, its struggles and sorrows, and embrace the new. Forward thinking, plans for upward movement, and dramatic resolutions can be found on our refrigerators and on our smartphones "to do" list; "more of this, less of that"; 10 things I'm adding, 5 things I'm leaving behind.

I'll admit it. I'm in the second category. And I typically take this approach as the year winds down to seek God and discover my focused assignment for the next year. Often it comes to me in a word or phrase. I remember one year it was the "Year of the River". It was amazing. I preached all over the nation about the River of God. Countless people were blessed by God's River of refreshing. Another year I felt led to focus on the Cross of Christ, "The Year of The Cross". We launched a preaching tour called the "Incomparable Christ Ministry Tour" where I preached every Sunday morning on the Power of the Cross. Many were saved and had their lives transformed that year.

This year was no different. As I asked the Lord for direction, I clearly heard in my spirit, "This is the

Year to Grow". As a matter of fact, it was specifically, "Let Go and Grow!" As I began to meditate on this phrase and look to Scripture, it came clearly into focus. God wants His people to grow! The concept of growing in the ways and the will of the Lord is all over the place in the Scripture. God equates success to growth!

When God thinks about His people, He generally thinks in agricultural terms. He calls Israel a grape vine, a fig tree, and an olive tree. The Scripture describes the righteous as a tree planted by channels of water. Jesus said the Kingdom is like a sower who went forth to sow. The Word of God is called the incorruptible seed. Jesus is called the seed to whom the promise was made by the Apostle Paul. Jesus calls himself a seed that must be planted through death. He also says in John 15, *"I am the vine and you are the branches, apart from me you can do nothing."*

### THE WAY GOD THINKS OF SUCCESS:

When God thinks of success, He thinks of growth and fruitfulness. He seldom thinks opportunity; He thinks development. He thinks, plant a seed (faith), water the seed, pull the weeds (service), grow a crop and harvest the fruit (reward) and then repeat!

God's idea of success is simple. Sow, harvest, and repeat. When God thinks of action and success, He normally thinks in terms of process, a process called fruitfulness. It begins with a seed that must be sown and leads to harvest, it begins with sacrifice and ends with multiplication. God doesn't think of you having a success, He thinks of you being a success!

The first man created (Adam) and the family commissioned to repopulate the earth after the flood heard God say the same thing, *"Be fruitful and multiply."* In God's mind your life is more like a seed to be planted than a door to be opened.

I have a word for you, and honestly, it is transcendent of any particular time of the year or season. The word is a phrase; Let go and grow!

Psalms 1:1-3 gives us an amazing biblical picture of God's perspective with all of this. It says,

*"Blessed [is] the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;*

*But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper."*

## LET ME COACH YOU

This Psalms passage is a great coaching passage. It really gives a simple guideline for success for the believer. I'm a coach so I like verses that give us guidance, letting us know what not to do and what to do. Let me share some ideas from this passage that might help you find your way this year.

### 1. What is the "counsel of the ungodly"?

It is the plans, opinions, and purposes of the wicked (godless). This phrase speaks of associations and influences. We tend to move

toward the people and things that inspire us. The coaching take-away? Watch your influences and your associations. Ideas are contagious. To use a relationship metaphor, I used to tell our children when they became of age to date, "be careful who you date, because you can't help who you fall in love with".

### 2. What does "stands in the path of sinners", mean?

It speaks of the patterns and practices of sinners. Being friends to sinners is different from living in their patterns and practices, walking in their way of life. Jesus was a friend to sinners, but the Scripture is clear, we must not walk like the gentiles who walk in the futility of their minds, with a darkened understanding which alienates us from the life of God. Ephesians 4:17&18.

### 3. To "sit in the seat of the scornful" speaks of attitudes.

Your attitude is about 90% of your success in life. Attitudes are also contagious. They will rub-off on you. Your attitude makes you attractive or repulsive to people around you.

Together these three things will largely determine your success this year, or any year for that matter. Your influences, your patterns and practices, and your attitudes will determine your destiny.

The writer of this passage, after telling us what not to do, gives us clear and amazing advice as

*continued on next page*



to what we should do. **SEEK GOD!** He's the source of everything! Seek Him in the morning, at noon and in the evening. Study His word. Meditate on God and the things of God and get ready to grow! The first step in growing in your walk with Him is decreasing in your focus on yourself.

Let me wrap this up with two coaching suggestions for this season harmonized with what God is saying.

## COACHING SUGGESTION #1:

### Keys to spiritual growth:

Beware of the deception of pride and self-reliance. Seek to be less self-conscious and become more God-aware.

Pride is content to either lift you up through self confidence or to tear you down with low self-esteem, as long as you remain the central focus of your attention.

Being simply a part of the vine, being obedient to simply sow a seed, reduces my sense of significance and importance in the process. It is a humbling realization. Pride is the death of growth. To grow in the Lord you must agree that without His life force working in you, you can accomplish nothing! Period! Pride resists the existential sustenance that God provides and seeks to rely on self. Humility invites God's nurturing and leadership.

So, make up your mind that you are going to stay connected and experience the benefits of God's promise to grow you toward prosperity. Notice what the Scripture declares: He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper."

My wife, Cathy, and I have determined that while we may not be sure what this season will hold, the challenges we'll face, or the accomplishments we'll achieve, we are going to be bigger next year than this year! We are going to be stronger this year than last year! And we are going to be more of a force for Christ this year than ever before!

And it's Christ in you that makes it possible. Remember that if you are a believer and Christ dwells in you, then the creative force that created the universe and the authority that holds it together is living inside of you! It's all inside! Waiting for you to access that creativity and power through faith and relationship.

## COACHING SUGGESTION #2:

### You must let go of the past...

A new word for a new season begins with getting over the stuff you went through in the last season and before. To get a hold of this, you have to let go of that!

Stop thinking about what you're not, who you aren't and what you wish you had, and start determining to grow toward the person God wants you to be. That's who you want to be, who God wants you to be! That's what you really want! That's what will make you happy, that is what will satisfy! You think more money will do the trick? More stuff? Another relationship? Or, do you wish for some miraculous way to make a better version of a broken you? No, not going to work. But I'll tell you what will! GROWING in Christ! And letting Christ grow in you! Grow!

### So, let me make it plain and simple...

How about distilling all those long lists of good intentions that we struggle to keep, down to one main focus that overlaps every area of your life? Let GO and GROW!

Make up your mind, you're getting bigger, you're getting larger! You're going farther, you're getting stronger! You may not be where you want to be, but you are not going to stay what you are, where you are!

## DETERMINE THESE THREE THINGS THIS YEAR:

1. **Grow in your Faith** (a faith that hasn't been tested can't be trusted).
2. **Grow in your commitment** (make a decision that no one can out commit you) Commit to serve, to get involved, get up and get out there, work hard, volunteer, make a difference!
3. **Grow in your giving, time, talent and treasure** (giving consistently makes the list of 'must dos' for the most successful people in the world.)

I believe this year there is a special anointing, a particular appointment for growth in your life as a believer, and specifically as a part of the Destiny family. So, let go and grow! Make a fresh commitment to become! You might not be all you want to be right now but you don't have to be what you are this time next year! Stop waiting for your big break and decide that your big break came when you got saved and became a child of God! This year can be your best year ever! It's not up to chance, it's up to you! God has already made up His mind!



# DESTINY COACHING NETWORK

Leaders have dreams and goals. It is who we are. But almost everyone needs help to experience those dreams and achieve those goals. From the greatest sports stars to the most successful business leaders, coaches are employed to help develop potential, enhance performance, and align goals within specific arenas. At Destiny we are committed to helping you do just that by connecting you to the right people, experts in their respective fields, who can educate, equip and encourage you to become all God has called you to be. Our goal is to optimize and maximize your skills and challenge you to take the action steps necessary to achieve your goals.

## HOW IT WORKS...

Simply Enroll in one of Destiny's Coaching Cohorts where you will meet people with your same areas of interest and together you will study under the instruction of an expert in the field. Our cohort groups blend education with relationship over an eight-week intensive training program with one focus and intent, your success.

## 2018 FALL COHORTS:

### **Personal Empowerment**

(Destiny Visionary Leader, Dr. Phillip Brassfield)

### **Preaching the New Testament**

(Lucan Scholar, Landon Galloway)

### **Managing Transition and Change**

(Oasis Church Austin, Texas, Lead Pastor Jonathan Suber)

### **Connections/Small Groups**

(Christ Church West Monroe, Connections Pastor Jeffery Kent)

### **Leading Second**

(Leading Second Founder, Brandon Stewart)

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# Almost a Bodyguard

PASTOR LANDON GALLOWAY

I want to start this article with an assignment for you.

*Tell me everything you know about  
King Achish of Gath.*

*Now, tell me everything you know about  
King David of Israel.*

I'm sure that your knowledge about Achish is somewhat limited. The Bible tells us little about him. He is just a name among lots of other names. He made no lasting impact on history. No one preaches sermons about him. Kids don't color pictures of him in Sunday School. Achish is just a minor character in the story of David.

Now David, on the other hand, I assume that you know much more about. The harp-playing, giant-slaying, nation-building, war-winning, affair-having shepherd turned king. The details of his life are well-documented, and his mark on history is indisputable. He ushered in the golden age of the kingdom of Israel and became the exemplar king. Jesus is the Son of David, who currently rules and will ultimately rule all of the earth.

What you may not know, however, is that David was very close to forfeiting his destiny only days before he was officially named king. In fact, King David was almost a mere bodyguard to that obscure, aforementioned King Achish.

Let's start from the beginning.

David's rise cannot be told apart from the fall of his predecessor, King Saul. 1 Sam. 13:1-14 intimates that Saul was not a wise selection for king. The man of God, Samuel, instructed Saul not to go to battle until he came and offered a sacrifice to God. Acting out of fear and impatience, Saul offered the sacrifice himself. Samuel tells Saul that his kingdom will not last because of his disobedience. Samuel 15 tells of Saul's fatal error that ensured the end of his kingship. God instructed Saul to conquer and completely destroy the Amalekites. Instead, Saul kept the best of the goods and held the king for ransom. These two stories indicate that Saul was removed because of a character problem. Many people point to Saul's mistake at Gilgal as the reason why God removed Saul as king. The content of 1 Samuel indicates that Saul did not merely make one mistake; he had a long history of stubborn disobedience.

God does not punish leaders for every mistake they make, but He does not long tolerate unrepentant Christian leaders with substantial character problems. **God's grace covers our faults, but that does not excuse habitual character flaws.** David's sin of adultery, and the subsequent deadly cover-up, seems objectively worse than Saul's hasty sacrifice. However, God judges us based on the intentions of our hearts. David was a flawed man, but was fully cognizant of his imperfections and fully dependent on the grace of God. Saul, however, indicated his independence of God by his repeated stubborn behavior. God's grace will **cover** our faults; but, it should also **change** our character.

Saul's fall led Samuel to search for a new king for Israel. Samuel is led by God to the House of Jesse. David evidently is not naturally "kingly" because his father does not even bring him in from the field. Saul apparently had the look of a king, but David had the heart of a king. I'm grateful that **God often uses the unlikely.** Though David's own father apparently did not see the leadership gifting in his life, God saw it. And, that's all that matters.

God confirms His choice by bringing David to the palace. Saul was haunted by night terrors, and the only thing that kept him calm was the soothing sound of the harp. It just so happens that David was a really good harp player. His God-given talent that had been cultivated in the field among the flock led him to the place of his destiny. God uses our natural abilities to bring us into His destiny for our lives. We must cultivate the giftings in our lives, because we never know when the opportunity to use the gift will come.

There is a progression to the life of David. He is called to be king, and soon his talent brings him to the palace. Surely, David recognized the call of God on his life and was enthusiastic about the opportunities that were before him. His well-documented defeat of Goliath continued his upward trajectory. Not only is he a regular in the palace, his noble defeat of the giant has earned him the favor of the people. His name is being chanted by the crowds-- "*Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.*" And, the dream makes perfect sense. David surely thought that everything was lining up. He was on the fast track to becoming king. His destiny was right around the corner.





However, the dream would soon be derailed and he would experience a significant detour on the express lane to the promised land. Because David has found favor with God and the people of Israel, Saul becomes intensely jealous and develops murderous intentions. The trajectory of David's life suddenly changes. He is no longer being drawn to the palace; he is being forced away from the palace. Maybe you have been there before... Everything is going right; we are killing giants; people love us; we are seeing God's plan unfold before our very eyes. Then, the trajectory suddenly changes. The dream no longer makes sense. "Maybe, I'm not really called to ministry." "Maybe, my church is supposed to struggle." "Maybe, my family will never live up to God's design."

David felt this frustration as well. After a season of wandering in the wilderness, he decided to bow out of the fight. He had two opportunities to kill off Saul and reach his destiny through his own efforts, but his conscience prevented him. Now, he is out of options. The dream will not happen. He had a good run, but now it was time for an exit strategy. He escaped to land of Gath and approached Achish about attaining a role in his administration. Since it was clear that he would never be king, his best option, seemingly, was to align himself with a great benefactor. 1 Samuel 27:1 records "David kept thinking to himself, "Someday Saul is going to get me. **The best thing I can do is escape to the Philistines.** Then Saul will stop hunting for me in Israelite territory, and I will finally be safe." David made a common mistake by confusing the best thing with the easiest thing. In difficult seasons, we can perceive any open door to be the right door. Do we take the broad road to comfort, or do we take the narrow road to purpose?

1 Samuel 28:1-2 records "Achish welcomes David with open arms. About that time the Philistines mustered their armies for another war with Israel. King Achish told David, "You and your men will be expected to join me in battle." "Very well!" David agreed. "Now you will see for yourself what we can do." Then Achish told David, "**I will make you my personal bodyguard for life.**" Though he is only looking for temporary reprieve, he almost made a decision that would alter his destiny forever. In our moments of frustration, we can forfeit God's plan for our lives. Like Esau, we can sell the birthright for a warm meal.

Destined to be king, David almost becomes a mere bodyguard for someone else. Fortunately, however, cooler heads prevailed. Some of the men of Gath protested against David's involvement in the battle because they were worried about his loyalty. They were concerned that he might switch allegiances during the war. I am sure that he was initially disappointed. After a tough season of turmoil, he thought that he had identified a viable exit strategy. Now, that door has closed. He can't even be a bodyguard. He didn't realize that God only said no because He had a bigger yes in mind. We all have unanswered prayers. What if God closed the "bodyguard" door because he was planning on opening the "king" door?

Saul was actually killed in that very battle. David almost gave up on his promise only DAYS before it was fulfilled. **Don't settle too soon. Don't bow out of the fight. God has a bigger yes in mind for you.**



# GATHERING

c o n f e r e n c e

**JUNE 5TH-7TH, 2018**  
**CALVARY CHURCH, FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

We are taking the Destiny Gathering Conference back to Calvary Church in Fort Worth, Texas! Conference festivities will kick off Tuesday evening with a "Taco Tuesday" Welcome Party. Wednesday and Thursday mornings will begin with large group worship and breakout sessions to encourage and equip you and your ministry. The evening services will include engaging worship and dynamic speakers. The Destiny Kids' Gathering will be in full swing, and activities are being planned for your teenagers to connect and fellowship during the morning sessions. Four meals will be catered on the church grounds to provide great opportunities to connect and build relationships. This year's meals are being catered by hometown favorites: **Chick-fil-A, Fuzzy's Tacos, McAlister's Deli and Babe's Chicken!** Meal tickets are available at a discounted rate during registration. Register your family and purchase your meal tickets today! We can't wait to see you there!

**2018 MEAL TICKET PRICES | SINGLE \$60, COUPLE \$120, FAMILY \$150**

**REGISTER NOW | [THEDESTINYGATHERING.COM](http://THEDESTINYGATHERING.COM)**

# SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY, JUNE 5TH

6:00PM | Welcome Party

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6TH

9:30-10:30AM | General Session

10:45-11:45AM | Breakout Session 1

11:45AM-12:30PM | Lunch

12:45PM-1:45PM | Breakout Session 2

6:00PM | Evening Service  
(DLI Graduation and Ordination Service)

Dinner immediately following the Evening Service.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 7TH

9:30-10:30AM | General Session

10:45-11:45AM | Breakout Session 3

11:45AM-12:30PM | Lunch

12:45PM-1:45PM | Breakout Session 4

6:00PM | Evening Service

## FRIDAY, JUNE 8TH

7:00 PM | Bonus Day Astros/Rangers Game  
(Tickets can be pre-purchased by calling  
the Destiny Office at 501.887.9933)

# BREAKOUTS

## WEDNESDAY | SESSION 1

**Small Groups:** Jeffery Kent

**Financial Planning:**

Dr. Phil & Cathy Brassfield, Aaron Hight,  
and Dustin Watts

**Marriage & Ministry:** Jeff & Miquell Hennigan

**DLI Hangout:**

Landon & Sarada Galloway

**Great Ideas:** Alex Suber

**Youth Hangout (6th-12th grade):** Manny Gonzales

## THURSDAY | SESSION 3

**Breaking Growth Barriers:**

Jason Warman and Ryan Lowe

**Communicating with Your Church:** Marcus Briggs

**Leading When You Aren't in Charge:**

Brandon Stewart

**Youth Pastor Hangout:** Jarred & Evelyn Moss

**Women in Ministry Hangout:**

Cathy Brassfield, Trina Lowe, and Sarada Galloway

**Youth Hangout (6th-12th grade):** Manny Gonzales

## WEDNESDAY | SESSION 2

**Dream Team:** Bryan & Ashley Larson

**Running Effective Meetings:**

Marcus Briggs and Ryan Lowe

**Marriage & Ministry:** Jeff & Miquell Hennigan

**Senior Pastor Hangout:** Dr. Phil Brassfield

**Youth Breakout (6th-12th grade):** Manny Gonzales

## THURSDAY | SESSION 4

**Great Ideas:** Alex Suber

**Worship Leader Hangout:** Amos McFalls

**Leading When You Aren't in Charge:**

Brandon Stewart

**Life of the Mind:** Landon Galloway

**Youth Breakout (6th-12th grade):** Manny Gonzales



# ***LEADING SECOND***

BRANDON STEWART





## I happen to believe the local church is the greatest thing going on planet earth today.

In the era of so much information on church growth, what does it really take to build a strong, healthy church? After all, if it only took vision, beautiful buildings, great music, precise programming, and use of social media... churches everywhere would be booming. The fact is that it takes something more to build a church that is healthy, strong, and capable of going the distance.

When you walk into a church, you can tell if a team has it. You can sense it. You can feel it. I don't know what it is, exactly. I don't know how to quantify it. But, I know it when I see it. You do too. The it factor is undeniable. When it exists, the team is all-in. They're healthy. When a team has it, the vision is clear and everyone is headed in the same direction. It is a powerful force in the life of a church.

The question I want to put on the table today is this: If Jesus' Church is central to His plan of salvation for our world, than what kind of team is He looking for in us? What does the team look like that has the it factor?

I believe that the answer to this question is one, simple word: **ALIGNMENT**.

Alignment in culture is the most powerful force in any church. Vision is the church we want, culture is the church we have. If vision and culture are out of alignment, culture wins. An author and personal hero of mine Sam Chand says it like this, "Culture eats vision for lunch."

Much has been written about culture in the past few years, and so I won't attempt to re-hash that here today. However, what I know about culture is that an organization's internal values drive every aspect of the team and what they're able to accomplish. When there is lack of alignment in values, chaos ensues. The loudest voices win in the absence of strong leadership. Those voices may not take the organization in the direction the leader intends it to go.

Misalignment is bad for tires, spines... and churches! Think about it. When the tires on your car are misaligned, driving is difficult. It takes extra effort to perform the most basic function of an automobile: accelerate and go straight! Even the easy stuff becomes difficult, and the driver soon becomes tired and worn out. This wasn't because driving was the problem, but rather because a lack of alignment in the vehicle. Likewise, when your spine is out of alignment, health cannot properly flow through your body. Back pain is some of the worst pain with which you can still function and live. It's the constant ache that is always on your mind.

Every single term I've used above can be used to describe teams who are experiencing a lack of alignment:

- Moving forward is difficult
- Extra effort required for basic functions
- Leaders become tired and worn out
- Lack of health in the body
- Pain that is constantly present

It's a tragedy to me that so many leaders find themselves leading teams who are out of alignment with the vision God has placed in their heart. It's an equal tragedy to me that so many young leaders and church staff who serve on teams spend their lives out of alignment with the leader God has placed in their lives. I truly believe we can do better than this.

Slight misalignment is worse than no alignment at all. This might sound counterintuitive, but think about it. When someone arrives in your church and is totally out of alignment with the culture, everyone knows (including the person). That person will only stay around so long, and will probably not engage much. Even if they do, the culture that exists will probably move them out naturally, because there is no common ground for that person.

To me, the far greater danger is the slightly misaligned person. This is the person who has a couple areas of misalignment with their leader or the culture, but manages to tolerate them (rather than deal with them). These things seem small at the beginning. They may be slight differences in theology, methods, or beliefs. However, this seemingly harmless person becomes a large threat much later in the game, when their tolerated issues pop to the surface and become major issues. Their misalignment shows it's face much later on, usually when they are in places of influence or leadership. This person ends up doing much more damage, all because they never learned to navigate areas of misalignment in their own heart.

I've been planted in one church for my entire life. I've essentially had one pastor and been part of one vision. I haven't stayed planted in one church because it's always been easy, or because I've always agreed with everything. I haven't stayed planted because I always thought we did everything perfectly. That would not be true.

I've stayed planted in the house God placed me in, and contributed to it's vision in significant ways, because I learned to navigate the issues of my own heart and created strong alignment to the house God placed me in. I surrendered my opinion to the cause of the greater team. I laid me aside, so that we could do more together.

*continued on next page*

In the process, the words of Jesus have become so true in my life:

*"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:39 NIV)*

To all the young leaders and church staff reading this article, I believe we can do better. I believe we can get this right. I believe we can live healthy and lead strong. I believe we can build the kind of churches that have the it factor, because of God's anointing and grace working in us. But, I believe this starts with us. I believe we have to get it right in our hearts first. We must allow Jesus to come in to every aspect of our lives, and break our hearts again for the vision that God has placed in our pastors. When this happens, I truly believe our churches will be unstoppable.

It's out of this heart that my wife and I started a new ministry called Leading Second. As I close today, I'll leave you with our Leading Second creed. My prayer is that you'll take this creed and make it your own. May the stories of our churches be one of health and alignment, for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

## The Leading Second Creed:

*I'm a Christ follower, called to build the local church. I am a leader serving a vision bigger than myself. I champion the uncommon realm of honor, where my Pastor's vision is my vision. I own it. My personal success is second to my church's success. I will die to self daily to see the Church move forward. I stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before me and surrendered their lives. I will do the same. I will give every ounce of my life to this work, with no regard for credit, positions or titles. I will leverage all of my influence for the cause of Christ, to see His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. I am an UNCOMMON church builder. I am LEADING SECOND.*



Brandon Stewart serves on the leadership team at Champions Centre, under the ministry of Pastor Kevin Gerald, where he has been firmly planted his entire life. He wakes up every day with the mandate to Move Church Forward, with a deep conviction that the local church is the hope of the world. Brandon and his wife, Lindsay, lead a non-profit ministry called Church Forward, through which they regularly coach and consult with pastors across the United States and Canada. They are the founders of Leading Second, a community of church staff and young leaders. While at home, Brandon also assists in leading Team Church, the leadership and team conference of Champions Centre. Brandon and Lindsay have one daughter, Zane, and live in Tacoma, WA. Find him on Instagram: @brandonmstewart

# LEADING SECOND

*Leading Second is an intentional community that inspires, equips, and coaches young leaders and church staff who've given their lives to lead from the middle of a ministry or organization. Leading Second exists to develop healthy, vibrant young people who are running strong for the Kingdom - a highly motivated and incredibly talented tribe of uncommon leaders coming together often to talk about their struggles, their wins and their purpose.*

*For more information on Brandon Stewart or all the ways you can connect with Leading Second, visit **leadingsecond.com**.*

# FOUNDATIONS

DESTINY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

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- The basic doctrines that constitute the Christian faith?
- How to grow in prayer and devotion?
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- How to share your faith with others?
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# CHRIST CHURCH RUSTON, LA

CHRIST CHURCH LAUNCHES SECOND CAMPUS

PASTOR RYAN LOWE





Because Destiny is our family, many of you already know and have been praying for us as we pursued an additional campus in Ruston, Louisiana. To say it was a seamless process would be disingenuous, but with God's help and under the leadership of my dad, Pastor Tom Lowe, we launched Christ Church Ruston on March 11, 2018.

Going multisite wasn't an option for us, because we live by the principle, to whom much is given much is required and God has blessed us beyond our imagination. The things we dreamed about in the past are now the realities we are walking in today. So although going multisite is not for every church - we saw it as an opportunity and an instrument to extend the love of Jesus to a city we felt called to reach. Becoming a multisite church wasn't just something we wanted to do - it was something we felt called to do.

Gearing up for our launch Sunday at our Ruston Campus, we had two services, a technical service and a "soft" launch which both provided insight into areas that needed A LOT of attention.

When launch Sunday finally arrived, it was filled with both excitement and anxiety; but what God did on that Sunday was not because of us, but in spite of us. We are excited to report that 506 souls attended our launch service.

God has continued to allow us to make great connections in that community and on Easter 2018, just 3 weeks after launch Sunday, 511 were in attendance.

God is so faithful, and as we continue to walk in the call that God has placed on Christ Church, we believe He will do immeasurably more through the Ruston campus to transform that community with the Gospel.



Ryan has served on the pastoral staff of Christ Church for 12 years and is deeply passionate about the ministry of the local church. In his current role as the Executive Pastor of Ministries, he oversees staff development and is also a part of the speaking team. Ryan works closely with the team and Pastor Tom to ensure that each element of ministry is working cohesively with the corporate vision.

Ryan has been married to Lindsey for 12 years and they have two children, Willa Rae (5) and Guy (4).



# BUILT FOR DESTINY

PASTOR WARREN RICHARDSON

As most of you know Destiny has been a source of momentum for so many for almost two decades. We are a Covenant Family of Friends. Our conferences began in Heber Springs and moved out from there.

It has been one terrific ride. Few things bond people together like shared memories, experiences and relationships. As we look around each year, we have collectively created points of light and points of remembrance.

We are soldiers who battle together, teammates, who win together, and classmates who graduate together (DLI), a connection that never goes away. At the core of your being, your very essence is spirit. Your spirit touches reality seen and unseen and communicates in a language all of its own.

When we come together, we create, connect, and we share our lives. Spirituality and memory cannot exist without images, sounds, and symbols. Close your eyes and we can hear, imagine, and see the Seasons of our lives.

I didn't realize until sometime later in life how really important friends are. I tell my sons and daughter's in law that outside of a few friends, we are only interventions into people's lives for a short season of time.

We have had some powerful Kairos times (opportune times). Kairos signifies a time in between or a moment where something significant or special happens. We have had so many of these special seasonal moments.

God's now time for your life is seasons, leadership, passion, and momentum. Have you ever gotten so caught up in a season that you wondered if it would ever end? As leaders we must have a view of eternity and operate from that perspective. In the fullness of time Jesus came! He came to give you and me a new start.

Our ability to identify the Seasons of our lives increases our ability to cooperate with God.

## 1. LIFE IS AN EBB AND FLOW OF SEASONS.

We spend time in a season and we move on. Cathie and I don't talk about the ages of our children, we visit seasons! We say remember when; remember when they did this and remember when they said that.

The most accurate way to gauge your life is to discern what season you are in and put those life verses of scripture in their proper place,

Be confident and compassionate of others and their seasons. It's not your job to get people to your season, but identifying your current season is vital to moving on.

## 2. LEADERSHIP IS MOVING FORWARD.

Our theme this year at the Summit in Life Groups has been Life is Moving Forward. Life is moving forward and the church must move forward with love and the message of hope and faith.

Someone will create the culture of your church. Will it be by design or by default? Whatever a culture is, it grows. Jesus is a culture creating leader. His leadership took on a precise form.

- He gathered a team around a common cause.
- He motivated them with encouragement.
- He gave directions and leadership to follow.
- He sent them out on a mission.

This sounds like Destiny to me. Dr. Phil Brassfield and Cathy and the leadership have led us into a great Covenant Season. What a terrific influence we have had.

Leadership sets the example, the course, the mood, and the vision.

By the way, God is in a good mood. Can I get a witness?

A few years ago at one of our Destiny conferences Joe Garlington brought a message on the Camels Are Coming. I have revisited that many times. In Genesis 24, Abraham commissioned Eleazer, his servant, to find a wife for Isaac.

It was common for women to fetch (a Southern term) water for their households and their camels, a big chore to say the least. She said, "I am going to do what is expected of me and then some." Rebekah had no idea what the ramifications were when she watered those camels. She didn't know that they were loaded with riches.

What she watered one day, she owned the next. She was about to ride that camel she was watering all the way back to Isaac - her prince charming!

I believe God will lead us in amazing ways in the coming months.

## 3. PASSION AND MOMENTUM.

I see passion and momentum being a huge part of our journey. The Bible says Jesus showed himself alive after his passion. We have been able to move ahead through a lot because we have passion.

One of the things I have learned to do is challenge my passion and by that I mean you can have the right passion, but the wrong place. Passion needs a place to operate and misplaced passion is very dangerous.

If you're passionate, you take notes in church (for all you pastors). God wants you to be available and teachable. We never get too old to learn and grow!

A few points of importance before I leave passion:

- Interests are not passion.
- Knowledge is not passion.
- Attraction is not passion.
- Passion is from the heart!

Passion is proven when you kneel down in the Garden of Gethsemane and say I don't want to do this, but if it's your will, I will do it.

We, in a way, have taught people that if they don't feel it, they don't have to do it. You really haven't found your passion till you get past your feelings.

*continued on next page*

The truth of passion is perseverance and consistency. You have to keep your passion strong and remember not to regret where you are, but remember where you are going. Redirect your passion to a godly vision.

Destiny has been a source of momentum to me. Our leadership team at Destiny has provided an example of godly leadership and success. We have before us the opportunity to seize the moment and create momentum. Right now you are standing at the crossover point of your future. Where will you go?

Crossover is the change that we must embrace or face being left behind. So many friends, family, and others are waiting for you to take your place. They are praying that you will rise to the occasion and move forward with truth and grace.

So many of those that God is placing in your path are waiting for God to touch them through you. There are going to be plenty of moments filled with opposition and resistance, but resurrection trumps resistance.

Those who are with us are more than those who are with them. Our prayer is that we as his choice servants will see what God already has in place. The word of God is hurdling over distractions and discouragements to get to you and the word of God does not return void.

Momentum changes us and brings our message of grace and love to our neighbors, our cities, and our nations. We are building a Jesus culture that is moving life forward and we are built for life through our Savior and His amazing grace.



*Warren Richardson is Senior Pastor of the Summit Church in the Northwest part of Mississippi. Warren and Cathie planted the Summit in 2007. Their ministry is touching the Memphis and northwest Mississippi area every day. Warren is an empowerment specialist, thought leader, and influencer for cultural change. His background is in pastoring, theology, and human development. His Empowerment Conferences have touched people in government, education, and ministry. He and Cathie are voices in transforming lives, cities, and communities. Warren and Cathie have been in ministry for almost 36 years and have been a part of Destiny Ministries since its beginning. He is excited about the future of America and the contribution we will make in the days ahead.*

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## FIRST BANK OF OWASSO SOARS TO SECOND ON LIST OF HIGHEST PERFORMING COMMUNITY BANKS IN THE U.S.



First Bank of Owasso was recently named one of the top-performing community banks in the United States. According to a study conducted by S&P Global Market Intelligence, First Bank of Owasso ranked second out of 4,383 U.S. banks and thrifts with less than \$1 billion in assets. First Bank of Owasso has seen substantial growth in recent years. Remarking on this growth, President & CEO, Dee Sokolosky added,

*"Referrals from existing clients resulted in net-loan growth of \$68 million in 2017, including closed loans in Hartford, Nashville, Chicago, and Las Vegas."*

First Bank of Owasso's ascent in the rankings results from its increased loan portfolio, coupled with zero loan losses and zero non-performing loans in 2017. First Bank of Owasso performed higher than the top-100 median community banks in five of the six metrics used in determining the rankings. Arizona's Metro Phoenix Bank was the only bank which ranked higher than First Bank of Owasso in 2017.

Founded in 1962, First Bank of Owasso serves both individuals and businesses within the Tulsa metropolitan area and specializes in serving churches across the country. First Bank of Owasso serves clients in over 40 states and has assets of over \$360 million.



If you would like more information, please contact First Bank of Owasso at [digitalmarketing@firstbank.net](mailto:digitalmarketing@firstbank.net)



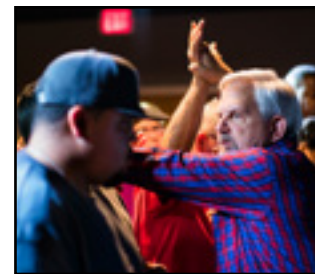


Patrick and Deborah Rogers are Kingdom catalysts. Having a heart for the Presence of God, their passion is to see others connect with and experience a tangible encounter with God's presence. After years of faithfully pastoring in Round Rock, Tx, the desire of their hearts is to see every believer truly have an encounter with the presence of God, locally and around the world. In 2017 the Lord began to open doors for them to once again begin to travel encouraging and equipping the Global Church for transformational encounters in God's presence.

The Rogers as a couple truly have ministered from a five fold model for many years as they blend the Prophetic and Apostolic giftings as a unique team to create a climate of awakening and activation. The vision of Presence Encounter Ministries is to equip and activate the body of Christ to live a supernatural lifestyle with signs, wonders and miracles and to see the people of God become aware of who they are and walk in their true identity as sons and daughters, co-laboring with the Holy Spirit to bring transformation to people, cities and nations.

Through revelational teaching, people experience transformation and become activated to see the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit with signs, wonders, and miracles operate in their everyday life. Ordinary believers walking in extraordinary exploits. The Rogers' long to see true spiritual awakening that causes the people of God walk in their identity as sons and daughters.

One of the greatest needs today is for spiritual fathers and mothers to begin to search for and identify spiritual sons and daughters. This is the passion and heartbeat of both Patrick and Deborah who have raised up a beautifully successful family in the natural and now are opening their hearts to the masses.



**KINGDOM CATALYST** bringing  
**HEAVEN TO EARTH** to  
**ACTIVATE, EQUIP AND TRANSFORM**  
**PEOPLE, CITIES and NATIONS**



**PRESENCE  
ENCOUNTER**  
MINISTRIES  
**ACTIVATE | EQUIP | TRANSFORM**  
**PEOPLE | CITIES | NATIONS**

*I believe this ministry will truly have an impact upon the nations in the next few years. Patrick is one of the most gifted teachers, with an anointing to activate identity and giftings, I've ever heard. I have been in ministry for over 35 years and have never met anyone with any more passion for recognizing and celebrating God's tangible presence! It is the underlying foundation of this ministry and is evident in every sermon, prayer, and Prophetic word spoken from either Patrick or Deborah. I am so grateful that I, as well as Oasis Church, will have a front row seat to partner with and observe the favor of our Father working through the lives of this amazing couple!*

**--Pastor Jonathan Suber, Oasis Church**

#### **Presence Encounter Ministries**

P.O. Box 170758  
Austin, Texas 78717

peministries.org  
info@peministries.org  
512-217-2251

# CONGRATULATIONS 2018 DLI GRADUATES

DAVID BENDER  
TERRY BUTLER  
BRAD COOPER  
JEREMY CUNNINGHAM  
ARNULFO FLORES  
CHAD GREEN  
JARED HIGHT  
JACOB HINOJOSA  
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**Enrollment for Fall 2018 is open now.  
Register today at [destinyleadershipinstitute.com](http://destinyleadershipinstitute.com).**

*\* Those who enroll and set up a payment plan in June will receive their first semester of books at no charge! \**



D E S T I N Y  
L E A D E R S H I P  
I N S T I T U T E

# *introducing the* **DLI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** D E S T I N Y   L E A D E R S H I P   I N S T I T U T E

DLI is more than a program; it's a family! The two years of study is just the beginning of what we hope to be a lifelong relationship with Destiny. We have created a way for you to stay connected, to help you share the DLI experience with others, and to access exclusive resources.

## **WHAT YOU GET:**

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3. Access to regular "Coffee-Talks with Phil and Cathy"
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5. Two leader-boxes, full of hand-selected books and resources, shipped to your home.
6. Exclusive access to Alumni Advances and educational trips

## **WHAT YOU GIVE:**

1. \$40 a month or \$500 a year
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