

FALL/WINTER 2020

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Welcome to this edition of the Destiny Magazine! We are so excited to have you join us, and you're going to be glad you did. This edition has something for everyone. There are great articles with compelling themes, updates on ministry families, a summary of our fall Connect Event (Bigger. Better. Stronger.), an introduction to our LoveFirst program complete with featured sermon series, and much, much, more.

As we come back from one of the most difficult periods in our lifetimes, as churches reopen and navigate the challenges of an ongoing Pandemic while trying to find a new normal, as we get our bearings after a tumultuous political season hallmarked with extremes and social unrest at a level not seen in a generation, let us encourage you to lean into your Destiny family! We are here to help, support and encourage you and your teams. We are in this together and God is for us, with us and has our back.

Check out all the great opportunities to connect and when you have a chance, give us a shout. We want to hear from you!



A BROKEN NET

LONDON GALLOWAY

Luke 5:1-11 records the call of the first disciples. Traditionally, a rabbi would accept applications from potential followers. Rabbis generally wanted the most studious and capable disciples. They sought the ones who had mastered the Scriptures and came from a proper pedigree. Rabbi Jesus had a different philosophy. Instead of demanding disciples to seek him, He sought them. He chose fishermen with calloused hands instead of students with cultivated minds. He didn't call the qualified; He qualified those that He called. I'm glad that Jesus still takes this approach. Before I ever knew to seek Him, He sought me. He didn't call me based on my credentials but because of His compassion.

Only Luke tells us that the initial call of the disciples was accompanied by a miraculous catch of fish. In Luke 1:3-4, the narrator tells us that the aim of the Gospel is to "write an orderly account" so that Theophilus (the guy to whom Luke dedicated the Third Gospel and Acts) might have "certainty" concerning the things that he had been taught. Mark 1:17-18 records the calling of the disciples: "And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him." This does not sound plausible and would not give our friend Theo

"certainty"; why would these men leave their families and their homes to follow Jesus? Luke does not tell of the call of the disciples until after he has recorded the healing of many in Capernaum, including Peter's mother-in-law (Lk 4:38-40). Then, according to Luke, Jesus miraculously delivers a great catch of fish to the fishermen before calling them to follow Him. These details help readers readily understand the disciples' willingness to abandon all and follow Jesus.

When Jesus approaches the disciples, He finds them washing their nets after a disappointing night at sea. The disciples had fished all night (which was the best time to fish) and caught nothing. Jesus boarded the boat, used it for a platform to speak to the crowds, then asked Peter to take Him on a little ride. After they reached deep water, He asked them to throw the net into the water one more time. There is so much power in "one more time." When faced with repeated failure, our instincts are to wash our nets and put them away. But, what if the next time is the right time? Yes—It seems that miracles happen in the land of "one more time."

Simon Peter responded: "Master, we have toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets!" He shook off the disappointment of last night and embraced the hope of today. And, immediately, his obedience was

rewarded. "They enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking." The catch was so great that it caused the net to break!

This is a metaphor for Peter's time as a disciple. He was immensely blessed by the Master, but He wasn't equipped to receive it.

He was given the revelation that Jesus was the King, the Christ, and the Son of God and was provided the keys to the kingdom for this revelation. What a huge blessing! But, his net broke when he rebuked Jesus for stating that His kingship would involve suffering and death. He was given the opportunity, along with only James and John, to accompany Jesus deep into the Garden of Gethsemane during the most vulnerable moment of his Master's life. His net broke when he failed to pray and fell asleep.

The breaking of the net was finalized in the outer court of Caiphas' house. While Jesus was inside the house boldly proclaiming His identity to the council and giving up His life, Peter was vehemently denying Jesus to save his own life. Peter was called to be a "fisher of men." His destiny was to proclaim: "I know Jesus, and you should too." Instead, he proclaimed: "I don't even know the man." Peter was blessed with witnessing the many healing miracles performed by Jesus. He was given the opportunity to stand alongside the Master when He commanded the dead to raise. He saw Jesus calm storms and cast out spirits. He even walked on water briefly!

Jesus gave so much to Peter, but Peter was not equipped to handle the blessings.

Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. And, on the third day He rose again. After His resurrection, He appeared to His disciples. Peter knew that his friend and Master was raised from the dead, but apparently thought that his denials had nullified his assignment as fisher of men. So, he went back to being a fisher of fish. In John 21, Peter tells a group of the disciples: "I am going fishing." And, they all go with him. We have all been here before. We have disappointed ourselves or have been disappointed by others, and we think that disappointment cancels out destiny. We stop living for what could be. We stop pursuing the fantastic and go back to the familiar. We exchange calling for comfort.

Just like in Luke 5, Jesus finds these disciples that He has chosen and loved fishing in a boat. And, again, they have been fishing all night with no results. Jesus calls out from the shore: Cast the net one more time. One. More. Time. Peter was given another chance, an ability to start all over. And this time, we are told that "Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. **And although there were so many, the net was not torn.** (John 21:11)" The experience of Peter would be drastically different in the future. Peter would not only receive blessings, but his net would be able to contain them.

The Peter of Acts is completely different than the Peter of the Gospels. He preaches boldly and suffers nobly. He preaches the first Christian sermon at Pentecost and is the first person to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles. According to reliable tradition, he was crucified upside down for the sake of the Gospel.

Have you checked your net lately? So often, we ask God to grant blessings and to provide resources. We pray for miracles and open doors. But, are we capable of receiving them? What if He brings us the things that we have prayed for, but we are not able to hold on to them? You can't control when the fish might come, but you can make sure that your net is ready.



LANDON HAS BEEN THE DIRECTOR OF DESTINY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (DLI) 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. HIS ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE HAS PREPARED HIM TO LEAD DLI WITH PURPOSE AND VISION.

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. WHILE AT ORU, HE SPECIALIZED IN THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT, PARTICULARLY THE GOSPEL OF LUKE. LANDON IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON PH.D. IN BIBLICAL STUDIES FROM MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

LANDON ALSO SERVES AS CAMPUS PASTOR AT GRACE CHURCH, TOMBALL, TEXAS. HE IS MARRIED TO SARADA, AND THEY HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS VANNA AND ZARRA.

J. OSWALD SANDERS
SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP
Principles of Excellence for Every Believer



BIGGER. BETTER. STRONGER.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR **BIGGER. BETTER. STRONGER.** DISCIPLESHIP SERIES.



Getting Bigger. Better. Stronger. has been the theme of our Destiny Connect Event series this Fall. After much prayer and careful consideration, we came to believe that we could do just that, even in the challenging environment we have all found ourselves this year. Normally, during the fall we would host a range of regional connect events designed to build community among our members and provide needed training for Christian Leaders, but the COVID pandemic changed our plans. So, we brought together great speakers, writers and an amazing book, a classic on the subject, and read, studied and learned together.

The very heart of Destiny is to equip you, not just on leadership but Spiritual Leadership. As Christians we know that without the Holy Spirit we are powerless and if we expect to strengthen our advances in the Kingdom of God, we must walk in the Spirit. So, we curated a collection of materials designed to deepen our spiritual wells while enhancing our leadership skills at the same time. This section will give you some highlights and connect you to the program on line. We have gathered everything in one place for you on our website www.destinyleaders.com. Catch a glimpse of what you can expect.

Endorsements

Sanders said *"However spiritual a leader may be, he cannot translate vision into action without executive ability."* (p. 87) I have found this to be true. More vision has failed due to a lack of execution than we would like to admit. Vision without an actionable plan leads to frustration. A simple exercise to grow in our execution skills is to "begin with the end in mind" (Covey) and then construct steps and processes along the way that will enable us to arrive at our desired location. Thinking of vision in step form forces us to logically organize and assemble the teams, systems and goals needed to make the bigger vision a reality.

--PASTOR JONATHAN BUCKLAND

I was challenged by Sanders to self evaluate and correct not the specific things I do but the spirit, the ethos, or the motivation for why I do them. **--PASTOR STEPHEN MARTIN**

We often forget in the quest for the latest and greatest "something new" that the basics discussed in this book on leadership still work and work well! Because- they are God's idea! **--PASTOR MARK BRIGGS**

I don't think I have ever come across a book that is so clearly confronting, leading, awakening, defining and clearly laying out how to apply. Thank you Destiny Leaders, I wouldn't have known about this without you inviting us to be a part of the journey in this season. **--PASTOR DANNY REED**



Spiritual Leadership

DR. PHILLIP BRASSFIELD

Spiritual Leadership seems to me to begin with a solid commitment to the authority of God in all matters. What makes something godly? (Godly is short for God-like). What are His characteristics, opinions, and values? How does He view leadership? When seeking to be a Spiritual Leader, the old cliché “WWJD, what would Jesus do?” is a great place to start. In Jesus we see a perfect representation of God the Father (Hebrews 1:1-3). He was so synchronized with the Father that He would say of Himself, “When you have seen Me you have seen the Father.” “I have come to do His will and finish the work He sent me to do...” In Jesus we learn the heart of the Father for Christian Spiritual Leadership and see a man who was focused on God’s will, God’s ways continually.

Spiritual leadership, then, is always rooted in the will, ways and means of God. Jesus’ style of leadership was shaped by His interaction and submission to His Father. Here are three steps you can follow that will help you do the same.

1. Always be God Aware. Jesus was always aware of God, First. Having God on my radar, being aware of Him as a reality is the first step in spiritual leadership. As a leader, if I react too quickly I will often react out of my own skills set, gift mix or personal nature. And, too often I will let fear dominate my decisions. Learning to stop and look for God in the situation, asking for His guidance through the Holy Spirit will tune me into a different frequency. It gets me out of my own

head and pushes my thinking onto a larger platform of possibility. I believe this is what Jesus meant when He said, “But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...” Matthew 6:33. God has a solution, direction and a purpose that always prevails. When you think about it, it’s really smart to start with God and then to lead from His perspective. As a rule, you can think of it this way: spiritual leaders are God-conscious, carnal/earthly leaders are self-conscious.

2. Seek to Acknowledge God’s wisdom, authority and motives. Always seek to acknowledge God. Solomon said it this way in Proverbs chapter 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.” What a great directional spiritual leadership principle. It is great to become aware of God as more than a mystical idea and a spiritual entity watching from a distance. But to really become God conscious in everything and in every situation is the first step toward effective spiritual leadership. As a spiritual leader, I must acknowledge His infinite superiority in thought, design, intent and potential. I must do more than simply become aware of His presence; I must acknowledge Him by seeking, discovering and applying His ways and means to the leadership challenges with which I am confronted. When I do, the Scripture promises that He will direct my paths.

3. Act in Agreement with God. Finally, once aware of God’s presence, having acknowledged His ways and

means (how He gets stuff done), I must agree with Him and act accordingly. Too many times as leaders we lead from a fear perspective. We imagine all the negative things that might happen if we fail to act in a certain way or take a particular course of action that seems logical to the natural mind. But I must dismiss fear from my reasoning when setting a course of action or making a critical decision. I should always find God’s will and agree with Him. Agreement is where faith takes over and true submission is achieved. Now I am acting not as a tyrannical dictator driven by the fear of a negative consequence or of being out of control, but as a humble servant whose greatest goal is to do the will of God, trusting God’s will to be the best solution for every situation.

In summary, it’s just this simple to practice spiritual leadership. Always be aware of God. Believe that He is always present and interested. See Him as your first option and not your last resort. Make Him the master of your life and don’t use Him as a lucky charm or a lottery ticket. Then acknowledge God’s wisdom, greatness and power. Acknowledge His vast resource of truth and that His intent is always for the highest good. Finally, set yourself in agreement with Him. Decide that you are going to agree with God no matter what. Determine that your role as a spiritual leader is simply to follow Him, submit to His will, His ways, and in doing so, you will release His means into every leadership challenge you face.

The Leader and Time



EDDIE MCFALLS

Reflections on Chapter 12 of Spiritual Leadership by Oswald Sanders.

Time management is an enormous subject in both its importance and scope. Whether we admit it or not we are all up against the clock.

You may have noticed this but different personalities are drawn to various sports that cater to their personalities. For example, fans of basketball, football and soccer appreciate that barring any major injury or egregious penalties one can predict the time the game will end rather accurately. The game itself is marked off in segments of time - quarters and halves. Other sports don't follow a rigid time format. Baseball is divided into innings, but an inning does not have set boundaries of time. An inning could possibly be over in three quick pitches and ground ball putouts, or it could be a protracted event. That applies to the top or bottom of any inning. I am informed by fans and players of cricket that games can last for days. (I must insert that we haven't time to linger here with further explanations.)

Dr. Sanders offers some insights of his own that are worth pondering while scattering through this chapter some keen perceptions of others. I find it interesting in his mention of a notable man who arrived at a method of dealing with interruptions by seeing them as godsend in his day. Yet, other men, John Wesley and F.B. Meyer are cited, divided their day into five-minute increments and scrutinized each slice of the day for accomplishment. It would seem they

planned the work and worked the plan with dogged diligence. Is that what they call micromanagement? I'm just asking for a friend.

I guess what I'd like to submit is that no one time management system will work for every person. That certainly doesn't advocate for throwing the concept of time management out. Doing the best things possible with the given moments we have is crucial.

Perhaps that is at least part of the motive behind the prayer of Moses, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12) I imagine any thoughtful person would agree we all could learn from The Eternal One lessons regarding time.

I would suggest that we examine a variety of processes and plans to hone in on the method that sharpens our minds and provides opportunities to accomplish worthwhile projects. Try the technique. If it works for you, employ it. Just be aware it may not be the most advantageous path for those around you. Is that why Moses is asking the controller of every tick and tock of the clock to "Teach us ..."?

In a society inundated with time saving devices and procedures we often groan that we just don't have enough time. Is anyone, like me, wondering where all the time we are saving is going?

As with every other dilemma that we face the answer flows from The Giver of time. "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

TEACH

Learning takes time and adjustment.

NUMBER

Having to do with accountability.

WE

Yes, it is us who are in need.

GAIN

God has things to add to us.

WISDOM

Heaven's perspective.

Moses was really on to something.



EDDIE MCFALLS WAS GIVEN A NEW BIRTH, BY GOD'S AMAZING GRACE, IN JANUARY 1980. SINCE THAT TIME, HE HAS ENJOYED INNUMERABLE BLESSINGS. ONE OF THOSE BLESSINGS IS BEING MARRIED TO DEBBIE FOR 40 YEARS. GOD HAS GRANTED THEM TWO REMARKABLE CHILDREN; AMOS, CURRENTLY CAMPUS PASTOR OF CHRIST CHURCH RUSTON, LA AND KATY, WHO SERVES AT CHURCH OF THE CROSSROADS IN CORINTH, MS. BOTH OF THEIR CHILDREN ARE MARRIED TO DEVOTED AND TALENTED SERVANTS OF THE LORD JESUS. OTHER BLESSINGS HAVE BEEN TO SERVE THE KINGDOM IN VARIOUS ROLES AND TIME FRAMES - PASTOR IN HASTINGS, NE; ASSISTANT PASTOR IN CORINTH, MS; PRINCIPAL OF A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL. IN ADDITION, GOD HAS OPENED THE DOOR FOR HIM TO VISIT VARIOUS FOREIGN MISSION FIELDS - MEXICO, TRINIDAD, SOUTH AFRICA & ZAMBIA - SPEAKING TO CONGREGATIONS AND PARTICIPATING IN SEMINARS FOR RESIDENT MINISTERS. HIS GREAT DESIRE IS TO HONOR THE SAVIOR.

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HOW TO BE MADE WHOLE

PASTOR ROBIN STEELE

The majority of Americans were either so mad or so afraid during the early stages of COVID19 that their time at home was spent... worrying. We stewed and grumbled. We complained about the government. As church leaders, many of us were concerned that our church finances would be ruined and that no one would come back from the forced break. Now, as many churches are reopening, we are finding out that... people are coming back and the church finances are going to be alright. The people that are dealing with illness or setbacks are seeing that God is in the midst of that as well. We are going to be ok. We are going to make it.

I believe that many people will look back at their time during the COVID19 quarantine and say something like, ***"If I had known that things would turn out well, I would have enjoyed my time stuck at home."*** In essence, many Americans have had weeks of free time that we haven't seen since our childhood. However, the time at home didn't feel like a vacation. Instead, it felt like a prison. So many of us were unable to enjoy the time at home because our minds were trapped in the suspense of the unknown.

How do we drift so far from the assurance of God's provision? Why do we spend so much of our emotional energy struggling? It is bizarre that we can have so much knowledge of God in our head and yet, our heart feels something different. Seriously, most of our minds are filled with facts about God. Theoretically, we should not feel this way. There seems to be a disconnect.

In my household, we have one of the most vulnerable people around. My daughter is severely mentally and physically disabled. In the womb, her brain did not form correctly, and as a result, the doctors gave her just months to live. They predicted that she would die from the flu or pneumonia within a year. For the first 5 or 6 years, we entered into flu season thinking, "Is this the year." She has defied the odds and lived for 18 years. However, her life is extremely different from

you and me. She is unable to use any of her limbs, she can't speak, she can't eat by mouth, and she requires 24 hour assistance.

We lived in that cloud of unknown for so long. It was exhausting. Constantly trying to move forward in life without knowing what that might look like was draining. These scenarios were not only challenging to suffer through from a practical standpoint, but a continual barrage over the years reinforced a loud message that we were not going to make it. They figuratively said things to us like, "You have no future. You cannot sustain this. You will run out of money. No one understands you. No one has the capacity to be your friend. You need to give up."

As the world goes through 2020, negative messages bombard us. **If we listen to them unprepared, we will be swept away on a journey far from home.** We will travel from wholeness to a land of bitter, angry, lost, loneliness, and incompleteness. Most people live in this spot separated from the truth of God. As a result, we try to find our way back to peace in any way possible. Humans spend billions of dollars to get our minds off the mess. We try anything we can to distract ourselves, change our surroundings, or buy our way out of it. In 2020, alcoholism, drug use, suicides have all sky-rocketed.

The only thing that genuinely led Erica and I back home was hearing our Father's voice. I love what Augustine of Hippo said, "The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home." The voice of our Father speaks truth amidst the chorus of confusing voices. In my darkest hours, the only thing that has assured my peace has been the truth of God's voice. Hearing His voice and finding ways to center our lifestyle around it preserves the state of our hearts and minds.

When Jesus walked through desert times (literally a desert), he was tempted by the devil to believe that he was not whole. The only thing that Jesus used to combat the voice of the devil was the voice of his Father! Jesus said something amazing about pursuing



voices of the earth versus the words of his Father: *"People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"* (Matthew 4:4 NLT). Basically, Jesus was saying, "Don't rely on what people say around you. Don't even rely on what this world can provide for you (even if you like the taste). Instead, your heavenly Father's words are continuing to come towards you. Live off of those."

This is a beautiful way to live. Jesus was anchored in peace because he chose to listen to the truth from his heavenly Father instead of the words and facts shouting at him. You could make a case that Jesus knew the words of God because he was God himself. However, when Jesus addresses the devil, he uses the words of the Hebrew Bible. Word for word, Jesus quotes the Bible when confronted with the option to believe a lie. This example teaches us that God's Word is like a fountain that continually flows; it is relevant and personal. We can both hear it and read it in the Bible. We all know that we can learn a lot from literature. However, few believe that books can literally speak to you in the moment. The Bible offers just that.

When COVID19 started, Erica and I were ready. We have had such bulletproof faith about our family's health. It was almost like we had been through a pandemic boot camp with our daughter. Our experience with her and how it drove us to the voice of God gave us assurance that He was in control. No matter what is going on

around us (or even in our own home), we can trust that God is speaking and that is all that matters.

*Portions of this article are taken from Robin's new book: **"How To Be Made Whole"** which chronicles the profound message of God's acceptance and control of our lives.*



Robin Steele is the founder and lead pastor of PromiseLand Church in San Marcos, TX. Over the last sixteen years, they have gone from thirty people to a membership well over 2,000. PromiseLand is a multi-ethnic, multi-generational congregation that impacts people from all walks of life. Robin loves to teach, disciple, invest in pastors, hunt, fish, snow ski and ride his mountain bike (real fast) over crazy terrain!

In 2001, Robin and his wife, Erica, received the news that their newborn baby had a severe brain abnormality and would only live for six months or so. Their daughter, Kennady, just turned 18 years old and continues to defeat the odds. She lives with many disabilities and requires twenty-four hour care. Robin speaks all over the world about the incredible life lessons they have learned along the way. They have two sons as well: Jude and Avery.



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR DESTINY MEMBERSHIP 2021

It's time to renew your Destiny Membership for the year 2021. Renewing your membership has two dimensions. First, there is the annual Certification Fee of \$75 for Ministry Ordination or \$50 for General Ministry License, and then, secondly, making your monthly financial commitment to support Destiny Ministries throughout the year.

Over the years, Destiny has relied on the faithful support of our members to serve the Christian Leaders and churches we love so much. Every day we are engaged in the efforts to provide pastoral care for five-fold ministry leaders, to provide life-giving resources for our members, missions outreaches and opportunities, support for church planting efforts, and training disciples and leaders for ministry service both here and abroad.

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New Book Release:

HOW TO BE MADE WHOLE

by Robin Steele

Most people go their entire life longing for wholeness, yet failing to find it. We want our life to mean something. We want to matter. The problem is that life is filled with episode after episode where we face trouble and complications. We feel like it is impossible to find wholeness without living a flawless life.

How to Be Made Whole follows the true story of Kennady Steele, born with a severe brain disorder. She was only given 6-12 months to live along with a haunting disclaimer by her doctor to both parents that their daughter “would not have a meaningful life”. *How to Be Made Whole* walks the reader through a journey from brokenness to wholeness and how unanswered prayers for miracles often result in far greater blessings.



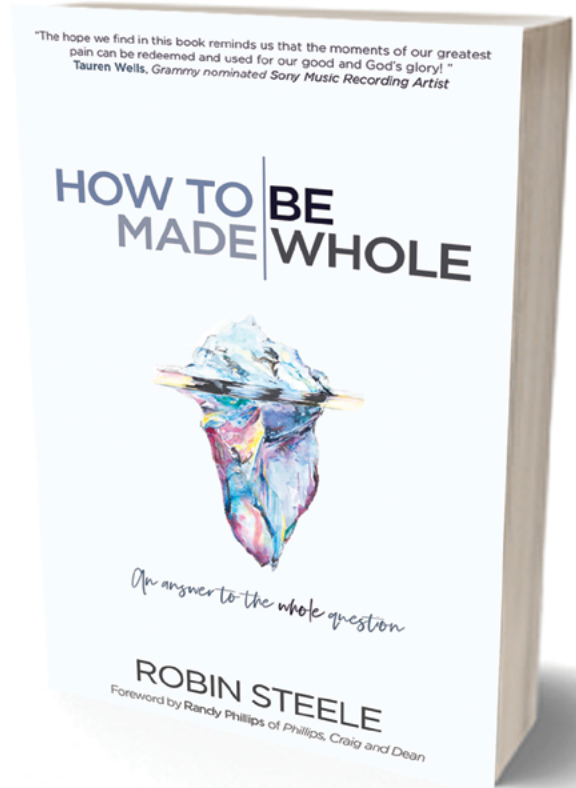
“The hope we find in this book reminds us that the moments of our greatest pain can be redeemed and used for our good and God’s glory!”

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“The revelation that God has given Robin in this book is truly incredible – you’ll begin to feel the power in it the minute you begin to read his story.”

Jeremy Foster
Lead Pastor Hope City



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OUT OF THE ASHES



DANNY AND CALLEY REED LIVE IN VIDALIA, LOUISIANA AND HAVE PASTORED CORNERSTONE CHURCH SINCE 2009. MOST RECENTLY, THEIR CHURCH EXPANDED AND RELOCATED TO A NEW CAMPUS IN NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI. THIS YEAR, THEY PIONEERED OPENING A FAITH-BASED MONTESSORI SCHOOL IN THE MISS-LOU. THEY HAVE NINE CHILDREN TOGETHER THROUGH BIRTH AND ADOPTION. THEY ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO PURSUE JESUS IN EVERY SEASON OF LIFE AND TO PERSEVERE IN TRIAL.

PASTORS DANNY & CALLEY REED

As a family, we have experienced many changes in our years of serving in ministry. But the largest culture shift surely was birthed out of a decision we made in 2010 to leave behind comfort and completely surrender to the call to allow God to use us to reach hurting, broken people. We brought home our first daughter through adoption and we began to experience the truth of brokenness and trauma as we determined to create an atmosphere of radical faith in our home each day. Our desire was to watch our daughter be made whole by the power of God. This brought about many other deeper questions. *Were we creating this kind of atmosphere of faith in our church? Were we blind to the trauma right in our backyard and in close by neighborhoods? Were we willing to surrender more?*

Those early questions were the beginning of a culture shift in our church. We have since learned over the years that reaching hurting, broken people involves way more than giving a Sunday and Wednesday nod. It involves one's complete life.

As the years have passed by and in the middle of a plethora of needs and demands, we have watched God continue to show up. Our church culture has

changed dramatically to have a heart for the broken. Our family has grown by 5 more children through birth and adoption. Every word God has spoken has been met by His unending faithfulness.

In the last 2 years we knew we were facing a crossroads again. As a family who had an array of needs that kept us running all over the state for resources, we received a word from Jesus in the summer of 2019. *"It's time to stop searching for resources for your family and it's time to begin building them."* This prompt from the Holy Spirit began many miraculous steps to start a faith-based Montessori school in our area. Teachers signed up to become accredited in the Montessori method. A team developed. Others surrendered much to be a part of this vision. Calley also walked through Montessori training and began college to become a trauma counselor.

As a church we prayed and fasted for direction for the space we needed for the growth we were seeing. God simultaneously laid a property on our hearts that was available in Natchez, Mississippi. It was a school campus that had 58,000 sq feet of building space, a football field, and room to expand. It was also way outside of what we could afford as a church. The property was appraised at 1.5 million.

In July, after much prayer, we knew that God was leading us to pursue the property. We offered way less than the asking price, but knew it was as much as we could afford as a church. The board over the property said no, and that was that.

One Sunday morning in October while Danny was preaching, the Lord gave a very clear word...*"Why do you quit when I say yes, but the enemy says no?"* We knew immediately what God was referring to. Why had we quit on the property? What could we do? After church we discussed it, and knew we should spend the next few days praying and fasting about the Natchez property.

On Monday evening (the following day), Danny's phone rang. It was the realtor calling with miraculous news. The board over the Natchez property had changed their minds about accepting our offer!



We had not heard from the board since July and it was now October! Only one day after the Lord had clearly convicted us that we should not give up, He had moved to fulfill His purpose!

The following January we began 21 days of prayer and fasting as a church, along with nightly worship. One night, while Calley was leading worship, the Lord began to give her a vision of the mighty harvest He desired in the Miss-Lou. She saw a river flowing through the region, and it brought life and fruit everywhere it touched. After worship that night, a lady in the church came to Calley and said she had to share a vision the Lord gave her during worship. She said, "The Lord showed me a mighty river that was passing through...but it is still dammed up. There is a shaking coming. But that shaking is what will be necessary to allow that river to flow where God intends for it to flow."

We didn't know what kind of shaking could be coming, but a few days later while Danny was working on demolition

at the Natchez campus, he fell about 13 feet from a platform onto the concrete. He could not move. He was in severe pain and could have died. Somehow, he barely fractured a wrist.

Our church fast continued and ended on a Sunday morning at the end of 21 days. The Monday morning following the end of the church fast, another surprising tragedy occurred. Calley woke up to discover that our home was on fire. The beloved family home that we had spent the last 4 years meticulously restoring, burned all day long. Firemen worked to put out the flames to no avail.



At the end of the fire, all that remained of the 120 year old plantation were three exterior walls and the floor. We had no idea what we were going to do, but our community and church rallied around us. People we did not know sent us clothing and household needs. There were so many donations dropped at our church that we could go shopping for our needs there. A local church opened up their parsonage for us. God was with us and we knew we were going to be okay.

As we prayed about what to do about our home, we were at a loss. We had minimal insurance money, and our old plantation was around 5,000 square feet. There was no human way we could afford to rebuild/restore again. While we prayed for direction, the Lord spoke a word to us one morning...*"The silver is mine and the gold is mine, says the Lord of Hosts..."* When we went to search out the scripture, we were amazed. It was Haggai 2:7-8 and it said, *"The silver is mine and the gold is mine, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house... And in this place I will bring peace."*

Since January of 2019, we have watched our home slowly rise up from the ashes. And as much as we loved

our old home before, it is even more suitable for our large family now. We have been able to restore many of the old elements while modernizing as well. We have watched God meet every need as it has come. We are now living on the Natchez campus property as we wait for our home's completion.

In the middle of a pandemic, our home is being rebuilt, our church campus has moved, and the new school has opened. Living Hope Montessori accepted its first students in August! Calley continues to work on her counseling degree and teaches at the Montessori school. Danny is working on rebuilding our home, transforming the new campus into a church campus, and restructuring ministries after the disconnect of quarantine. The work continues on the Natchez Campus, and week by week, various ministries are bearing fruit again after the changes of the last few months.



Our older Reedlings are in High School and working their first jobs, and our little ones are all enjoying the new school. And amazingly, we are expecting a baby girl in December! We recognize all of these things as nothing less than fruit in a drought.

We see clearly that the river of His Holy Spirit is passing through our region, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. While we wait expectantly to be on the other side of trials, and completed buildings and homes, we only need to look behind us at His unending faithfulness to know those things are surely right around the corner.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." -Jeremiah 17:7-8



JORDAN BRASSFIELD DUNHAM

From Graves to Gardens

...I would have to die to myself but He would bring new life out of the grave of my past.

My name is Jordan Dunham. I am 36 yrs old and this is the miracle of grace and my story of redemption.

To understand just how miraculous my God is, you have to understand how broken and lost I was. My first experience with addiction came when I learned my mother was in addiction. I watched her life crumble until at age 36 addiction claimed her life. I was 14 yrs old the morning my brother and I found my mom dead. Never did I imagine years later I would fall into the same trap.

My addiction started when I was 23 yrs old, after a series of horrible choices. During an 8 year affair I began to drink. I was up to a fifth of vodka a day along with 10 unisom (sleep aid) at night. I drank from morning to night and my life was falling apart. It wasn't until I had lost everything, my job, my home, my relationship, my best friend, and almost my life, that I cried out to God to be my friend. In His amazing grace, the Lord met me where I was and sang me a love song. He whispered to me that even though I hadn't fully made my mind up about Him...His mind was already made up about me. He loved me. He had never left my side and never would. He promised that He wanted to be my friend and so much more.

It wasn't easy for me but God gave me the strength to get sober. Where I

fell short was stopping at sober. God doesn't want you to just live a life sober. He wants you to live a life of surrender. I got sober, but suddenly, I was feeling all the shame and guilt I had spent years trying to numb. It was too much for me. I couldn't handle the process of healing. I couldn't imagine surviving addiction knowing my mother had died from it. I felt I deserved the same death. I fully expected to die at the age of 36 years. Unable to deal with my pain, I replaced alcohol for over-the-counter Mucus Relief DM. Let me tell you that was a silent killer. For years I took bottles and bottles, all the while still taking unisom. Mucus Relief was to get me up and going while the unisom got me to sleep until it didn't. This addiction was far worse than alcohol. Hallucinations, more overdoses than I can count, hollowed eyes, glazed and empty, stuttering and stumbling over my words. At times I could barely form coherent sentences....my body was dying from the inside out. I avoided people like the plague but I couldn't escape the Lord.

I was 35 years old when the Lord showed me in a dream of what He had planned for my mother. What He showed me changed my life. In that moment I saw my mother the way the Lord saw her. I felt the Lord say, "I wanted to deliver her. She didn't believe she deserved it, but I died so that I could give back her life. The life I had planned for her. Will you believe that I can and will do it for you?" I had to make a choice. The Lord was

fighting for me. He was still there, calling me to come out of hiding and into His light. After 5 years of trying to climb out of death's grave, I asked the Lord for help and He opened the door to Daughters of The Other Side. As I got sober and clear headed, I longed to hear His voice. I had remembered the love song He sang to me so long ago and wanted nothing more than to hear Him speak to me again. He did and He said this would be a season of crushing and pressing, but He was making new wine. He meant I would have to die to myself but He would bring new life out of the grave of my past. The process was so hard but I kept trusting He would do what He said He would. Looking back, I see how He was writing a story that only He could get credit for. The day I graduated DOTS was May 23rd. I was celebrating a life FREE from addiction the day before my mother's death from addiction, 21 years ago. What a victory! One month later I turned 36 yrs old and let me tell you this old grave is now a garden of dreams. God dreams. I am now on staff at the very program that gave me a fresh start. God kept His promise. A promise I found in Genesis.

"You intended to harm me, BUT GOD intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Genesis 50:20



Jordan's life is a story of redemption and restoration. After years of brokenness and addiction, God's grace has led Jordan to her purpose and passion. She currently serves as the Administrative Secretary at Daughters of the Other Side, a dynamic recovery ministry for women, and has joined the staff of Destiny Ministries as Social Media Manager. She is the daughter of the Directors of Destiny Ministries, Phil and Cathy Brassfield. She is married to Scott Dunham and they have two sons, Riley and Cooper.

IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO WELCOME JORDAN TO THE DESTINY TEAM WHERE SHE IS ALREADY MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE.



Dr. Ralph & Donna Holland



Organic

DR. RALPH & DONNA HOLLAND

Building an apostolic network should be organic, not manipulated. Never would we have dreamed that close to 300 pastors and ministries would look to us for leadership; a paternal leadership. We are honored to serve leaders with transparency and integrity.

Pastors and ministers are looking for a safe place to belong. They need relationships, not competition. They need a family. In that family there must be fatherhood. They are looking for fatherhood, mentoring, and encouragement from someone that has gone a little ahead of them and can coach them from the position of experience. We facilitate our network-building by strategically hosting pastors' conferences and training seminars in many countries as well as the USA. We always endeavor to be inclusive providing a safe environment for dialogue and that pre-Covid "pat on the back" so needed by so many. Organic!

Over the past 50 plus years, God has ordered our steps, taking us to more than 100 nations through relationship building. Our networks, INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS NETWORK, and MUNDO DE FE MINISTRIES embrace many language groups and cultures.

In the unique apostolic ministry that God has allowed us to serve, it has required understanding, embracing, and relating with different language groups and cultures all over the world. From country to country there are idiosyncrasies that require language

adaptation, a grasp of historical context, the careful navigation through government restrictions unique to each setting, and the consideration of the economic challenges in order to guide every church toward the goal of autonomy while staying connected to colleagues in their region. God has given us an uncanny ability to do just that as we provide apostolic leadership. Organic!

How did all of this come about? A little of our story goes like this. As a very young couple (23 and 21 years of age) we began our missions ministry in 1971 in the Caribbean. Ministry took us to Haiti (with its unique French/African culture and extreme poverty), the Dominican Republic (a Spanish-speaking country), St Marteen (a French and Dutch island), St Croix and other islands of the Caribbean. This region was the beginning of our training to jump from one culture and language group to another without pause and immediately identify with each upon landing in their country.

Later, during our 8 years in Costa Rica, we established a strong central church, a Bible training center and effectively placed national leaders in strategic locations to plant 17 churches.

Our next foreign residence was in Guadalajara, Mexico. This time in Mexico marked a dramatic change in our ministry role from traditional missionaries to an international ministry of networking as had been declared over us in prophetic and wise counsel. The word over us was that we would come and go from nations all over

Networking

the world. At the time, it seemed impossible, but God had it all in His plan. Organic!

It was in the next transition that we saw the plan of God begin to be fulfilled. The seeds sown in our years of foreign involvement all contributed to our new role upon setting up our ministry base in Dallas. Organic!

Characteristic of an organic apostolic ministry, the network must evolve and grow without self-promotion and solicitation so only to attract those whose hearts are pure and transparent. There is no agenda to secure a position; it is about the Kingdom, His Kingdom.

We began to serve in a ministry capacity that would give us the opportunity to empower, send and coach persons and ministries that would go to many nations of the world. Through our International Missions Network we continue to be a sending agency and provide oversight to national leaders and missionaries in Spain, Turkey, China, Russia, Czech Republic, Thailand, Turkey, India, Nigeria, Kenya, Israel, Honduras and Brazil.

Our time in Dallas also resulted in the founding of a large Spanish-speaking congregation based in the Dallas area. This church dovetailed with our international calling to become the central church that would initiate and cover churches in many nations of Latin America.

A large ministry was founded in Nicaragua that has literally impacted and connected hundreds of pastors cross-denominationally and resulted in an example church being established.

In Mexico, the network of Mundo de Fe pastors crisscrosses the nation with the central church in Mexico City and many other churches that have started from that one central church. Some of our network pastors have been born out of our churches, others have asked to become a part, others head their own networks but feel the need to connect their smaller networks to our covering. Organic!

The Mundo de Fe Ministries network covers pastors in Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Argentina, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Spain, and in many states here in the USA. One

of the ministries that we cover in Spain also has churches in Portugal, Germany and England. The network also includes a pastor in Jerusalem who is a Peruvian Jew.

Our current role as apostolic covering and networking allows us to freely "come and go" to encourage and coach awesome ministries in Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Organic!

When young men have told me that they would like to do what we do, (thinking of the exotic of travel), I tell them that "if they want to do what I do, they must be willing to do what I did." Of course, we are where we are today and continue doing what we do because we are called and obedient to that call. God has called us; graced us; blessed us and anointed us. His provision is as is His character. Faithful.

A book is currently being written about Ralph and Donna Holland that will share each step of the way on this calling that has been an exciting adventure. The author has chosen to title the book "Untiring" - Chronicles of love, faith and service.





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Vintage Church Launches New Location | Belton, TX

LAUNCH DATE : JANUARY 17, 2021

PASTOR STEPHEN MARTIN

The Bible teaches that The Church is more than just a place you go to, an event you attend, or some other activity on your to-do list. The church isn't a place you go to; it's a spiritual family you belong to. Kyla and I are by-products of what happens when The Church expands as are many of you.

The Grand Avenue Theater is the perfect place to launch this new life-giving church with its proximity to the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor campus in the heart of Belton and its convenient location on Highway 317 just minutes from West Temple.

We are also excited to install Drew and Diana Brassfield as the lead pastors for this new Vintage Church location. They have dedicated their lives to serving the local church and we are excited to send them out to lead and love this community. Drew and Diana Brassfield are passionate about serving and building people. They have a strong love for God, each other, and for the community of Belton.

As I look at what God has done in just seven short years, I can't help but wonder what He will do in the next seven years as we stay committed to reaching people and building family together! The best is ahead!



Stephen Martin
Founding & Senior Pastor



Drew & Diana Brassfield
Lead Pastor, Belton Location

THE WIN *is in the* STANDS

CATHY BRASSFIELD

Several years ago I attended a memorable high school football game where our nephew was playing. It was a beautiful evening and everyone was excited about the game.



As the two teams began to play, it wasn't long until the opposing team had the upper hand. As the coach stated later, "they got up on us pretty quick and we were down 2 or 3 possessions." Our guys were having trouble completing their assignments. Plays they had practiced, and already executed so well in previous games, were falling short. They were missing signals and passes. Before long, their shoulders began to droop. They were getting tired, and discouragement was showing on their faces.

But then, spontaneously, family members and friends began to call out to their players. "Come on guys!" "You can do this!" Feet began rumbling in the stands and hands clapped louder. From the people who had traveled to this out-of-town game, there came a chorus of encouragement for the players that grew in unison and volume. The energy was tangible. With every play, whether successful or not, came a barrage of encouragement and coaching. The fans were standing. They were shouting! They were loving. They were lifting. Like fresh wind, hope for a win was building.

Our team came together and added points to the board. Each score was celebrated loudly and

victoriously! The crowd was completely engaged in the game! Now the team was moving down the field with strength and success. They came back, went into double over-time, and won the game!

Our guys came home with a victory that night. But the win was in the stands! Had it not been for the unity between the fans in the stands and the team on the field, the outcome of the game could have been very different.

Like never before, the Church today is positioned for impact. But it is also faced with unprecedented challenges and opposition. Now is not the time to be passive. Never underestimate the power of a word of encouragement, your smile, or your presence. Our communities need the Church. Our nation needs the Church! But our churches need you!

May we be strengthened and become more engaged than ever before as we stand together and encourage, love and lift in this season of pandemic and struggle. The win is in the stands. Together, we win.

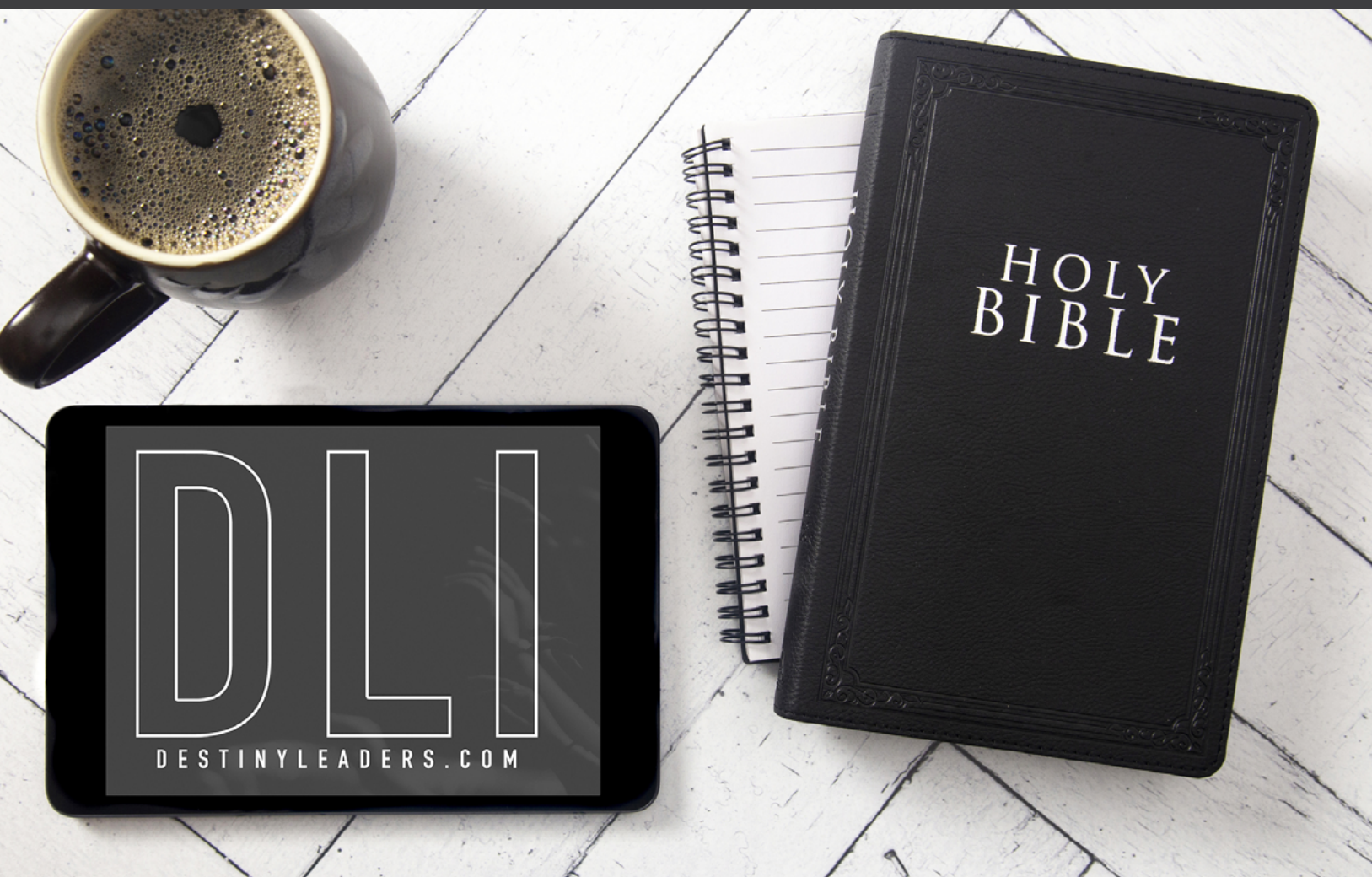
For over twenty years, Cathy has served Destiny alongside her husband, Dr. Phil Brassfield. She loves and listens, leads and intercedes for the Destiny Covenant family. Known for her gentle spirit and kind disposition, she warms the hearts of leaders around the world. As a devoted wife, mother and Nina, she enjoys spending time with her children and 6 grandsons, and traveling with her husband to new and exciting places.



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DESTINY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE CLASSROOM



Canvas is an easy to navigate, user-friendly learning management platform, and is used by educational institutions at every level. We have heard from several returning students about how this change has enhanced and strengthened their DLI experience! Some new and improved features students are enjoying in our new classroom are: a clean and well organized interface, a student app for mobile devices-

DLI kicked off the fall semester with a new online classroom! Over the summer, our team began researching different options to improve and enhance our classroom experience, and decided to partner with Canvas LMS.

-students can now engage in the classroom from their tablets and phones, an inbox messaging feature built into the classroom for quick communication with instructors and teaching assistants, an enhanced forum experience, and a task list for the upcoming assignments on the home page. Additionally, our instructors and teaching assistants are enjoying a clean and streamlined approach to creating and grading assignments, and communicating with students. There is also an app specifically geared towards the instructors! We firmly believe that this change is a catalyst for taking the DLI program to the next level! If you have ever considered DLI for yourself or for your team, now is a great time to enroll. The Spring 2021 semester begins February 8th 2021. For more information visit destinyleaders.com/dli.

DLI PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITES TO STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD



I am Zaitun Ibrahim, 42 years, born again, brought up in a Muslim family background, 8th born in a family of 9. I am wife to Joseph Madadi who is the Bishop and the founder of House Of Power Church. I am mother of two biological sons who are ages 17 and 15, and six fostered children, 3 girls and 3 boys. We live in Nakuru, Kenya, East Africa.

House of Power Church is a Christian organization, located in the west part of Nakuru town. Our main objective is to preach the gospel, win souls, discipleship and training leaders for effective ministry, sharing Christ's love to the less fortunate in the community.

I am an ordained Reverend, serving in the administration desk, Christian education and evangelism department in our church with the region and beyond. I am also working with Royal saints schools.

Much appreciation to the DLI scholarship program. This is a great opportunity for me to study in your institution. Considering the areas of my service I really need this chance to acquire more knowledge for effective ministry.

I would like to appreciate Destiny family who sacrifices to offer their funds and time and prayer to help pastors and leaders acquire this great knowledge.

My prayer is that, God is not unjust to forget the labor in His vineyard. May He reward each and everyone of you. Give you more Grace and peace as you continue supporting my fellow students who have been ahead of me and them to join after. I declare Luke 6:38 upon them in Jesus name.

DLI is committed to training Christian leaders across the world. We have trained students from the Philippines, Trinidad, Zambia, Kenya, and Lithuania. As long as students have access to the internet, they can plug in and get the same experience as our United States based students. We believe that this is one of the most important things we do - train leaders to impact their neighborhoods and their nations, regardless of where they may live. We also provide many foreign-based students with full scholarships, since their economic realities make it difficult for them to afford tuition.

We would love for you to partner with us. Every dollar raised goes directly to training students around the world. When you sow into the life of a leader, the return isn't just the difference you make in her life. The return is also in the countless lives she goes on to impact.

To partner today, please visit destinyleaders.com/givenow and choose "DLI Scholarship Fund" from the designation options.



FREE BOOKS FOR FIRST TIME STUDENTS!

Destiny Leadership Institute is currently enrolling students for the spring semester! Are you interested in building your character, discovering your calling, and increasing your competence? This is YOUR year. Enroll now for free first semester books. To qualify for our free books promotion you must be **a first time student**, have **a completed application**, and have **made tuition arrangements** before December 31st! The spring semester begins February 8th, 2021. Apply online at destinyleaders.com/dli.



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SEASONS

DR. PHILLIP BRASSFIELD

One of our favorite seasons of the year is fall. As summer heat gives way to the cooler breezes of fall, autumn leaves adorn themselves in an array of vivid colors. In the Ozark Mountains, where we live, it's spectacular. Cathy and I love to walk along the beautiful mountain stream behind our cabin and smell the aroma of a hickory fire and enjoy the splendor of God's glorious canvas. As much as we love this time of year when it arrives, we haven't forgotten the long hot summer and humid temperatures. We are always reminded that seasons change.

Nothing is forever but God! This season we have been in is no exception. This season shall pass. The crazy politics, the raging pandemic will pass with their urgency, and drift away like smoke in a strong wind. And then, there will be something else, of course.

The Prophet Daniel says in Daniel chapter 2 verse 20 and 21: *"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding."*

From this passage we are reminded that God is in control. He is in control in our nation, politics, economy, our churches and families. We can trust Him through every season. No matter how chaotic or difficult, God is in control and we belong to God; we are His children.

The good news is that during this difficult season, we have the opportunity to master certain characteristics that will serve us well moving forward. Here are a few things I am learning more about:

1. The power of Obedience. During this time when I have felt like I've had so few answers, I have been reminded that obedience is still the gold standard in the Kingdom. My lack of understanding or even sense of what to do in no way is a reflection of God's position. He knows full well His plans and is not disengaged from the circumstance. God is working. So, my best posture and plan is to obey and follow His leading. Obedience opens the door to everything God has in store for me and for those I serve. God, as a wise manager of resources and people, knows when and how all things should be done. Perfect in all His ways, God is the Master of time and opportunity and aligns both with people who will do things His way for His reasons.

2. The importance of faithfulness. Faithfulness is something we are capable of. If we were not, it would not have been a command from Scripture. During this season, and every season for that matter, our focus should be to remain faithful. Faithfulness requires consistency, dependability, endurance and optimism. Faithfulness is the testimony of hope in our lives and speaks loudly that we are trusting God to finish what He has started in us. When we are faithful, especially in difficult seasons, we proclaim our confidence is in God and not our circumstance.

3. The security of relationships. It has really been amazing to me how during this season I have held on even more tightly to the relationships God has put in my life. From our family to our dear friends, my love and appreciation has only grown. It seems like I have been more tuned into people during this season, and that's a good thing. I can be a little too task oriented at times. The scripture speaks about this in Ecclesiastes chapter 4:9-12 *"Two [are] better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him [who is] alone when he falls, For [he has] no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm [alone]? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

A threefold cord is not easily broken. During this season I have learned that when I add a trusted friend and God to the mix of any situation, we form a formidable force with which the situation must reckon. God knew what He was doing when He set the solitary in families.

I'm thankful for what I am learning afresh and anew during this crazy season of 2020. I will be better because of it. While it's nothing new, it is always fresh and powerful. Obedience, faithfulness and friendship: they stand like monumental mountains in the winds of changing times, and for me, lessons reimagined as this season has come and IS going!



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