

SPRING 2020

DESTINY

M A G A Z I N E

**THE IRONY OF
THE CROSS**

***SHIFTING
ATMOSPHERES***

**A DELICIOUS RECIPE
FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

SPECIAL EASTER SECTION

**2020
GATHERING
CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**





DESTINY LEADERS

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Welcome to Destiny's Covenant Family of Friends and a World of opportunities for you to GROW, SERVE, and SOW in the Kingdom of God. At Destiny you can build lifelong relationships, be challenged to achieve your greatest potential, see the world, serve someone in need and become all that God has called you to become. Experience all of these exciting opportunities among a family where you are loved, accepted and celebrated!

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A WORD FROM PHIL & CATHY

Welcome to this edition of the Destiny Magazine. I'm sure that like us, your spring is off to a roaring start. I love spring with its flowers, showers (maybe not so much showers), and fresh starts. It's the time of year that shouts "you can start over!" and "forget the past and begin again." In spring we have that feeling that something new has begun. And it is supported with nature's multi-media providing glorious illustrations to drive the point home, like budding trees, spring flowers, buzzing bees, and, well forgive me I'm getting carried away. Anyway, here we are and off we go into the wonder and excitement of what 2020 might bring. We pray that your 2020 will be the greatest year on record, filled with great opportunities, monumental miracles and breakthroughs of every sort; breakthroughs you've been praying for!

At Destiny we want to be a part of them all! We are excited and fulfilled when we see you win, overcome and achieve your dreams. When we can help, it's even better. So, this year let's make a move toward God and each other like never before. Let's pray and believe, hope and support each other, and encourage one another to our greatest potential!

In this edition of Destiny Magazine, you'll meet some new people who are part of your covenant family. You'll learn some great information and be inspired to charge ahead into the resurrection Power of the Lord. We hope you enjoy!

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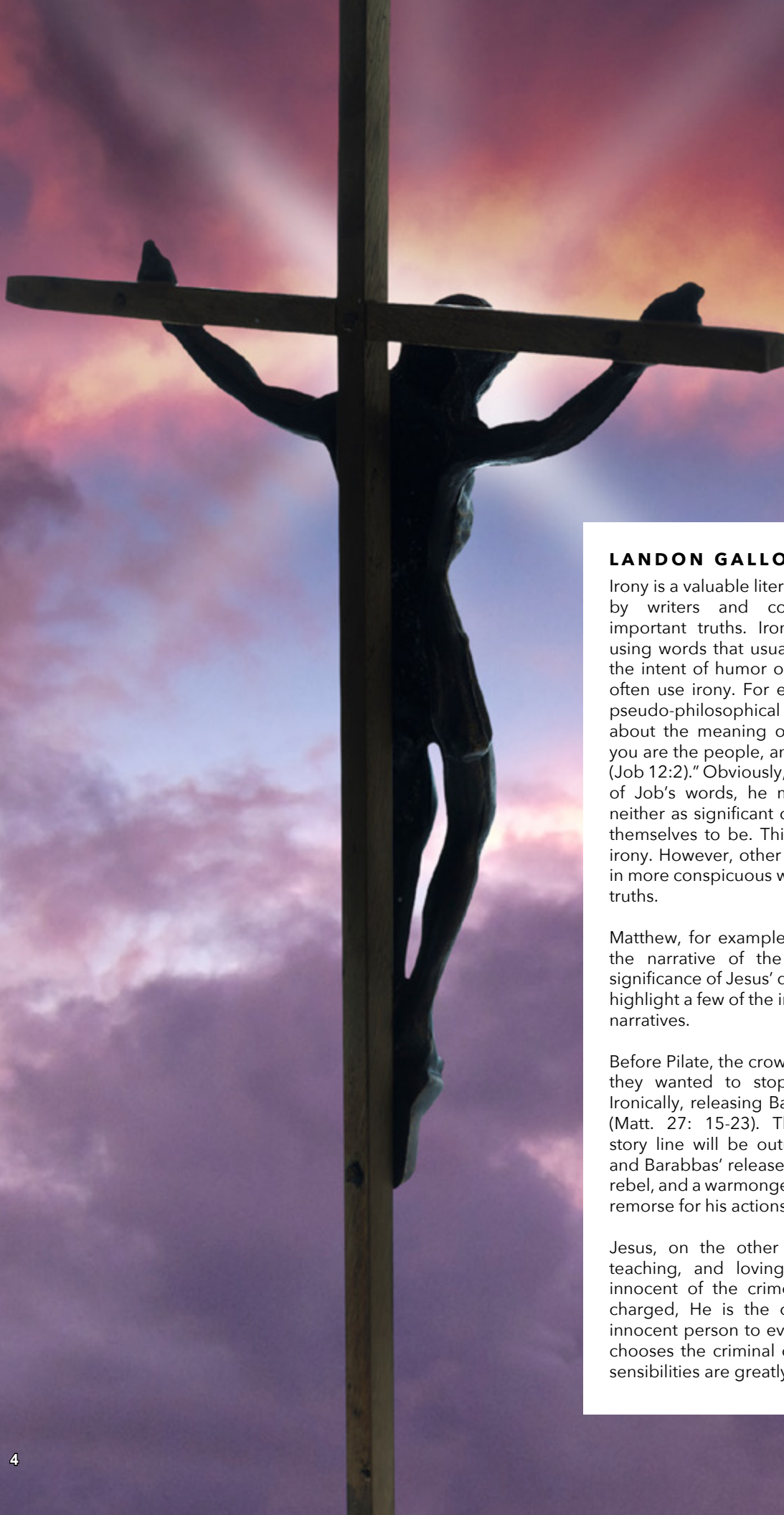
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LANDON GALLOWAY

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

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

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

Jesus, on the other hand, has been healing, teaching, and loving people. He is not only innocent of the crimes of which He has been charged, He is the only completely pure and innocent person to ever live. So when the crowd chooses the criminal over the King, the readers' sensibilities are greatly offended. How could they

THE IRONY OF THE CROSS

choose Barabbas and kill Jesus? Don't they watch *Law and Order* or any other TV courtroom drama? This isn't how the story is supposed to go. The good guy should go free while the bad guy faces the consequences of his actions.

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

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

A passer-by joined the mocking soldiers by taunting the crucified Jesus: "You said you could destroy the temple and in three days, rebuild it. If you are the

Son of God, save yourself" (Matt. 27: 40). Ironically, it was because of His identity that He chose not to save himself. By not coming down, Jesus was establishing Himself as the true rebuilt temple. He appeared completely helpless and hopeless: however, His temporary powerlessness would soon yield to eternal omnipotence.

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

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



Landon Galloway is Director of Education at Destiny Ministries and oversees Destiny Leadership Institute. Landon also serves as campus pastor of Grace Church in Tomball, TX. Landon is married to Sarada and they have two daughters, Vanna and Zarra.



SHIFTING ATMOSPHERES



JONATHAN R. PERRY

In 2013 I turned 50. For me this was a major milestone and one I had every intention of celebrating! I woke up early on the morning of Wednesday June 5th, and felt the Lord calling me to walk 50 miles around our city and pray. One mile for every year He had given me. Not exactly how I imagined spending the day, but I started out on my trek. Over the next 3 days I walked a 50 mile loop around our city and prayed. Nothing earth shattering happened, but as I walked and prayed throughout the city I began to feel a fresh call of God on my life as a leader, and for the church I pastored to do more than we were currently doing. I am sure my congregation would say, "aren't we doing enough?" We were having fervent prayer meetings, great worship experiences,

occasional outreach, but something in my spirit said there is more. I wasn't sure what "more" meant, but I allowed a holy hunger to be cultivated in God's presence.

Over the next 5 years, I continued this act of obedience during the week of my birthday. I would walk and pray over different areas of the city. Each year it was as though I could feel a new level of spiritual authority rising up in my spirit. Although I have walked in a place of spiritual authority within the walls of the church, I sensed God was shifting me into a new place of influence that would move beyond the walls of the church I pastored. This had not been a real desire of mine, but never the less doors began to open. Opportunities started to come to me and I started having sit down meetings with influential people in our community. As time progressed people

started to reach out to me, seeking advice or direction concerning various situations. While I was accustomed to doing this for the people I shepherded, operating in the capacity of spiritual leader within the city was new territory for me. This walking, praying, and gaining spiritual authority was setting me up for a position of influence in our city like I never could have imagined.

Life Chapel is located east of Toledo, Ohio, tucked away in a cornfield. We are not highly visible which caused a desire in me to move to a different location. My leadership team and I, after much brainstorm and research, considered the possibility of moving our church to the middle of the city. We prayed and fasted but received no clear sign that we should relocate. We found no viable option for relocating our entire congregation to city center.

Now, in hindsight, I believe God had kept us hidden for a divine purpose. While we had enjoyed some level of success with numerical church growth and leadership development, we knew God wanted more for us. The Spirit began to talk to me about how influence works in a culture and how to shift atmospheres. Major cultural shifts do not normally happen from rural to urban. Culture is many times established in urban settings and over time leaks into the rural areas.

Armed with this knowledge, I realized the Lord was giving me and my family an assignment. I sat down with my wife and boys and their families to share the vision God was placing in my spirit for effecting our city. After considering multiple options, building ideas, and receiving a lot of favor from God, we purchased an empty 3

story building in the middle of the city. God gave us a vision of doing ministry beyond the walls of the church. We set our mind on the idea that we could influence Toledo and beyond by shifting the atmosphere.

My wife, Sharon, opened a design and home decor shop. She has a God given talent to create physical atmospheres that make people comfortable. My oldest son, Grant, and his wife, Brooke, established a high end coffee shop, with meeting rooms, great wi-fi, and with an industrial design. Although Rustbelt Coffee is not a "Christian" coffee shop, we had people who would pray on the second and third floors while the people of various backgrounds drank coffee and experienced this God-filled atmosphere.

Our goal from the beginning was to establish a place where people from all backgrounds, religious and non-religious, could gather and create, collaborate and connect. We had our fair share of pushback and protests from a few fringe groups who found out through news articles and radio talk shows that we are Christ-followers. But our goal was not to fight, but to simply influence our world through spiritual, cultural and physical shifts in the atmosphere.

Five years ago our family was virtually unknown in the larger community. It wasn't that we didn't try to reach out, but attempting to connect through the traditional church concepts had created boundaries which we had not been successful at breaking through. I felt like when I began to obey God by walking, praying, listening, and being attentive to the voice of God, we have experienced an unusual level of influence that I don't think we could have ever accomplished otherwise. I believe when God

gives you and me an assignment, He will also give us the grace to fulfill that assignment! This grace to influence has given us a place at the table of leaders, and has given us a voice to communicate the redemptive power of God to more people than we imagined possible.

Where I used to spend hours a week in my office praying, reading, and thinking about leadership and the work of the Kingdom of God, now I feel that I am able to be more mobilized and less static. There is hardly a week that goes by that I am not asked to strategize with a team, talk with a community leader, or pray over a business deal. I often find myself advising pastors and sitting on the board for a non-profit talking about what the Kingdom of God looks like in our city right here, right now.

I have total confidence that God is seeking to raise up men and women all over the world to advance His Kingdom beyond the walls of the church. We are called to shift atmospheres and bring spiritual influence to our communities. So, I encourage you to get ready for the expansion of Kingdom influence in your community. I encourage you to prepare to see atmospheres shift as you walk out your God calling.



Jonathan R. Perry lives in Toledo, Ohio with his wife of 36 years. Together they have three sons, two daughters-in-law and one grand daughter.

IF JESUS REPEATS HIMSELF, MAYBE WE SHOULD LISTEN



BEN COOLEY
HOPE FOR JUSTICE

God's desire to bring freedom and restoration to those in captivity is one of the running narratives of the Bible. Starting with the trafficking of Joseph, through the liberation of the Israelites in Exodus, and running all the way to the restoration of heaven and earth in Revelation, the Bible constantly declares a God who cares about rescuing, restoring and reforming the world.

I am honored to lead an organization where we believe that our mission is directly connected to the mission of God. Each day, our team is on the front-lines in some of the darkest

places fighting for freedom and justice.

While we may consider slavery a historical darkness the reality is that more people are trafficked today than ever before, an estimated 40 million. Just like Joseph experienced, our team has seen countless victims sold into slavery and exploited by their own families. We see governments like China and North Korea using the forced labor of their citizens to make profit just as the Egyptians did. The centuries may have changed but the sin has not.

One of the first girls we ever rescued told me, "I didn't need someone to cry about this; I needed someone to do something about it." That's what we've built in Hope for Justice: a thought-through, professional response to the issue of trafficking. Wherever it exists, we are committed to stamping it out. We work with women and children in some of the poorest parts

of the world, empowering them, growing their leadership and giving them the tools and education they need to protect their families. Here in the US, our teams work with teens and runaways, ensuring they know the horrific dangers in believing the lies told by traffickers.

Jesus declares his mission in Luke 4:16-20. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim **freedom for the prisoners** and recovery of sight for the blind, **to set the oppressed free**, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Twice he points out bringing freedom to others in just one sentence! Yes, He brought salvation for our souls but is He not the breaker of physical chains too? If our savior felt it was worthy of repeating, I hope it is worthy of our action.



That is why we rescue victims. Our specialist teams (with decades' worth of FBI, CIA and local law enforcement expertise) identify victims of sex trafficking, forced labor and domestic servitude. This happened, just a few weeks ago, for 17-year-old Dee*. She had managed to escape her trafficker and get into a rehab program and off the drugs he had used to control her. But he tracked her down and made her leave with him. Hope for Justice was quickly brought in and our investigation determined that she was being trafficked across the Southeast US. Our team found the motel where she had been taken. We intervened and got her away from danger and back safely to a new rehab program.

As we have learned from rescuing thousands of victims over the years, we know that rescue isn't an event - it's a process. Restoring lives begins at our aftercare facilities where highly trained staff provide trauma-

informed care, immediate crisis intervention, long-term education and vocational learning. The goal is always restoration and reintegration into a family.

We were honored to provide this life-changing, reunion moment 1,014 times in the last year alone. One family thought their child had been dead for more than five years. Can you imagine the Lazarus moment they had when they saw their child walking to them again!?

I have sat with rescued victims, I have spoken to people freed from years of exploitation, I have looked into their eyes and because of people just like you, they now have their hope back and are excited about their futures. It's such an indescribable feeling to set free another human being!

We believe in the power of using our voice for things that matter: we believe it echoes out into the darkest places.

It's why the church is such an integral part of what we do - you are the beacons of hope to a community.

We have seen time and time again the impact that churches can have. From hosting training sessions for local law enforcement to general awareness for the community, when a church uses its voice to shine a light on this darkness, things change. We would be honored if you would consider partnering with us - please visit hopeforjustice.org/church - as we continue to be God's hands and feet today.

Together in Him,

Ben Cooley

Founder and CEO,
Hope for Justice

**Name changed to protect identity*

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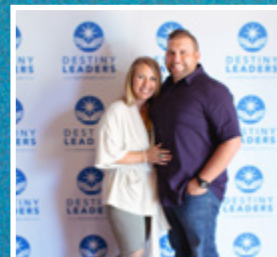
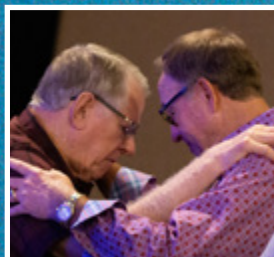
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2020 ENROLLMENT!**

**WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW
STUDENTS!**

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A DELICIOUS RECIPE FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

(INVESTING IN THE TEAM)

ASHLEY CLINTON

Springtime is a great time for food, family and seeing all the new things in bloom. As a leader, springtime has always been a great season to look at the health of my team—ensuring that each leader feels a personal investment, placed in the right role and celebrated as a valued part of the team, helping them live out their purpose God has placed before them. Spring brings new life, new excitement and fresh new leadership “recipes” to share with your team. It is also a great time to bring teams together and celebrate wins and victories and there is no better way to celebrate than to eat. And when gathering for the celebration, the ingredients of the recipe are just as important as the ingredients of a great team, which make for an incredible meal.

INGREDIENTS: (the team/the family)

The ingredients of a great grill chef are as secret as the recipes themselves-even the temperature of these grill master's tools is kept a mystery. When the ingredients are all mixed together, it makes things so delicious-it's truly the right amount of each ingredient that adds the perfect flavor and zest to the meal. The same can be said with the ingredients of a great team. The team is everything-it sets the temperature, culture and excitement of the room. Think about it, paint colors can't smile and legos can't say, "What's Up!", so it's all about the people. This can be accomplished by recruiting out of vision, not out of need. The word *volunteer* can be heard throughout the halls of many children's ministries, but it's the word *leader* that can really open people's eyes and ears. The leaders are the faces of the ministry, they're recruiting, training and getting things done. Your personal investment in leaders is essential and empowers them to step out of their comfort zones and here's the best part, they reciprocate that investment into others. Think back on who first invested in you and look at how you've taken that investment and grown it into your spiritual and leadership development. When you add ingredients to your recipe, you're intentional about it-this is also true about your leaders. Intentionality breeds success in relationships and that time is well spent.

So what's the secret ingredient? Your team is your family. Invest in them and watch them grow!

ON THE GRILL: (scheduling)

Now that you've got your ingredients mixed up, you're ready to hit the grill or in our case, you're ready to begin scheduling your team. As grill chefs, when you place your food on the grill you're always aware of the best hot spots that make the best grill marks for that Bobby Flay-Food Network look. When you begin scheduling your leaders, don't just fill a role, fulfill a purpose and find the perfect place for them. Again, this is part of the investment process-try to avoid scheduling just to have "someone" in the room. Instead, fill the room with leaders that can heighten the children's experience with their passion, spiritual giftings, energy and momentum. I encourage you to schedule with intentionality, avoid the pre-population trap and pray over each person as you place them in a role. We've all experienced the pendings or declines on our schedules and this can be frustrating. However, just like the crossing grill marks on a juicy steak, cross-training of your leaders in various roles is a great solution. Through our shadowing process, we have each leader serve in a different area of our ministry. They have the opportunity to view the ministry at a higher altitude and find the right role for them. Consider creating additional roles for those leaders that are high-level, high-capacity leaders-anything from game leaders to small group leaders, every role has its place and every leader has a purpose.



Ashley Clinton joined the pastoral staff at Christ Church in 2018 as its children's pastor and is passionate about making an eternal impact on the next generation. Ashley completed his DLI education in 2019 and is honored to serve alongside his wife, Laura, and their three children Jackson (18), Jacob (17) and Lexie Rae (13).

So, what's the best place for your leaders? Right where God places them!

TIME TO ENJOY: (celebrating)

The food is off the grill and it's time to invite everyone over for a great time of food and fellowship, maybe even a round or two of Uno or even Throw Throw Burrito. This is the time to celebrate all the blessings that God has given you and your family. Taking the time to celebrate with your team can be more rewarding than the best recipe out there. Celebrating the biggest or smallest win is what adds value and appreciation to your team. When you see a win, capture it through a photograph or a mental note and share that win with your team. Handwritten thank you cards show an honest and genuine appreciation to your leaders-that you took the time to personalize a message for them and speak encouraging words over them. Imagine the wonderful world of creation that we have, just from God's spoken words and think of the ways your words can impact others each and every week. I encourage you to keep a "team calendar" of your leaders' birthdays, wedding anniversaries and even their serving anniversary-include a special gift card in the note to show them that you're celebrating with them. From team cookouts to team game nights, celebrating with your team shows them that you're taking the time to invest in them-in and out of the ministry.

Every recipe can be successful when the ingredients work together to create a beautiful dish and every team can be successful when personal investment, intentional scheduling and celebration becomes the culture of your ministry. So, let's get ready-we got this!

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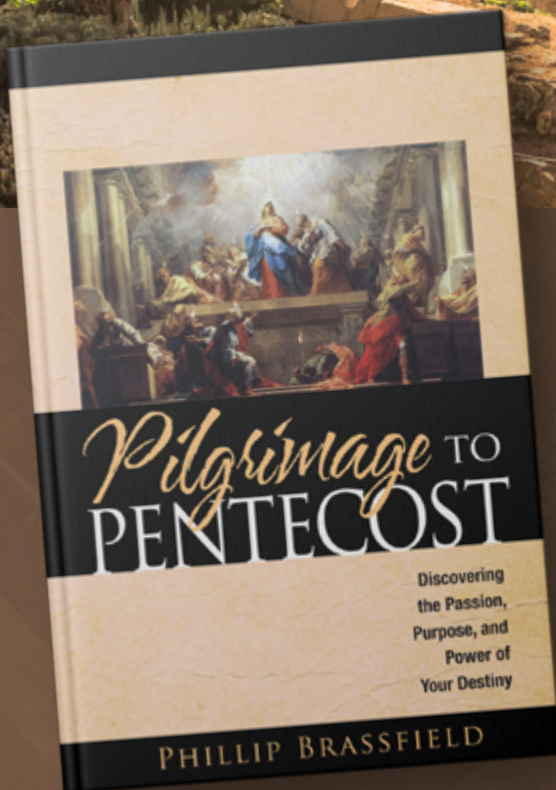
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Easter

SPECIAL SECTION

For believers, Easter is the most sacred holy day of the year. And at Destiny, it's our favorite! And apparently, it's not just ours. According to a recent study, America still thinks Easter is huge. In 2018, Forbes reported that 84% of Americans intended to celebrate Easter in one way or another. Our prayer is that this year's celebration will be epic. We are praying that your special events and services will be record setting and life changing.

With that in mind, in this special section we've put together a combination of articles that cross the spectrum of Easter excitement, from the inspiring story of the effects of resurrection power from the perspective of a first hand eye witness account, followed by several practical glimpses into some of the strategies that make Easter so special among Destiny churches.



God's Answer: The Resurrection



**PHILLIP
BRASSFIELD**

*An excerpt from Dr. Phillip Brassfield's book, **Pilgrimage to Pentecost**.*

Mark 16:9 *"Now when He arose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons."*

Jesus' idea of destiny is so different from ours most of the time. And that is a good thing. I must say, if I were Jesus Christ and had just experienced what he experienced during his torture and death on the cross, I would have done the resurrection a little differently. I mean, if I had been betrayed by a friend, abandoned by the rest, spit upon, cursed, lied about, severely beaten, and crucified, when I came out of the grave I would have made a few more unscheduled visits than he did, if you know what I mean. And they would have been to a select group of people who had a celestial visit coming. I probably would have made another midnight

visit to the palace of Caiaphas, saying, "Guess who?", or maybe appeared to the Sanhedrin in the Hall of Hewn Stones, or perhaps shown up in Pilate's courtroom, saying, "I'm back." But not Jesus. No, he understood destiny and had no identity crisis, no need to get even. He was clear about his purpose for coming into the world. It was for those very people who did what they did to him that he came to die.

KING OF MISFITS

So instead of making a grand appearance at some strategic location in an "I'll-get-you-back" kind of visit, Jesus makes his first appearance to a woman, previously demonized, in an obscure garden outside the busy commerce center of Jerusalem (John 20, the appearance to Mary Magdalene). She had been delivered by Jesus only in the last couple of years, and now he grants her the grand privilege of becoming the first evangelist of the New Covenant. Jesus sent her to tell the apostles, who were currently hiding for their lives

(those great men of faith and power), about the resurrection. By doing so he offers hope to all of us who have fallen, been bound, and humiliated by sin. Yes, the very first appearance of the resurrected Christ was to a woman with a past, a woman whose life had been transformed, who had become a woman of light because of the victory he had won.

For Mary, coming to the tomb that early on the third day had more to do with loyalty than with faith. Reading the text of the Gospels, it is quite clear that her visit was all about love for the Lord and a personal commitment that she felt toward him. She was no quitter. And she had not forgotten what Jesus had done for her. Besides, she was a misfit and an outcast from society. She was not concerned about the opinions of men and had long since lost the fear of social rejection or of losing her life. She had proven that when she stood at the foot of the cross, by staying when almost everyone else had abandoned him. No, she was not afraid; she was devastated!



All she could think about was what life was like before he came. For her, prior to Jesus' coming, life had been a living hell. She had fallen so far into the pit of rejection and despair that her spiritual freedom and free will had been surrendered to the devil, and with it her morals and decency. In Jesus she had found freedom and peace where, in others, she had only found judgment and condemnation. When he looked at her, all he could see through the eyes of love was a confused, abused daughter that had become a slave to sin. She was the epitome of what he had come to do. So with the gentleness of a loving father, he had freed her and restored her without judgment or condemnation.

HOPE LIVES

Jesus' appearance to Mary in the garden that resurrection morning must have been a vote of confidence and affirmation for her, to say the least. For one who had been so devastated, humiliated, even captivated by hell and sin, it really underscored the point and power of the resurrection. What

a fitting way to introduce this new kingdom initiative, and to declare to the principalities and powers of this earth that death, hell and the grave had been defeated. To choose one who once was a slave to the flesh and to the devil was a powerful sign of victory, and an appropriate message announcing the intentions of Christ's kingdom and what was to come for the kingdom of darkness.

Now with the cross behind and the resurrection having been accomplished, the ground rules had been completely redefined. No longer would death rule the hearts of mankind through fear, for it had been defeated. No longer would the dreams and destinies of people be dashed by the grim reality of sin and despair. No, with the victory of the resurrection came the hope of success and personal fulfillment in life and eternity. Death was no longer the master and we its fearful subjects, but rather we were freed to become what God has purposed us to become. We were loosed from the power of the flesh to rule over us and limit our potential through a paradigm of fear. The door into the favor of God, the way of access

into the presence of the Lord that Adam and Eve had enjoyed before sin slammed it shut, had been reopened by Christ on the cross. And now we, as soldiers of the cross, without the condemnation of sin, could attack the kingdom of the god of this world with faith as our focus instead of fear, joy as our anthem, and love and acceptance as our banner.

There are moments when our dreams seem to go up in a puff of smoke, when our hopes are mortally wounded by the vicious mobs of the disappointed. When this happens, give it a little while. Let it rest maybe three days or so, then go back to where you laid your dreams and let the Resurrection and the Life restore, commission, and renew your vision. He will give you a vision that even death itself cannot take away.

Experience Easter at.....

RIVERPARK CHURCH



MARCUS BRIGGS JR.

Marcus is the Executive Pastor of Riverpark Church in Shreveport, LA. He is the husband of Chelsea Briggs and father of 3. Marcus is an avid musician, singer, and song writer, and gifted speaker.

Easter at Riverpark is one of the most exciting couple of days of the year for us. Our goal isn't to try something brand new. Instead, we try to raise our level of execution and give people a taste of what it's like to experience God.

We believe strongly in using what God has given you. Our best two resources are our people and our property. Our broadcast campus is located in an old theme park in Shreveport, LA. With that in mind... here's what Easter has looked like for us for the past few years.

Saturday

Easter Festival

Sunday Morning

Multiple experiences at our campuses

Sunday Night

Final Experience at the Rescue Mission



Saturday is all about the community. This is when we utilize our location to reach the people who may not be interested in church.

Our main draw for this event is our Easter egg hunt which brings out thousands of kids and their parents.

Our goal is to simply introduce them to our friendly people, let them see the location, and then as they are leaving give them an invite to our Sunday Experiences. So many of our people had their first experience with Riverpark at an event like this.

For us, Sunday is all about execution.

- We try to present an experience that is similar to what you might see any other Sunday you visit. Side note... Because we try to make every Sunday guest friendly, excellent and inspiring, Easter is an opportunity to do the same thing, better.

- Every volunteer sees Easter as a big deal, so they are very open to your insight on culture. (Here's the secret... after Easter is over we remind them that this is the culture and feel we want every Sunday. In the words of the Mandalorian "This is the Way.")

- Our crowds will more than double on Easter, so we double the amount of volunteers in each role. The key is communication. We make sure all of our teams know what other teams are doing that day so that they can answer the questions of our guests. Our parking team should know what's happening with our kids team that day. Our impressions team should know what buildings are used for what ages. Another result of the crowd is that we will need more seating. However, we don't start with all of our chairs out, we have them available and a team in place ready to set them out but we want our regular seats to fill up first.

- One of our strategies is to launch a series on Easter Sunday. This gives people a reason to come back the following week. Let's face it, you can't

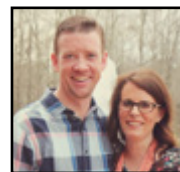
get everything done in one day, so ultimately you want people to come back next week.

- No matter what is done in the worship experience on Easter, it's important to practice transitions. The worship team may kill it, the video could be perfect, the preaching could blow you away but if the transitions between each are cringeworthy, that's what people will remember.

Sunday night we wrap up the Easter weekend with a worship experience at our local mission. On Easter we just want to bring the excitement of the day to the people at the mission. Honestly, it's one of our team's favorite experiences, and it doesn't take much more effort.

Bottom line, I believe you should use what you have and execute well. Communicate, in advance, the goal of the day to all of your teams and volunteers. Let the Holy Spirit lead your planning and preparation. Finally, put it in God's hands and enjoy the day.

CHURCH OF THE CROSSROADS



BRIAN DAVIS

Brian serves as a Staff Pastor at Church of the Crossroads in Corinth, MS. He is also co-owner of Faith Teams

Software, a church management software company serving hundreds of churches across the country. Brian and his wife Lisa have been married for over 23 years, and they have two sons Avery and Adam.

Without a doubt, Easter is a Big Deal at Crossroads. We see tons of new people who don't normally attend church, and we've come to expect that God is going to give us a special

opportunity to connect with new people from the community on this big weekend. It's such an important weekend, not only because of the spiritual meaning, but also because it's probably the greatest opportunity of the year to connect with families and showcase what your church offers for those who God is drawing to Him. At Crossroads, here are a few things we do to maximize the Easter holiday:

CONNECT ON SATURDAY

Every year, we have a big event on Saturday to connect with the community. We advertise "Easter at Crossroads" in the weeks leading up to Easter weekend, and get as many people to our property as possible. We have food, giveaways, egg-hunts for all ages of kids, music and face-painting. One of the greatest things we've seen is our "special needs" egg hunt, where we connect with local organizations to help us spread the word about our egg-hunt specifically designed for kids with special needs. We make them feel like a million bucks and roll out the red carpet for these families.

We have everybody register, and we make sure they know about our services the next day. Then we just love on them and let them experience the life-giving culture of our church family. All of our Pastors, team leaders, group leaders...everybody is a part of simply mingling with the crowd and making people feel loved and welcome on our property. No need for high-pressure sales tactics - They just need to experience the love of Christ and feel like their family is welcome and loved.

PREPARE BETTER THAN EVER

As we get ready for the Sunday services, we KNOW attendance is



going to be huge and that tons of brand new people are going to show up. What does God expect from us? He expects us to BE PREPARED. So we put massive effort into preparing for every part of Easter Sunday.

We think about parking and seating. We think about our lobby host teams, the flow of traffic coming into the sanctuary, and how we'll route people to overflow seating when the need arises. We think about how much coffee we need, and how many extra kid's check-in workers we need. We think about beefing up the nursery teams and how we want our staff out front meeting everybody as they come in. The Key: PREPARE.

Easter usually ends up getting hectic at Crossroads and we LOVE it. But it usually goes pretty smoothly, because we have Prepared. In fact, we believe a huge reason God continues sending people is because He knows that we've worked hard to be ready for them when they arrive.

SPEAK TO THE GUESTS

This is so important. It's something you should be doing every week, but especially when there are so many guests in the room. It's simple: Speak

to the Guests. Don't call them out. Don't ask them to raise their hand. Don't ask them to stand. But speak to them.

Work hard on the wording of your transitions. Don't wing it! Make sure that your wording is smooth and clear, letting everybody know that they are Welcome at your church. We work hard on this every week at Crossroads, but especially at Easter, we want this to be incredibly intentional and clear. *"Hey, if you're a guest with us today, we are so glad you're here. It's such an honor that you took time to come worship with us this weekend. We'd love to get to know more about you and help you get plugged in here at Crossroads. There's a connect card in the seat-back in front of you, and we'd love for you to fill that out and take it out to Guest Services where they have a free gift for you...or just drop it in the black buckets when you leave today. We're SO thankful you've come to worship with us today, and we just welcome you into the Crossroads family."*

Don't let it be awkward - Make it Excellent and let your guests KNOW that you are genuinely glad they came.

START SOMETHING NEW

A few years ago, we recognized the value of starting something new on Easter. In previous years, we would end a big series on Easter. But we recognized that, for us, it was more impacting to start something new. So, we start a brand new big series on Easter, and lead into the next week, giving them something to come back to.

They've already gotten a taste of the new series, and now they feel like they're a part of the journey the congregation is going on over the next few weeks. We push hard at the end of the service, inviting everybody to come back and "Don't Miss Part 2".

FOLLOW-UP LIKE A PRO

At Crossroads, we put a lot of importance on Guest Follow-up every single week. We've got a clean 2-week guest follow-up plan that we've seen incredible results from. For every church, Easter is a GIANT opportunity to connect with guests, but you need a guest follow-up plan in place and the staff dedicated to carrying it out.

Get that Monday text out. Get those letters mailed on Monday. Get that email sent. Make sure to engage conversation when those guests reply to one of your texts. Bottom line = Be Ready. If you don't have a clearly mapped-out guest follow-up plan, work on it now. God wants you to let those guests know they are noticed, welcomed, prayed for and invited back.

These simple things have proven to be effective for us. God will do His part, but He expects us to do our part to engage with the community, prepare for excellence, communicate clearly, and follow-up with care.

Easter isn't just the biggest celebration in the Christian faith, where we celebrate the Risen Christ, but it's also one of the biggest opportunities to make an impact in our cities. You can do this! We're praying that this is the biggest and best Easter EVER at your church!

MCCORD ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH



MICAH SUTTON

Micah Sutton is a husband, father, pastor, leader, church-planter, and author of

Noel: Bringing Your God Given Destiny to Life. Ministry has brought him around the world, allowing him to experience many different cultures. His driving passion is helping others move forward in their lives. He and his wife, Kristy, live in Sylvania, Ohio with their two sons, Talon & Tyrian. He serves as the senior pastor of McCord Road Christian Church. You can learn more about him at <http://micahsutton.com>.

Effective ministry depends largely on the culture of a church and community. While raised a pentecostal I now pastor a non-denominational evangelical church with 54 years of tradition. John Maxwell says, "Culture eats vision for lunch." While the vision must push culture, it can't break it or the vision will fail. We work hard to walk this delicate line in our preparation for the Easter Season.

The culture of McCord matches many evangelical churches doctrinally with a few additions. First, MRCC embraced certain liturgical elements from its founding. Secondly, MRCC possesses an unequivocal desire for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This makes McCord a unique

and beautiful church and creates amazing opportunities for growth.

Ours is a largely liturgical community and Easter is a celebration of believers. The number of non-believers it attracts is lower than in other regions where I've pastored. While our numbers will increase they will not approach the size of our Christmas Eve crowds. These realities guide our strategy of reaching for the "dechurched" in this season. We begin with a celebration on Ash Wednesday 46 days before Easter. The one hour service includes no ashes and resembles a "worship night". Corporate worship will be punctuated by times of led prayer focusing on repentance then celebration.



The Thursday before Easter, MRCC will commemorate Maundy Thursday. This service historically features foot washing, but that was discontinued long ago. We combine elements of the last supper and Good Friday into one service and remember Christ's last moments and His death on the cross. It is contemplative and concludes with communion.

Easter Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection. We don't have a pattern of launching series on Easter, but do plan an attractive one. Excellence is something we consistently work for and our attention to detail will be high on this weekend. In format our Easter service is not much different than any other weekend. Any unique preparations would

be standard when preparing for any larger than normal crowd.

The mentality that may be unique is that at MRCC, "The Sunday after the big Sunday is the bigger Sunday." The idea was spawned when I recognized that traditionally many guests will visit the church during holidays. I honor their attendance, but understand that we will not see many of them again. Those who return for the following Sunday have given us the greatest opportunity to see them added to our faith family. That's how a church grows. That's our focus on Easter Sunday. We offer as many reasons as we can for a guest to return the following week then deliver everything we've got. If Easter was good, the next Sunday is better. In every area of parking to platform our teams are on point. This isn't easy as the natural tendency is to take a breath after a big weekend, but we make it happen. While we work to avoid any "down services" the Sunday after the big Sunday is certainly not a relaxed one. The goal is to knock it out of the park.

By aligning our efforts with elements of the prevailing culture in our community many raised in the liturgical traditions who left church long ago have returned to faith. Providing services on days and for reasons they recognize creates soft entry points particularly for a younger generation looking for something different, but not unrecognizable. We welcome them into a modern worship experience with the expression of personal worship and liberty in the Holy Spirit. The result has been extraordinary.

What You Can Do



AMOS MCFALLS

Amos is the Director of Operations at Destiny Ministries. He serves as a Staff Pastor at Church of

the Crossroads in Corinth MS where he works with serve teams and leadership development. Amos has been married to Lindsey for 11 years and they have two children Caroline (6) and Franklin (4). He is passionate about helping others find God's redemptive calling for their lives.

Now that you've heard from Dr. Brassfield about the why of Easter and you've seen what different churches do through the eyes of Pastors Micah Sutton, Marcus Briggs, and Brian Davis, I have the opportunity to share with you some practical ways of how to put their thoughts into action. Here are some considerations for your church and teams

- Consider the possibility that your church needs to adapt an inclusive event on Easter weekend. That event is a way that people in your community can meet members of your church without actually stepping into your auditorium. I've heard it said this way, "People are looking to celebrate Easter, why shouldn't the church provide a place to celebrate?" That concept seems so simple, but the truth is that we forget how to host people outside of our weekend services.

- Consider what you communicate on Easter Sunday. I'm sure that you are meticulous on your communication from the platform, but we must also communicate the correct things from the parking lot, the lobby, and the door ways. A guest's next steps should be crystal clear from the moment that they drive on to your campus to the moment they leave. By preparing answers for the questions guests may encounter in advance, you have laid the foundation for an

atmosphere of hospitality. Preparation communicates, "We expected you to come and are glad you are here!"

- Consider that Easter is not the endgame but the beginning for a new guest. As mentioned above, we are believing and praying for new guests to become 2nd time visitors and 2nd time visitors to become life members. I've heard some refer to Easter Sunday as the "Super Bowl" of church, and while it may be one of the most attended services in your year, we should be particularly interested in the attendance numbers over the next few weeks. Those numbers can tell us more about our church than the one isolated Easter Sunday. How would it change the complexity of your sermon series during that time? How would it change how you trained your first impression team members and leaders?

- Consider praying for the other churches in and around your community. It's easy to be inward focused, but remember that there will be churches in your community that are experiencing a big Sunday as well. We must remember not to be so focused on our own desires for our church that we forget that we are a part of building the Kingdom of God. I believe that it was Pastor Dave Willis who phrased this thought by asking, "If God answered all of your prayers, would the world look different or just your life?"

Lastly, let me say that the Destiny team is praying for you, your teams, and your churches. We believe that God wants your church to grow and reach the lost for His kingdom.

CEO

Called | Empowered | Obedient TO THE KINGDOM

Purposed Women of God

JEN MAINS

We have been blessed with four amazing children; two sons and two daughters. All of them have grown into strong, independent, successful entrepreneurs and business owners. Each year over the holidays, we gather to create our vision boards for the year. On one occasion, my daughters and I got into a conversation about their futures, dreams, and goals. That conversation has stirred my heart ever since.

In society today, our daughters see examples of women participating in many secular industries, businesses, professional sports, entertainment, doctors, lawyers, CPA's, and so on. Yet throughout our churches, are they exposed to the same inspiring examples to emulate?

Searching through the church today, are we able to find a large contingency of business women mentors for our daughters? Women who have reached the highest levels of success in business while also dedicating themselves to the work of the Lord. In our household, we have had several discussions about this topic and the question arises; is there a possibility of serving God in a professional capacity within the kingdom? Specifically, when related to our women of God; where do they fit?

There seems to be a disconnect, and almost confusion, when considering how a woman's professional talents can contribute to the furthering of God's work. Young girls may not witness professional Christian

women using their gifts in the church. When those girls grow into adult women, is it possible, because they have not seen an example of a Godly Christian Professional Woman actively participating in His Kingdom, that they turn their focus and attention into furthering their careers while abandoning the call of ministry in their life? Are we putting them in a position that they feel they need to choose between pursuing a career OR pursuing a calling?

How can we empower our girls and women to lean into their God-given gifts of leadership and show them the path to use those talents in furthering the gospel? What can we do as a church body to celebrate all women's vocational callings? How can the church provide examples of strong, professional women who are also committed to their husbands, their families, and their call to ministry?

As the body of Christ, can we welcome women to serve the church in ways that are related to their professional field? A woman may not be a good fit to lead the children's ministry, yet, as a CPA, she may be perfect to lead the





financial board. Rather than having her organize a charitable food drive, as an Architect, she may be perfect to design the new wing that would house the kitchen to serve.

These women struggle because they may not be talented singers or musicians. They may wish they were more gifted in hospitality or experts in cooking, baking, or sewing. Yet many of them own companies, are respected as specialists within their industries, or are highly sought after by elite corporations to run their companies. Where do they fit in the kingdom? These women are young, old, married, single, mothers, grandmothers, aunts and friends. And they are also CEOs, business owners, doctors, nurses, accountants, writers, attorneys, lawyers, consultants, and more.

WHAT CAN WE DO WITHIN OUR CHURCHES?

1. Develop a business ministry for women. Are there women mentors who could encourage other women juggling work/life balance?
2. Create a 'job fair' for the women in the congregation to hold informational booths

on their careers. Invite local community colleges, girl scout troops, Big Sister Club, etc.

3. Work with local women shelters or community organizations like Dress for Success. Women can teach the women from the community how to build a resume, how to be effective at interviewing.

4. Encourage women to facilitate a tax course or investment seminar and open it up to the public. Weave in financial Biblical precepts into the curriculum.

5. Teach women about their strengths and embrace how they can use them.

6. Provide Bible Study groups on evenings and weekends to meet the needs of working women in our churches.

7. Provide them with coaching/mentoring. Studies show that over half of all professional women in the US have never had a mentor or coach. This includes women of God.

When our women devote themselves fully to Christ's work, I believe we change the trajectory of our future generations. Our women CEOs who are Called, Empowered, and Obedient to the Kingdom will transform her family, her workplace, her church, and her community with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Rise up women of tenacious faith...you have a purpose to fulfill.

About Jen Mains

James and Jen pastor Spirit of Life Church in Woodbury, MN; a growing, family church committed to being salt and light in their community. Jen has also worked in the real estate industry for over 24 years as an agent, team leader, business coach, and CEO of three real estate offices. She and James have four beautiful children: Haley, Ayden, Charlie, and Ben; the most important people in their lives.



Contact Jen

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CHRIST CHURCH | WEST MONROE, LA

2020 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

6:30PM | WELCOME PARTY AT THE HUB

WEDNESDAY

9:30AM | DLI GRADUATION

11:00AM | MORNING SESSION

11:45 AM | LUNCH

12:30 PM | BREAKOUT 1

1:30 PM | BREAKOUT 2

--BREAK--

6:30PM | EVENING SESSION

DINNER AT THE HUB

THURSDAY

9:30AM | MORNING SESSION

11:00AM | ORDINATION

11:45 PM | LUNCH

12:30 PM | BREAKOUT 3

12:45 PM | BREAKOUT 4

--BREAK--

6:30 PM EVENING SESSION

This year, we are back with our friends at Christ Church in West Monore, LA! Conference festivities will kick off Tuesday evening with a 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 Destiny Youth will have their own breakout track along with special times to fellowship with other teens.



FIND OUT ALL INFORMATION AT THEDESTINYGATHERING.COM!



Revelation

FRISCO



Pastor Ben and Tamara Sanders
Lead Pastor | Revelation Frisco
revelationfrisco.church

ONE ARROW AT A TIME

BEN SANDERS

"Build this," said the voice to my soul. While I stood in worship, God put a vision in my mind of a church. It was a church filled with spiritually hungry people. I'd like to say that I jumped at the call, but I was somehow unsure. So, my wife and I began to pray and ask God for guidance, and if this was indeed what He wanted, for confirmation. I will admit that it took far more than one confirmation to convince us. I fleeced the Lord like Gideon, and made excuses like Moses, but God was gracious to me each time. Fast forward nine months and we were off to launch a church!

My wife, Tamara, and I just planted Revelation Frisco this past September; A brand-new church in Frisco, TX, one

of the fastest growing cities in America. Both of us come from multi-generational pastoral homes, but when we first met almost 14 years ago, we never thought we'd be here... doing this. Between the two of us, we had been involved in nearly every aspect of church work - except the lead pastoral role. None of that prepared us for this. It had prepared us to take the proverbial-yet-required leap of faith, but we are now in all-new territory. Finding the support of experienced pastoral leadership within the ranks of Destiny has been a critical element in both the preparation and post-launch phases.

Over the last year, we have gone from gathering with friends in our home to talk vision over dinner, to reaching out



into the community to build a team through startup parties, to a launch service with 200 in attendance, to here... a church where people are growing in their faith and experiencing the Presence of God. It has been, and continues to be, an incredible journey.

Today, we have over 100 people who are actively engaged in Revelation Frisco. One thing I have come to realize is that growth - moving closer to the vision - comes just one family at a time.

I think of the story in 2 Kings 13, where the king went to visit the prophet Elisha, seeking guidance. Victory was promised when the king fired an arrow through the open window. Then, the prophet instructed him to shoot arrows into the ground. After three arrows, the king ceased and was informed that he should have had a more passionate response. The guarantee of victory should have so inspired him that he would have continued firing arrows, one by one, until he had ensured the greatest degree of victory.

Growing a church feels remarkably similar to this story. It's very much like "Here's the vision, now what will you do?" We continue to meet new families, invite them over for dinner, hear their story, and make a connection.

One arrow - one family - at a time. We are after the vision!

The task at hand is to instill this "one more family" concept in our team, as part of our culture. We are working to build this culture around three "vision pillars:" PEOPLE, PRESENCE, and POWER. I teach these words as a cycle, a system that moves the church

forward. Bring PEOPLE into an environment where they will sense His PRESENCE. When they encounter His PRESENCE, they can experience life-changing POWER. When their lives are changed, they will tell more PEOPLE, and the process begins again.

Already, people from all walks of life are beginning to connect with one another and with God. It's hard to find words describing what it's like to see people's souls catch fire with vision, mission, and community. Some have never really been a part of church, others are finding their spiritual footing again, and some just want to be a part of helping something new begin in the Kingdom.

From the very beginning of the vision, through the launch process, and now five months into "real church," I have asked God for one thing consistently - send hungry people. And, He has done it. The thing about hungry people is that they are often found in the middle of difficult seasons. There is just something deeply special about walking together through life's most trying moments during the week, while worshiping and serving alongside one another on Sundays. It's their faith in action. Frankly, it's inspiring. We call our team the Revelation All-Stars, and they live up to the name!

I chose the name, REVELATION, because that's what I believe God wants people to experience here; the revelation that there is a place in the family of God for them, that they can have a personal encounter with Almighty God, and that the trajectory of their lives can be forever changed. And, you know what... it's happening!

Ben is the lead pastor of Revelation Frisco, in Frisco, TX. As a teacher, he lives for those "AHA!" moments, when the Word of God becomes suddenly clearer. As a pastor, his purpose is to facilitate people's faith journeys to spiritual depth. His greatest friend and ally is his wife, Tamara.

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God *promised* to reward our *faithfulness*. Whether you're a pastor, church leader, business owner, or homemaker, you can learn to plod, and this book can help!



What people are saying:

"Of the thousands of churches I've worked with, CLC is one of the few that's truly reaching people of all nations for Jesus. Jerry's stories about the journey over the last three decades encouraged me, and I trust will impact your life as well."

---Tony Morgan, Founder & Lead Strategist, *The Unstuck Group*

If you want to leave a legacy, try longevity! That is what my friend, Pastor Jerry McQuay, has modeled his entire ministry. We overestimate what we can accomplish in a year or two, but we underestimate what God can do in a decade or two! Or in this case, three decades! Jerry has modeled long obedience in the same direction, and inspired many of us along the way! I'm grateful for his life and legacy!

---Mark Batterson, Lead Pastor, National Community Church and NY Times best-selling author of eighteen books, including *Whisper*, *Chase the Lion*, and *Double Blessing*.

I'm so glad I got to learn of this story, because it encourages me for what the church can and should be doing. You will love reading Jerry and Chris's story, but you will be challenged personally to dream bigger for the Kingdom of God than you ever have before.

---Ron Edmondson, Leadership Consultant and author of *The Mythical Leader*

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Jerry McQuay is the founder of Christian Life Center, a multiethnic church with more than twenty locations in Chicagoland and the Philippines. Known for their practical teaching as Associate Trainers for John Maxwell's EQUIP, he and his wife Chris are mobilizing Christian leaders to change the world. Their passion for missions has prompted CLC to invest over ten million dollars in pursuit of the Great Commission. They have three adult children and live in south suburban Chicago.

THE WOOD WIDE WEB



PHILLIP BRASSFIELD

We have a place for you...

Trees need other trees around them to thrive. In the forest, the research seems to suggest that they actually talk to each other, share information and resources like food, water, nutrients and minerals through what some researchers call the "wood-wide-web"[1] (clear internet metaphor). Research shows that there is a subterranean network of roots, fungi and organic connection that forms a super-highway for information and resources to travel between trees in a forest. When other trees surround them and they grow together, this network of supply provides protection from disease, life-giving resources and a safe haven from the elements that might threaten them[2]. It's pretty amazing when you think about it.

In another domain of life, we have all seen videos taken in the wild of that gazelle separated from the herd by a pride of lions. We have all pulled for that helpless gazelle only to realize that it becomes easy prey for its natural enemy when it gets separated from the rest of the herd. I have watched several of them and found myself shouting at some point, "No! No!

Don't run away from the herd! Stay with the others! Don't let them cut you off!"

Relationships with the herd, pack, flock, colony, tribe or family are built into the production, protection and process of life throughout every domain and stage of life. It is core and essential to survival. God designed it that way. God designed us that way.

You may not realize it (or maybe you do), but we need each other. You need me and I need you. Our life depends on it. Together we form a support network. This is why relationship is one of our core values as Destiny Leaders. We know we are better together, stronger together, more powerful together. When we create an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration and sustain it over time, we can experience a climate of growth and life where "dreams and people flourish", to use a phrase coined by our friend and Author/Pastor Terry Smith who wrote, *The Hospitable Leader*. For this support network to thrive, we all must make time, invest resources and make the effort to know and be known, to serve and be served. It takes us all growing together, contributing to the collective good, creating the connections and sharing the information that produces the culture of life for Christian Leaders that Destiny has become.

This year, make this determination: "I'm going to get involved. I'm going to get plugged in. I refuse to stand alone in isolation. I need friends, peers and new relationships to draw from and pour into. And so do the people who serve alongside me." Ministry is not an individual endeavor; it is a team sport. Like the trees in the forest and the herd in the wild, we are safer, stronger and happier together.

At Destiny, you'll find a plethora of ways to connect and get involved. This year we have more than 10 regional one day Connect events which are great places to get acquainted in a smaller group setting where you will meet and engage with people near you who are a part of our covenant family. As always, our annual Destiny Gathering Conference is intentionally designed with relationships in mind. Make your plans now to get plugged in to Destiny at a regional Connect event in your area and to attend the Destiny Gathering. Let's worship together, learn together and fellowship together. We are definitely better together.

[1]<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/the-wood-wide-web-how-trees-secretly-talk-to-and-share-with-each-other>

[2]<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-whispering-trees-180968084/>



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