

SUMMER 2021

DESTINY

M A G A Z I N E

**IT'S MY
DESTINY**

**A SHOWER
AND A SHAVE**

**ANOTHER
GENERATION
AROSE**

**CHURCH
SPOTLIGHT:**
*THE PURSUIT CHURCH
LEGACY CHURCH*

**MASTERED BY
THE SCRIPTURES**

**THE DESTINY
GATHERING 2021**

DLI SPECIAL SECTION

JUNE 22ND-24TH

PUBLISHER
Dr. Phillip Brassfield

LAYOUT & DESIGN
Stephanie Powers

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNER
Jordan Brassfield Dunham

EDITORS
Cathy Brassfield
Jeannie Abbott
Cynthia Smith

CIRCULATION
Amy Dew

PRINTING
Short Run Printing, LTD

CONTACT
Destiny Ministries
PO Box 341
Heber Springs, AR 72543
501.887.9933
destinyleaders.com

Copyright 2021
All Rights Reserved

A Word from Phil & Cathy



Welcome to this edition of Destiny Magazine. Summer is here and, "drumroll please", the return of The Destiny Gathering! Hallelujah, we are back!

This year as we come together for the twenty-second time, we return with fresh purpose and a renewed commitment to finish Christ's work in our generation by supporting and encouraging Christian Leaders, training and equipping students and interns, and serving with all our hearts, and we are coming back with a roar! This year every age is going to be engaged from the welcome party to the last amen; there's relevant speakers, awesome worship, and tons of fun and fellowship. We have a world class Kids Conference planned as well as a Youth Conference happening simultaneously all on one campus at the same time! Sounds monumental, right? It is, but we are a family and we have loads of help!

The Gathering this year kicks off a new season of focus and forward momentum, and while you don't want to miss it, it's just the beginning! As we move forward, our DLI in July student recruitment program begins as we reach into the world to harvest and train a new crop of servant leaders (please introduce us to potential students in your church/area). In the Fall, Regional Connect Events are being scheduled around the nation designed to make us get Bigger, Better and Stronger for God and His Kingdom! What an opportunity for us to be the Church. With all that's going on negatively in the world, the Church should be that city set on a hill shining brightly for all to see.

In this edition of the Destiny Magazine you will enjoy hearing from bright lights shining for God sharing powerful truths, helpful information and great testimonies. Get ready to be inspired, challenged and blessed! Enjoy! Cath and I will see you at The Gathering!

In this Edition

4 IT'S MY DESTINY
Dr. Phillip Brassfield

8 ANOTHER GENERATION AROSE
Jeffrey Kent

10 THE PURSUIT CHURCH
Andrew Carranco

12 A SHOWER AND A SHAVE
Stephanie Suber

14 DLI SPECIAL SECTION

21 LEGACY CHURCH
Chris & Jessica Lewis

22 DOES YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY NEED A RESET?
Jarred Moss

24 AUDIO IN CHURCH
John Haddad Jr.

27 MOVING FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL
David John Philips

14 DLI In July; 15 From the Forums; 15 Student Spotlight: *Alicia T. Murica*;
16 Mastered by the Scriptures: *Landon Galloway*; 18 A Decade Leading DLI: *Landon Galloway*;
19 Destiny Staff Members Share Their DLI Experience; 20 The Everyday Disciple



JUNE 22-24TH



CHRIST CHURCH, LA

WELCOME BACK!

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, JUNE 22ND

6:00PM | Welcome Party

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23RD

9:30AM | DLI GRADUATION

11:00AM | MORNING SESSION

12:00 PM | LUNCH

12:30 PM | BREAKOUTS

7 Types of Evangelism
Creative Events that Drive Culture
Leading Children's Ministry
Leading Youth Ministry
Connections
Worship and Production Connect
DLI Student & Alumni Connect

—BREAK—

6:30PM | EVENING SESSION

THURSDAY, JUNE 24TH

9:30AM | ORDINATION

11:00AM | MORNING SESSION

12:00 PM | LUNCH

12:30 PM | BREAKOUTS

Goal Setting for Church Leaders
Creative Events that Drive Culture
Leading Children's Ministry
Leading Youth Ministry
Connections
Worship and Production Connect
Women of Destiny

—BREAK—

6:30PM | EVENING SESSION

ONSITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE

SINGLES
\$84

COUPLES
\$168

FAMILIES
\$210

Register onsite at the Welcome Party or at 8:30am on Wednesday.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN PLANNED FOR YOUR TEENAGERS AND YOUR CHILDREN.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND THE DESTINY YOUTH & CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE, PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE.



IT'S PARTY TIME!

VISIT THEDESTINYGATHERING.COM FOR MORE DETAILS!



IT'S *my* DESTINY

*Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, **that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.** Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind;...*

PHILIPPIANS 3:12 - 15 NKJV

Your destiny includes both Process and Product, both the destination and the journey it takes to get there, and they are both part of God's plan for your life! But we seldom attend classes on the process part of your destiny, and it's the part that happens first.

It's human nature to want to skip the process part and focus on the destination. But I wonder if God is as focused on the destination as we are? Two thoughts to consider:

1. Maybe with God your destiny is more about who you become, than what you accomplish?
2. Maybe in the process of getting you to your highest area of production, God was really using the bait of your dream to lead you through the pieces of the process to transform you into the person He wanted you to become, using the process to perfect the person?

MAYBE YOU WERE ACTUALLY THE PROJECT! NOT JUST WHAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH!

Jamie Buckingham, the late Christian author and thinker, once said when asked how he studied for a message, "I seldom prepare the message, I prepare the man." Let me tell you today with great certainty, God is working on you! You may not be in that place yet that you claim is your destiny, but don't think that your destiny has not begun! God is working on you!

My proposal about the process seems to be consistent with the narrative of Scripture.

Moses didn't simply get his MBA, attend a few leadership classes, and then lead the nation out of bondage. There was a process that led to the product of freedom for the nation of Israel.

Paul didn't just have a dream of proclaiming the Gospel before kings and cultures. He was drug from city to city through a process that was, in fact, his destiny - every part of the process, every broken piece, every shattered moment! From the stoning in Lystra to the midnight beating in Philippi, to the snakebite in Malta, to the dungeons of Rome, it was all part of Paul's destiny! We all want the glory of success and the joy of having a purpose that is fully realized, optimized and maximized. But let me suggest, don't despise the process!

Every promise has a process, **but wouldn't it be great if this wasn't the case?** But for a God who is more concerned about you *being* than you *doing*, and what you become rather than what you accomplish, the process serves His purpose a lot more than the instant gratification of our desires and the fulfillment of the immediate promise.

The last 11 chapters of the Book of Genesis records the story of Joseph. He had a dream. He had a purpose. But there was first a process. It was a process that tested the very core of Joseph's character. He was first tested by rejection, then by misfortune. He was tested by seduction, then by injustice, and ultimately, he was tested by success. And the odds are if you're going to do something great for God, you will be too!

It is in the process that you will develop perspectives that allow you to thrive and be grateful for all of your destiny, the fun parts and the not so fun parts.

THE CLEAREST PERSPECTIVES FROM THE PROCESS

The Apostle Paul was an expert in the process! And there are three iconic statements the Apostle makes about destiny when dictating the thank you note to the church at Philippi that help us see how the process can change your perspective. Remember Paul is in prison with an uncertain future, facing even the possibility of torture and death.

From his words we can see what the process had done for his perspective! And I believe that it will do the same for yours.

1. YOU'LL LEARN TO BE CONFIDENT IN GOD

*Paul said, "Being **confident** of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).*

Let's set a little context here. Most likely, Paul is writing this thank you note from prison. In spite of his challenging situation and the uncertainty of his future, he has found a place of confidence in the faithfulness of the Lord! He is speaking to a church filled with people who are also suffering persecution and while he is in prison himself!

The first perspective that the process will develop in you is confidence in God! Confidence, not in yourself. It's not a self-reliance but a confidence in God's determination to accomplish His purpose in your life. Something powerful happens when you realize that **God is in relentless pursuit of His purpose in you!** The process you endure will cause your confidence to shift away from your abilities and to God's ability to finish what He starts! **It's a transfer of Trust!**

2. YOU'LL LEARN TO FOCUS ON ETERNITY

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). The second change that will come to your perspective will be a change in your focus. Your focus will change from the micro perspective of self, to the macro reality of God's will. You will become less self-conscious and more God aware. Paul essentially says, if

I live, I am offering Christ a physical entrance into every conversation and situation I face. If I die, then I simply go to be with Him. Live? He's here in me. Die? I am there with Him. **Here / there** is a perspective shift from self-focus, to Christ focus.

3. FORGET THE PAST AND REACH FOR THE FUTURE

Philippians 3:12-15 v12, *"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13, Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15, therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you."*

In this last passage from Philippians we see two shifts in perspective. I call these two motions the respiration of destiny. They are two steps that are so connected that Paul calls them one thing!

Respiration? Respiration is one thing but composed of two movements: breathing in and exhaling out. When we do this, the lungs take in oxygen and release carbon dioxide. In every breath there is both life and death, oxygen and poison.

Forgetting the past takes work. You have to make peace with how things are and how they worked out.

Reaching for the future takes courage and hope!

The possibilities of new faces and new opportunities are always more powerful than old opinions and old conflicts of the past. Learn to look into the future filled with divine purpose with earthly expectation! Remember, 'there's no limit when God is in it!'

God has a plan for you and for your life. It involves being and then doing!

Shop Today!

ALL
ONLINE

DESTINY
STORE



NEW
ARRIVALS



DESTINYLEADERS.COM/STORE

DESTINYCONNECT

BIGGER. BETTER. STRONGER.



COMING THIS FALL
to a city near you!

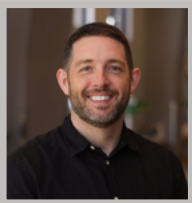


CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT [DESTINYLEADERS.COM/CONNECT](https://destinyleaders.com/connect)
FOR DESTINY CONNECT FALL DATES AND LOCATIONS!



ANOTHER GENERATION AROSE

Reconstructing the church's approach to reaching Generation Z



JEFFREY KENT

The sirens have long been going off in the American church concerning the faith departure of the Millennial generation. They came questioning the values and traditions of their predecessors in ways that previous generations had not. In light of this generational shift over the past two decades, churches have either seen a mass exodus or have felt the pressure to make radical changes to remain relevant. Like a remodeled house, we have seen churches implant bold updates upon their existing structures. Leaders got younger, services got more casual, music got louder, media got more engaging, and jeans got tighter (much tighter).

These modernizations were not done to the detriment of the church. In many ways, they were a necessity. Thank God for churches that were willing to mix things up a bit to reach the younger generation. And in some ways, it has proven fruitful in connecting to Millennials and stemming the

tide of those leaving the church and dropping their faiths at the exit doors.

SPIRITUALLY ILLITERATE

However, as Judges 2:10 writes, *"Another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel."* This subsequent generation following Millennials has not received its proper due, and the reality is the church is not prepared or mobilized to reach them. They are known as Generation Z, born between 1997 and 2012. Who are they? These are predominantly our current middle school, high school, and college students.

If Millennials questioned standing institutions and societal norms, Gen Z has simply sought to tear them down entirely. Mel Walker, president of Vision For Youth, sees them as now the largest unreached people group in the US. They are 67 million strong, and less than 30% see religion as important in their lives. Their spiritual illiteracy, as author James White puts it, to

traditional Christian beliefs is far more staggering than even that.

The thing is, it's not that they are not walking away from their faiths, their Millennial parents did that for them twenty years ago. For so many, Christian faith is as foreign of a worldview to them as Taoism or Hinduism. Neither are they walking away from institutionalism. That tide has turned. Traditional institutions simply have little relevance to them. They are truly post-establishment, post-traditional household, and post-church. They are *"another generation."*

So, the question is - How do we as a church respond? Although the truth of the gospel remains unchanged, the mode of presenting it must continuously change. Churches that miss this are finding themselves closing doors or limping along. With Gen Z, the church cannot afford to simply force updates onto existing structures and hope they will show up. This is the time for radical changes. While much could be

said of this generation, there are three areas that the church must understand and respond to in order to effectively reach Gen Z.

TECHNOLOGY

The most observable attribute of Gen Z is their relationship with technology. Technology is not just a tool; it is central to their identity. They were born in a world immersed in endless data and rapidly changing technology. It is impossible to fully quantify what this barrage of data from the moment they could crawl has done. This technological obsession is linked to a lack of trust, isolation, and depression. The common response of churches – throw as much technology as possible at them – may not be what they need.

Gen Z craves authenticity far more than they crave entertainment. Meeting Gen Z in this space requires not only engaging them through technology, but also helping them to discover information and truth beyond it. This includes working with families to help their children filter data and establish healthy boundaries. Gen Z services and events should also intentionally avoid technology at times to allow students to experience the honest conversations they have come to crave, but without the social isolation they are so accustomed to.

DIVERSITY

Diversity is also a defining factor with Gen Z. This will be the first generation in the history of the US to see the shift in becoming a majority nonwhite. This has already taken place in the South with minorities exceeding 50%

of Gen Z. This generation is much more likely to have many of their closest connections with people from different racial backgrounds, different ethnic backgrounds, and who are immigrants or children of immigrants.

For a generation that sees diversity as so integral to its identity, it is easy to see the challenge in trusting a church that is not as like-minded. Churches must be committed to building diverse bodies. The problem for Gen Z is that most church Sunday mornings look vastly different than their own friend groups (or Jesus' for that matter). A core reason churches struggle is that there is a massive difference between welcoming people of different backgrounds, and actually giving them a voice. In order to reach a diverse generation, we must celebrate diversity and, even more, allow diverse voices to speak into our congregations.

WORLDVIEW

Sociologist Christian Smith, author of *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*, coined the term Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD) to describe the prevalent belief structure among Gen Z. None of its core tenants are new, but what is new is the rejection of institutional authority and the centrality of personal happiness. The goal is not to adhere to a set of predefined rules, but to define your own rules in a way that you can feel good about yourself. Any form of morality must not impede upon another's beliefs. They are wary of asserting anyone's life choices as objectively wrong.

We must recognize that much of what churches preach against weekly, Gen Z encounters daily. For them, it's more than just a sin "out there" – it's someone's name, it's a face, it's a friend. Does this mean we water down truth? Of course not. It means that we lead with love and demonstrate sensitivity to the difficulty of them standing up against ideals that go against their own friends' identities. It means creating spaces to have hard conversations and helping them to discover that personal conviction does not equate condemnation.

TIME FOR BOLDNESS

Most of us older Christians have never faced the level of opposition that Gen Z faces for being a follower of Jesus. The reality is, comfortable, Sunday morning Christianity may be on its way out. However, we must ask – "Is this a bad thing?" Maybe instead of fearing it, we as a church can welcome it! If yesterday's approach is not reaching Gen Z for Christ today, perhaps it's time to return to the boldness that defined the very first church – the church that embraced fearless evangelism and radical discipleship more than polished services, the church that was actually *more* diverse than the world around it, and the church that cared more about getting the gospel out than hoping others found their way in.

How many links does it take to break a chain? Just one. The consequence is too great to allow this generation to slip away. It's time to go after "*another generation.*"

JEFFREY KENT IS THE ADMINISTRATIVE PASTOR AT CHRIST CHURCH. HE HAS BEEN TEACHING, PREACHING, AND SERVING CHURCHES FOR OVER 20 YEARS INCLUDING NEARLY 3 YEARS IN CHINA. JEFFREY RECEIVED A B.A. IN RELIGION FROM LOUISIANA COLLEGE, AND A MASTER OF DIVINITY FROM LIBERTY UNIVERSITY.





THE PURSUIT CHURCH

ANDREW CARRANCO

When God began to deal with me about launching what is now known as The Pursuit Church, I wasn't sure if God was really serious, or if He misdialed from Heaven and meant to give this dream to someone else. I never desired being a pastor, I was fine behind my piano and a microphone. But as time passed, it became clearer to Ruby and I what God had in store for our future.

2018 would not be an ordinary year for our family. We had been raised in church, and in ministry since our teens, but this would be the year we would step into a season God orchestrated for us and see God's plan unravel.

God told Zechariah "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin." That is exactly what we did, started small and began to work. We began meeting in our home with the 9 original members of our launch team. That April, we started hosting services in our backyard with about 30 people in attendance. Since then the vision and mission has resounded in our gatherings. We exist for people to encounter God, be covered by grace, and be passionate in pursuit.

We have been overwhelmed by what God has done through our church. It is amazing to see what I saw and felt years ago become a reality. He has really exceeded our expectations. We have seen so many decide to follow Jesus and have witnessed 73 people go public with their faith. Amazing people from all over the Rio Grande Valley have made The Pursuit Church their home church, and now "we do life together."

From launch, we have set out to be a beacon of hope in our city. One of our values is we pursue others. 2020 and the beginning

of 2021 was unprecedented. A global pandemic, a hurricane, and a statewide freeze created needs we were able to assist in and be the hands and feet of Jesus. We have been blessed to help those in need.

We have seen how God has opened doors for us here in Harlingen, TX. From gathering in our backyard, to gathering in the newest venue in the heart of our city. But this could not be done without amazing people coming together and saying yes to God. Our Pursuit Crew is the best in the world, and is helping this mobile church move forward. It is really humbling that people come together every week to set up and tear down. The collaboration, and the laughs, are memorable ones. But most importantly, it is amazing to see the zeal in our Crew's eyes for creating a space for others to pursue God and pursue freedom.

To pastor such an amazing group of people has been one of the greatest honors of my life. As I look back at all that God has done, I am overwhelmed. It truly is a testament to God's goodness and faithfulness. But something tells me that there is still more, and the best is yet to come. We thank God for what He has done, and are expectant for what He will do in the future.



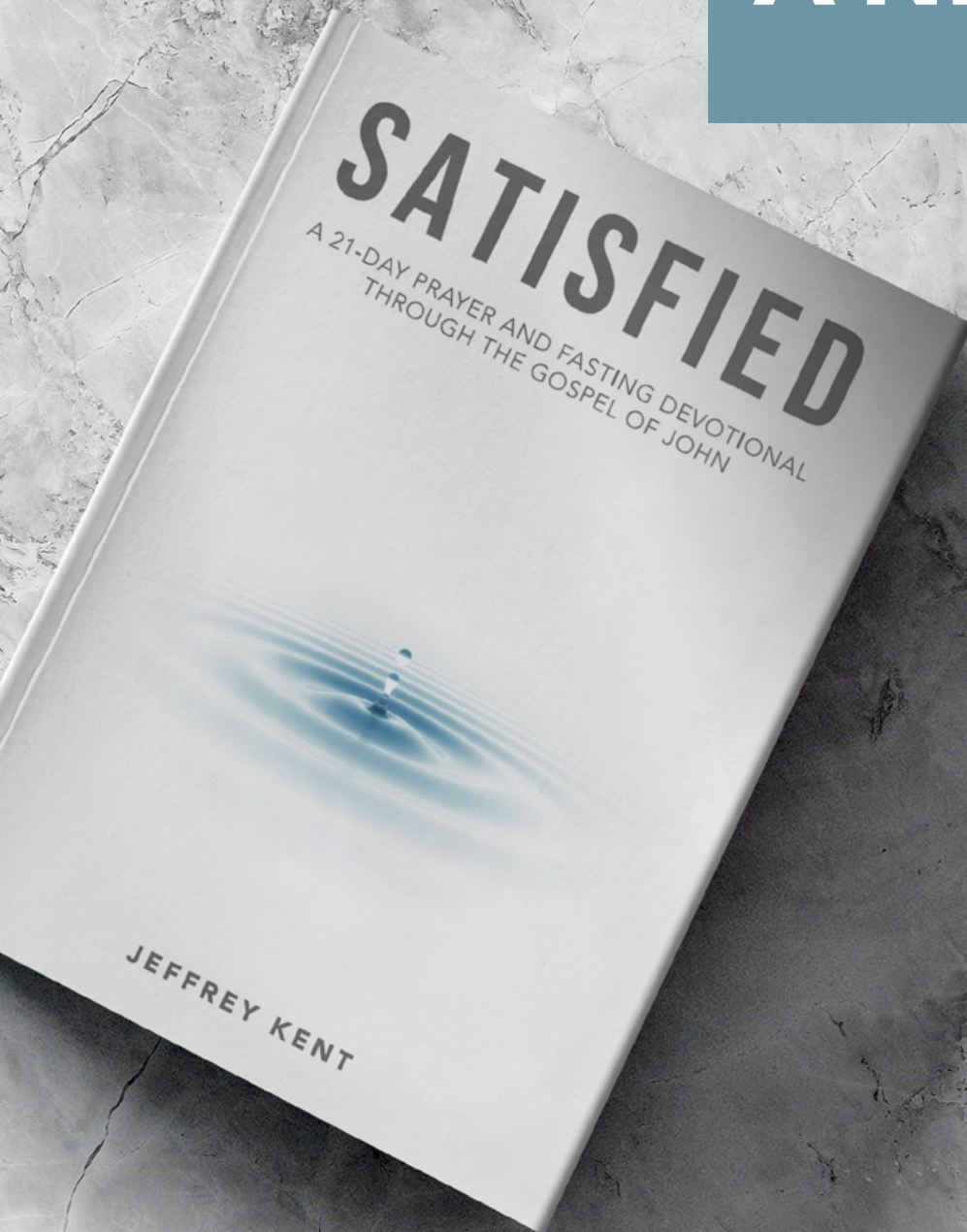
Andrew Carranco is a devoted husband, father, and Christ follower. Since 2005, he has served in different capacities in the local church. He graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Communication

from the University of Texas - Pan American. Andrew is married to Ruby Jean and they are the proud parents of Bailey Grace and Owen Hunter. Together they lead The Pursuit Church in Harlingen, TX.



A NEW BOOK

by Jeffrey Kent



Satisfied is a 21-day devotional through the Gospel of John, that also incorporates fasting and prayer. This is a great tool for any church going through a 21-day fast. The goal in this devotional is three weeks of immersion into the heart of Jesus. The book will walk readers through how to choose the right fast, how to keep with it, and how to pull truths out of Scripture and apply them to life today. This is for the Christian who feels overwhelmed with where to begin. Satisfied is a chance to go deeper and experience God in new and refreshing ways.

VISIT [CHRISTCHURCH.LA/JEFFREY](https://christchurch.la/jeffrey) TO ORDER THE BOOK.

A SHOWER AND A SHAVE



STEPHANIE PASTORS OASIS CHURCH (@OASISTX.ORG) IN THE AUSTIN, TEXAS METRO ALONGSIDE HER HUSBAND, JONATHAN AND HER SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, ALEX AND HANNAH. HER CURRENT PASSION IS BUILDING A COMMUNITY CENTER (@THEOASISCOMMUNITY) ON THEIR CHURCH CAMPUS TO SERVE THE PHYSICAL NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

STEPHANIE SUBER

Don't we just love to hear those special words, the ones that make life suddenly sweeter and more joyful? The three simple words that can change the trajectory of our lives and bring about the things we have longed for:

"I am ready."

I admit, they may not be as good as "I love you" but just think about how happy Husband feels when it's 15 minutes till kick-off and he's waiting for Wife to finish putting on her make-up so they can get out the door. Suddenly, she appears and says, "I am ready!"

Or the relief the gal feels who has pushed and prodded the guy to make that life-long commitment that he has been avoiding, and one day, he finally says, "Yes! I am ready!"

I remember vividly the satisfaction I felt when a certain very handsome and spiritual guy, once who didn't want to plant a church in Austin at 50 years old, but his beautiful and persuasive wife begged and pleaded, and he eventually came to his senses and said, "OK! I give up! I am ready!"

The Joseph story in the Bible is one of my all time favorites. He had an impossible dream, yet, stayed true to it in the midst of horrifying circumstances. He was abused and lied on, falsely imprisoned and sold into slavery. He was rejected by his family, and even by those he had helped the most, but he kept his character through it all.

At the beginning of Joseph's story, we find him hanging out with Dad in the tents with his custom made coat on, while his

brothers were out in the fields doing all the work. Dad says, "Hey Jo! Your brothers are out doing all the work so get ready and go check on them. You are really good about telling me what they are doing wrong when I'm not there."

Now Joseph didn't say, "Well Dad, let me take care of this or let me do that first, and then I can." He wasn't all, "Well, let me check my planner and see if it fits into my schedule." Or "Can I pray and fast for a week to see if it is God's will?"

No, when the time came, he simply said, "I am ready." (Gen. 37:13 NLT)

Those simple words were a revelation to me and I saw that it became a character trait of Joseph's throughout his life. In every situation, he didn't have to think about how he was going to respond or what choices he was going to make. He didn't have to get ready, he stayed ready! He was always ready to make the right choice whatever the situation called for. In everything that Joseph did, no matter how he was maligned, lied on and pushed down, he still rose to the top in every situation! Let's look at a few ways he was able to stay on course even when his life was stormy.

Joseph stayed intentional. He had a dream and he realized that everything he went through was in God's hands and taking him toward that dream. Intentionality changes the way we look at everything in our lives. We can learn to do the same thing, but to change our mind-sets and attitudes about doing it. We can gripe about doing dishes, or we can thank God for a family and food and water! We can intentionally choose positivity in everything we do.



Another thing Joseph did well is he kept a correct perspective. "We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are" is a quote attributed to many, but Joseph could've been the originator. He was able to stay true to his integrity, even when it seemed like there was nothing left to hope for, because he saw his trouble as an integral part of his journey and not an impediment to it. Jumping ahead to the end of the story, Joseph tells his brothers, "You sold me but God sent me." Like Joseph, when we have the right perspective about our situations, it can literally change our lives!

Which leads us to the next thing Joseph did right, he stayed grateful. I have a chronic illness and I have prayed for things to be different but for whatever reason, they aren't. Recently, God said, "Be thankful for PMDD. Praise me for your sufferings." This mind shift has already made such a difference in my life! Is it still there? Yeah...for now. But with gratitude, my perspective has shifted from looking at myself and what uncomfortable and painful thing is happening to me, to looking at God and seeing how He is about to turn this thing around and use it for my good and His glory!

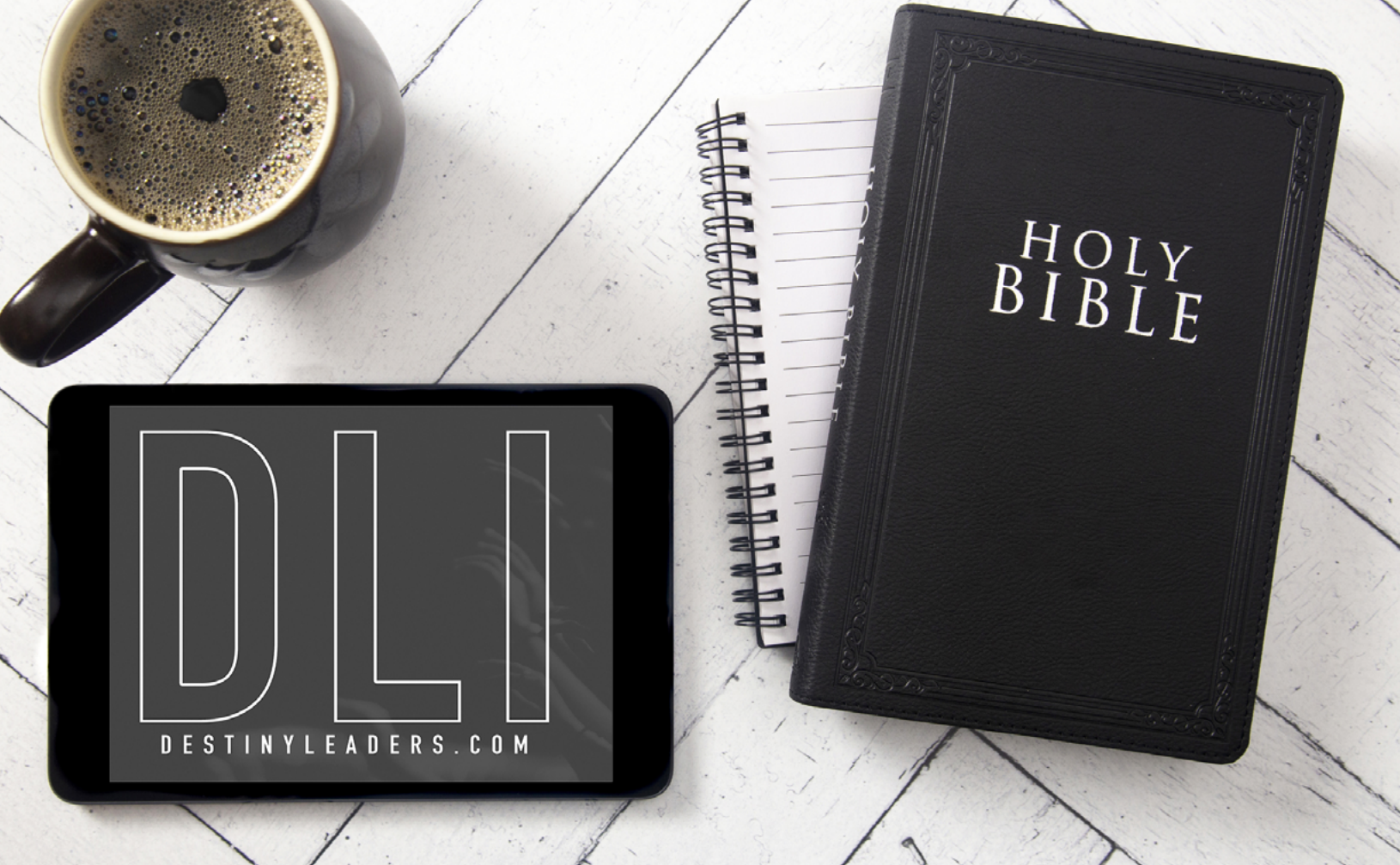
All of Joseph's story is **AH-MAY-ZING** but one of my favorite parts is when he is in prison. He has risen up into leadership by having the right perspective and being grateful and intentional. He's just doing what he does, living a life of integrity even when he has been forgotten... again. Out of nowhere, he gets called in to see Pharaoh. P.H.A.R.O.A.H. The KING OF THE WORLD. All of a sudden, he is going from the bottom to the top. And all he has to do to be ready for this momentous occasion is **take a shower and shave**. No hail Mary's to God, "Oh Lord, I know I haven't talked much to you lately but I'm here now! I know I slipped up last night but I promise I'll do better from now on. Please make this dream come to pass!"

No. He was ready. He made an exponential leap forward in his life and saw his dreams come to pass. I can just hear him saying, in his head and in his heart, "ALL THIS TIME. It is finally happening. What I dreamed of all those years ago is becoming reality today! I wasn't crazy...It WAS worth it! When everyone else gave up and gave in, I stayed on the path to my destiny and did not divert!"

Wouldn't it be tragic if we spent our lives frustrated because we felt like God never activated our dreams? We give up on God ever doing what He said He was gonna do. Dave Ramsey said, *"It is worth the trouble to become the person God made you to be!"*

But what if it's a case of user error? Like when we were mad that the dryer wasn't doing what it was made to do-drying!- but it just needed the lint cleaned out of the duct that was all scrunched up behind it, and then it worked perfectly. What if we aren't waiting on Him, but He is waiting on us? Pastor Chad Veach recently posted, *"Your alignment determines your assignment."* **Are we aligned? Are we ready?**

I want to follow Jo's path and stay true to my God-dreams! We must live intentionally with gratitude and the right perspective so that when those times come for us to take huge faith steps, we don't have to be afraid, but can say with confidence, "I am ready!"



DESTINY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Special Section

DLI IN JULY

2021 marks the 10th year anniversary of the DLI online program! To celebrate, we are offering two amazing promotions for the annual **DLI in July** enrollment campaign. Any NEW student who applies, is accepted, and makes tuition payment arrangements by July 31 will receive 10% off of their tuition as well as free books for his or her first semester!

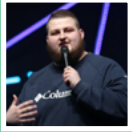
If you are a DLI alumnus or lead a Destiny church, we need your help! Let everyone know about this amazing opportunity! Let's make this the biggest and best DLI in July yet. If you would like promotional materials or to have a DLI team member visit your church, please let us know at dli@destinyleaders.com.



FALL 2021 SEMESTER BEGINS SEPTEMBER 6TH
ENROLL AT [DESTINYLEADERS.COM/DLI](https://destinyleaders.com/dli)

From the Forums

We asked our first year students to post in the discussion forum their thoughts on how they are enjoying their first year as a DLI student. Here is what they are saying!



"I love listening to the lectures and getting more and more insight on scripture, how to interpret it and how to deliver it correctly. One of the most memorable things I remember from this year was when Pastor Landon said "the Bible says what it means, and means what it says", it spoke so many volumes to me, and empowered me to just let the scripture speak for itself."

-ELI ROSEBERRY, STORYSIDE CHURCH



I've enjoyed studying the life of Jesus step by step because it's so amazing to know the things and investment Jesus had put in through the strength and wisdom of the Holy Spirit to complete the mission of God.

-DEZMERAY LAKE, OASIS CHURCH



"I enjoy the discussion forum. It gives me an opportunity to see other perspectives. It allows me to see the work God is doing in the lives of many. I am so thankful for them. It has challenged me in my faith as I am drawing closer to Christ."

-EMERICK LESTER, THE HILLS NASHVILLE



What I have enjoyed most are the webinars and the provoking of thoughts and reminders of effective principles for serving God and His people. I have enjoyed hearing other's perspectives and hearing how Jesus worked or is currently working in their lives.

-DONELLE STARKE, OASIS CHURCH



I've really enjoyed the content that is brought to the lectures. Typically it's something or someone that I hadn't either heard about in a long time, or ever heard before. Love the way it's broken down and then applied in a way that we can take it away and feel empowered to use it for our own purpose. Many times after a lecture I would immediately share what I learned with other leaders, friends or my small group.

-TITO SALINAS, LIFE CHURCH



I have enjoyed the content the most! It has been very beneficial for me to look at the Bible and Scripture itself into further detail. I loved how everything was broken down so clearly.

-ANNA HALL, STORYSIDE CHURCH

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ALICIA T. MURCIA | The Philippines



I am Alicia T. Murcia, 61 yrs. old, married to Lito P. Murcia. We are a big family. We have five children, four male and one female. I shouldn't say children because they are no longer kids. Three of them are

professionals and two are married. We have two wonderful grandsons we adore so much. We all joyfully serve the Lord.

Our church is Pillar of Truth Church. My husband and I pioneered this church eight years ago, my husband being the pastor. It is a home church, so we are not a big church. We are under the umbrella of Faith Tabernacle Church. I serve as associate pastor and church administrator as well. There are only five of us in leadership. We have a deacon, and two on Finance. Our Church treasurer also serves as leader on evangelism, and the auditor also serves as leader on prayer and intercession. My husband is not a full time pastor. He works in a government owned company. I handle Sunday school. I believe it is the best venue to apply knowledge I acquire in DLI. We are so grateful to God for what He is doing in our church, since small church as we are, He uses us to support three missionary works in three different places in the Philippines, particularly in Mindanao. These missionaries focus on tribal groups. These groups of people include the Maranaos or Muslims. It is truly great joy to reach out to these people for the glory of God.

My opportunity to be in DLI is such a blessing. I am so grateful to God for the Destiny family for their generosity in providing this scholarship for me. The knowledge and equipping I acquire in DLI is a great help for me personally, and for the ministry God has entrusted us. I am not the only one benefitted, but also the church. We are all recipients of the equipping I acquire in DLI. I am also grateful for the lives of all our mentors. God bless them and DLI for their generosity.

I am also grateful to Bishop Robin Posgay and The Fellowship Church family. I know that without them I would not be here in DLI. Oasis Institute of Theology here in Iligan City, Philippines will also be a great place for me to share or teach what I have learned from DLI.

God bless all our speakers and mentors, and everyone in the administration who labored for us. You are such a blessing.

MASTERED

by the Scriptures

LANDON GALLOWAY

If we're honest, the Bible can be difficult to read. It's full of strange names, places, and rules. And, parts of it just seem strange. Why did Ruth lay at Boaz's feet? Why did Jacob not recognize Leah during their wedding? What do we do with all of the polygamy and holy war? How do we interpret the miracles that happened when we rarely, if ever, see those miracles in our everyday lives?

This means that in the modern world, the Bible can be more of an obstacle to faith than an aid to faith. We sometimes find ourselves in a posture that places us as the judge and puts the Bible on trial. We often read it analytically, trying to interpret it, make it fit into our worldview. We treat the Scriptures as a buffet, piling our plates high with what we like and leaving the rest.

Perhaps you have noticed how the Scriptures have been used for ideological purposes recently. When those in power make decisions with which we agree, we point to Romans 13- honor those in authority because God placed them there! When those in power make decisions with which we disagree, we go to the book of Acts where the apostles proclaim that it's better to obey God than man.

All of this represents us being in control. We decide how we want to interpret Scripture based on our own preconceived notions and worldview. The text is used to serve us and our desires. We want to master the Bible instead of letting the Bible master us. However, a disciple of Jesus must learn to approach the text from a different perspective. We don't allow our race, our experiences, our biases, or our cultural settings control our understanding of the Bible; instead, we allow our

understanding of the Bible explain our experiences and our culture. In other words, don't interpret the Bible through the lens of your culture; interpret your culture through the lens of the Bible.

Much of the conversation about discipleship and the Bible focuses on methods, techniques, and apologetic proofs of the Scripture's reliability. At DLI however, we teach that the Christian's relationship with the Bible far surpasses analytical tools. All of those things have their place, but the Bible was given by God to transform rather than inform. When we look at Jesus, we see that He had a vibrant relationship with the Scriptures. He did not view it as a repository of information that needed to be decoded and analyzed. He viewed it as a source of life.

Jesus was a rabbi, a teacher. He interpreted the Bible, taught the Bible, and argued passionately against others' interpretations of the Bible. Jesus teaches us about the priority of Scripture and how He teaches it in Matthew 5:17-20.

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Law and the Prophets represent the entirety of the Hebrew Bible, also known as the Old Testament. The word "abolish" has the idea of "deconstruct" or to "tear down." Jesus' radical message and claim to be the Messiah opened Him up to the criticism that He was abolishing what had been taught by the Old Testament. Today, many people wish to "deconstruct" Scripture, by removing the offensive parts, keeping the parts they like, and editing some others in order to rebuild a Bible to their liking. However, a god who never says no to you is no god at all.

Jesus did not endorse the current trend of deconstruction. Instead, He supported a "re-construction," by building upon the foundation which already existed. He did not simply come to "obey" or "uphold" what had been written about Him. Rather, He saw Himself as the fulfillment. All of the Old Testament was leading up to Him. The Gospels tell the story of His life, death, and resurrection. The rest of the New Testament tells about the Church that He left behind and for which He is returning. Jesus is the interpretative key to all of Scripture.

In this text, there are a couple of noteworthy wordplays. The word translated "relaxes" is from the same root as "abolish." Jesus did not come to abolish the Scriptures, so the one who attempts to deconstruct the Scriptures for his or her own agenda will be considered least in the Kingdom of Heaven. If Jesus didn't feel free to deconstruct the Bible, who are we to try? Those who deconstruct the "least" of the commandments will be considered "least" in the kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus' dialogue throughout the rest of the Sermon on the Mount will indicate that the end goal is not just right

interpretation but right practice. He says that righteousness must EXCEED the righteousness of Pharisees. He shows this thought in the rest of the sermon. He goes through the Old Testament text and models how to correctly interpret and practice the Scriptures. He looks at murder, adultery, divorce, taking oaths, and the like, and interprets them in a fairly stringent manner. His big idea is that the Scriptures are designed to deconstruct us, our anger, our lust, and our lack of truth-telling and commitment-keeping. In other words, don't abolish the Scriptures; abolish your sin.

This approach to the Scriptures challenges our modern worldview and perspectives. We live in a culture divided into left and right. This not only involves politics, but also theology. Jesus challenges the assumptions of both conservatives and progressives. This is not a new problem. There was a parallel in Jesus' days. The Sadducees were "liberal." They only accepted the Torah, but reinterpreted the challenging parts. They did not believe in the supernatural, angels, demons, or the resurrection of the dead. They often argued that the Torah was philosophically aligned with Greco-Roman worldview and compatible with Greco-Roman version of the "good life."

On the other hand, we have the Pharisees who were "conservative." They believed in all of God's revelation but often went beyond what was clearly taught and added their own rules. They used the Scriptures as a weapon to best their opponents and to prop up their power. Throughout the course of Jesus' ministry, He has ample opportunity to address the dangers of both sides.

Jesus addresses the "liberal" Sadducees in Mark 12:18-24.

18 Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. 19 "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a

man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. 20 Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. 21 The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. 22 In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. 23 At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?" 24 Jesus replied, "Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?"

You can hear their mocking tone. You don't *really* believe this nonsense, do you Jesus? They found the "gotcha" passage. They thought that they had Him. They found one place in Scripture that surely no reasonable person could defend. But, Jesus changed the game. He did not address their concerns, but raised one of His own. He reminded them that the "error" was not in the Scripture but in their interpretation of the Scripture. The problem wasn't in the Bible; the problem was in them. Whenever I see something that I don't like in Scripture, I must constantly remind myself that the problem lies in me, not in the Bible.

Jesus also had a message for the religious conservatives of His day. In John 8, He addresses the Pharisees.

John 8:39-42- 39 You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life. 41 "I do not accept glory from human beings, 42 but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.

The Pharisees had elevated literal interpretation of Scriptures above Jesus and the love of God. Jesus reminded them that it's possible to get so passionate about being right that you

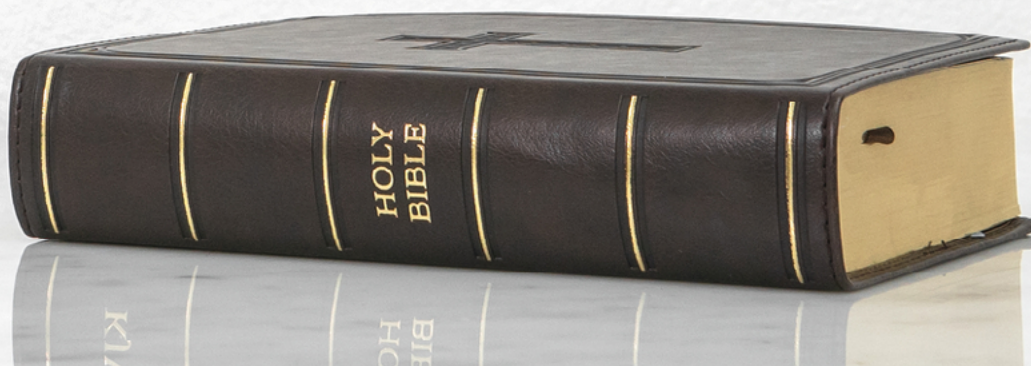
miss the entire point of what the Bible is all about- Jesus.

So if the "left" way is wrong and the "right" way is wrong, what is the right way to read it? Paul points us in the proper direction in his letter to Timothy:

2 Timothy 3:14-17- 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

We are to read the Scriptures in a way that they teach us, rebuke us, correct us, and train us. The proper approach is to allow the Scripture to control us, and not us control the Scripture. Paul reminds us that the Scriptures "train" us in righteousness. This word "train" involves both education and correction. A schoolmaster charged with training his pupils in the first century was expected to provide both content and discipline in the formation of a student.

Since we live in the information age, it is easy to forget that the Bible is not just another piece of content. We may plow through books, websites, and podcasts, thus curating a broad range of knowledge on any given number of topics. But, the Scriptures defy such a process. The Bible isn't to be mastered; it's to master us. So, we must learn to read slowly, to sit in the text, to let it change us and challenge us, to move at its pace. Reading the Bible requires more than finding the right technique. It demands the right posture.





A DECADE LEADING DLI

Pastor Landon Galloway

In 2011, I was finishing up my Masters at Oral Roberts University when I received a phone call that forever changed my life for the good. Dr. Phil Brassfield was on the other line, and he wanted some help fleshing out an educational program. He had a vision for a leadership institute that would serve to qualify those who were seeking ministry credentials with Destiny. He dreamed of an online program that would offer top-notch biblical, theological, and leadership training within the context of the local church.

So, we began to dream together. I drew up some ideas, and soon thereafter found myself on Destiny Staff. I quickly grasped the vision of DLI and made it my own. I had a lot of ideas and a lot of passion, but no practical idea how to pull it off! When I think about the experience of those students in 2011, I am filled with gratitude that they bought into a vision that hadn't quite yet come to fruition. The website was so clunky and awkward, and some of the processes were cumbersome. I still don't know if they know that I was just sort of making it up as I went along.

As I reflect back over the past ten years, I am moved to tears. We have trained hundreds of students in the U.S. and abroad. Sometimes, I do the math (which is scary because I'm no good at it) and I think about the Kingdom impact DLI has made. If each of our students uses what they learned to influence just ten more, DLI has impacted thousands of people worldwide. We've seen our students become senior pastors, church planters, youth leaders, music leaders, and entrepreneurs. We have celebrated students who used their DLI credits to earn Bachelor degrees. A few have even gone further and earned Master's degrees!

Over the past ten years, we have established a culture in Destiny churches that places a high value on education and

training. In an era where pragmatism and "how-to" seems to rule in the ministry training space, we have done something remarkable. We have raised a generation of leaders who value the Scriptures, who want to know what they believe and why. We have made high-level training available to those who would have had no other opportunity. The busy pastor, the overloaded mom, the bi-vocational youth pastor have all been able to reach their goals and receive training. Those that simply could not afford a traditional university education have been resourced to walk out their call. We have trained leaders in Trinidad, Ukraine, the Philippines, and Zambia at no cost to the students.

And my own life has been personally impacted. I have found my voice. I have been given room to grow. I have been allowed to make mistakes. I have discovered that I had a gift to preach. I learned that one does not have to choose between academics and church ministry. I have been accepted for who I am and have been celebrated for my unique gifting. In other words, my nerdiness is actually celebrated!

I have been affirmed by Dr. Phil and Cathy Brassfield, who are more like my parents than my bosses. I have gained many fathers and mothers in the faith, the Destiny leaders who are older than me and way more accomplished than me, yet have taken an interest in my family and my ministry. I have made life-long friends that laugh and cry with me. I have travelled the world doing what I love. I even met my wife (and you all know that I married WAY UP) on a DLI trip to Trinidad! It was through Destiny that I was invited to join the pastoral staff at Grace, which has greatly enriched my life.

I hope that I have impacted DLI half as much as DLI has impacted me over the last decade. I can't wait to see what God does over the next 10 years!



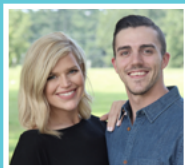
DESTINY STAFF MEMBERS SHARE THEIR DLI EXPERIENCE



JARRED MOSS

Enrolling in DLI was one of the greatest decisions I've ever made. I remember being young and excited about ministry, and eager to see God's purpose for my life unfold, but not quite knowing where to start, until Destiny Leadership Institute. The dynamic combo of high-quality academic biblical education, coupled with hands-on experience serving at my church, afforded me the opportunity that previous programs and internships hadn't: access to my pastor, front-row participation, and personal growth in understanding the church and the Kingdom of God.

While the academics were great, it was the values I gained, the wisdom I retained, and the relationships I built that have stuck with me, directed me, and governed my steps right into the center of God's will for my life. Today, I'm a staff pastor at my home church, The River, as well as serving as the youth director for Destiny! I'm forever grateful for Landon, the DLI staff, and God for the opportunity to be a DLI Intern.



ETHAN & BARBIE ESTES

My husband, Ethan, and I went through DLI at the same time while we were dating! I was already on staff at my church, but was hungry to further my education and leadership skills. DLI was the perfect fit for me. I love to say that I learned things that I didn't know that I didn't know. What I'm most grateful for is the overwhelming love of God's Word that DLI instilled in me. This is exemplified through the DLI staff and leadership, and overflows onto the students. I'm still benefiting and growing from my time in DLI.

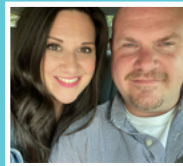
My husband shared, "DLI gave me great information, but one thing that DLI gave me that other programs can't is the sense of community and relationships. Information travels better through relationships. DLI continues to affect my life even after graduating, because it led me to be a part of the Destiny covenant family. Destiny searches for ways to continuously add value to my life through zoom devotions and training, resources, and interactive social media." Ethan is the Northeast Mississippi area director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Barbie is the Connections Pastor at Church of the Crossroads in Corinth, Mississippi.



AMOS MCFALLS

As a pastor working in full time ministry, I was hesitant to begin a program like DLI. I was unsure of its value to myself and my organization, and I didn't know if I could swing the time commitment. However, I'm so glad I went through the program.

It has helped my ministry immensely. I've learned how to study God's Word with more confidence, better connect to my church and community, and lead those around me through a heart of service. There is a unique camaraderie with the DLI students and course instructors. Working with those other students and instructors has offered me life-long friendships and relationships needed for healthy pastoral ministry. Since my graduation, I have had the privilege of leading a congregation as a campus pastor, and I use the skills sets learned in DLI every single day. I'm thankful I took the first few steps into the DLI program, as it has helped me be a better pastor and leader in my church and community.



SCOTT & JORDAN DUNHAM

What a privilege it is to be a part of the DLI family. Scott and I started talking about DLI last year. We were both hungry for more of God, and to have a better understanding of His word. We both knew DLI was exactly what we were looking for. Like many, we have busy schedules but DLI allows us to study in our own time. We both are growing and learning more than we ever could on our own. I am discovering more about who God is, who I am in Christ, who He has called me to be. Scott says the curriculum gives him the tools to study the Bible in a deeper way, and the internship course has given him the opportunity to serve in our local church. We are wrapping up our first semester and can't wait to continue this journey through DLI.



ROGER & STEPHANIE POWERS

DLI was the onramp that began our ministry journey. Almost ten years ago Roger began DLI, and I enrolled in the program two years later. Our experience at DLI encouraged us not only to grow in our understanding of scripture, but to examine our hearts and lead with integrity. When we first started DLI we were leaders without a leader, but because of DLI and Destiny we found pastors, leaders, and friends who have become like family.

Since completing the program, Roger has gone on to receive a Bachelor's of Biblical Studies from Ecclesia College, and most recently, a Master of Divinity from Liberty University. I have continued to work as Destiny Ministries' Director of Communications. Our family is now in the process of planting Thrive Church in Searcy, Arkansas.

We had no idea how much DLI would impact and change our lives on so many levels. We are forever grateful for our experience and the DLI Program, and to Pastor Landon Galloway and Dr. Brassfield for providing this opportunity.

THE EVERYDAY DISCIPLE

A Christ-Centered Life Coaching Framework

There is no shortage of resources dedicated to biblical studies, theological training, and leadership development. Obviously, Destiny deeply values these types of training and education as evidenced by Destiny Leadership Institute's two year program and the hundreds of students that we have trained over the years.

However, we recently observed the relative dearth of resources available focused on character development and spiritual formation. It would be a great shame if we taught leaders what they should do but never taught them who they should be. In response to this observation, we developed a framework called The Everyday Disciple (which we affectionately call TED).

TED is a framework that guides you step by step through four quadrants of discipleship: Cultivating the right heart, Developing a Personal Vision, Creating a Plan, and Practicing Habit.

You will be assigned a coach who will use this framework and will come

alongside you, offering encouragement, accountability and feedback as you progress. You will also be placed in a cohort so that you can learn alongside and learn from like-minded leaders who are also striving to be all that God intended for them to be.

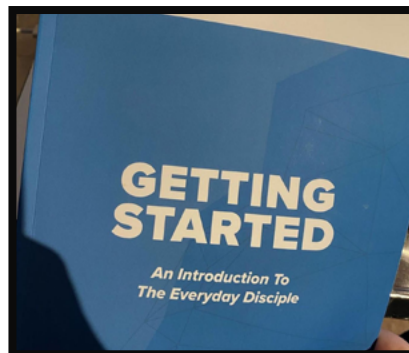
It takes roughly one year to go through the entire coaching framework for the first time. The Everyday Disciple is split into four 12-week Quadrants to make it easy to start and stop as your life and schedule changes.

Each Quadrant includes six online sessions with activities, and each session is followed by a coaching call tailored to that session's learning.

Our first cohort launches September 20th! The cost is \$1000 (monthly payment plans available) and includes all resources, material, online sessions, coaching, and much more! Limited spots available. Reserve your place today!



**Pastor Landon Galloway
& Pastor Stephen Martin**



A COLLABORATION BETWEEN



LAUNCHING SEPTEMBER 20TH!
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [DESTINYLEADERS.COM/TED](https://destinyleaders.com/ted)

introducing **LEGACY CHURCH**

CHRIS & JESSICA LEWIS



Legacy Church is a spirit filled, life giving, exciting new church serving the Covington, Georgia area. Covington is a small town just east of Atlanta. The people are friendly, the town is cute, and the barbecue is good! You may have seen our little town as many shows and movies have been filmed here over the years. In the *Heat of the Night*, *Dukes of Hazzard*, and *Sweet Magnolias* are just a few. Tourists from all over come to visit as Covington is also the set for *The Walking Dead* and *Vampire Diaries*. The beautiful *Gone with the Wind* home is also here in Covington. Just like in your city, and cities all over the world, the brokenness is real and the darkness is heavy in Covington, and our surrounding communities. The wave of hopelessness that the enemy has had on his agenda for years has been highlighted and magnified by the most recent crisis in our country. God placed a call and vision in the hearts of Pastor Chris and Jessica Lewis to illuminate Covington and take the city for Him.



Legacy Church was built in the hearts of it's lead pastors in the early months of the pandemic; at that time, not knowing the full effects of this crisis, or how long restrictions and fear would grip our communities. Pastor Chris says, "We continued to lay all the groundwork for Legacy. We knew that the vision God had for our community was needed even more than ever because of the isolation and depression that was growing in families and individuals. We pressed on, cast the vision, built the teams, did the fundraising, and God met us every step of the way and chased us down with His favor. We were scared and excited all at the same time.....says every church planter, ever. Haha!"

So, why Legacy Church? "The name "Legacy" was evident in our hearts from the beginning. We are passionate about destroying the enemy's agenda to break families. He works hard to break the family unit as well as the church family, taking out marriages and taking out pastors. Legacies



everywhere are being destroyed, and we are all too busy to realize it. Kids graduate high school and fall away at an alarming rate. The American church is failing across the board at retaining generations and teaching families to invest in their legacy. It is HARD work, but is so necessary, and so worth it. We chose the name Legacy because everything we do is about impacting and teaching legacy. From those far from God saying yes to Jesus on a Sunday morning, to helping generations break free from porn addiction, to helping families live victoriously in their finances, it all contributes to legacy."

Legacy Church held its first service on Easter 2021 with a packed room and three hearts surrendered to Jesus. Since then, we have seen many saved, miraculous healing, deliverance, and families begin to heal and become intentional about leaving their legacy. God is so good. Legacy Church is involved in many ministries to the community including suicide awareness organizations, ministries to sex trafficking victims, crisis pregnancy centers, and many more. Legacy Church's mission is to help people reach their full potential in Christ - what a mission, what a calling. "We know God is about to explode His kingdom in our community. This is a unique time in our nation for the local church to minister at a new level. We are expecting the miraculous."



Meet Pastor Chris and Jessica Lewis, Lead Pastors of Legacy Church in Covington, GA. Chris and Jessica have a combined 46 years in ministry, and have served in many capacities in the local church. Most recently, God has built his Kingdom through them as campus pastors in New York City, and lead pastors in Southeast Texas. Chris and Jessica are thrilled to be back in Georgia, and are excited for the vision God has birthed in them for Legacy Church.

DOES YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY NEED A RESET?



JARRED MOSS

JARRED, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE EVELYN, CURRENTLY SERVE THEIR HOME CHURCH, THE RIVER, IN SEARCY, AR AS THE STAFF PASTORS. JARRED IS A DLI GRADUATE AS WELL AS AN INTERN GRADUATE OF BETHANY CHURCH IN BATON ROUGE, LA. TOGETHER, THEY HAVE THREE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG DAUGHTERS: ADDI-DREW, ELLA & VERA. JARRED SERVED THE DESTINY STAFF AS A RESIDENT INTERN 9 YEARS AGO, AND HAS SINCE HELPED WITH VARIOUS STAFF ROLES, CURRENTLY DIRECTING DESTINY'S YOUTH MINISTRIES. JARRED AND EVELYN HAVE A GREAT DESIRE TO SEE THE YOUTH GROUPS OF THIS GENERATION EMBRACE THEIR LOCAL CHURCH'S VISION, CELEBRATE THEIR UNIQUE CALLINGS, AND FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THEIR GENERATION.

Long before ads on streaming services replaced commercials on television, one commercial took the world by storm: the Easy Button from Staples. In the commercial, someone would need an item for their desk, workspace, or office, and come to a conflict. The solution was always presented as a quick trip to Staples for everything you need, and the commercial came to a climax with the slapping of a small red button with the word "easy" in bold white lettering centered atop it as the commercial narrator said: "Staples. THAT WAS EASY!"

The commercial did such a great job at relating with everyday people because, let's be honest, every day we could use a big red Easy Button to solve all of our problems, could we not? It would be nice to have an Easy Button when you have a disagreement with a friend, a fight with a spouse, a financial difficulty or, and especially, a problem in your youth ministry. Unfortunately, no such button exists. There is no Easy Button for a volunteer who is struggling with their faith in God, a student that is dating someone you know will lead them astray, a parent that is mad that, yet again, you fell short of their expectations, or a sermon that you, yet again, didn't have adequate time to prepare. No, there is no Easy Button for that at all.

While it would be nice to have an Easy Button for youth ministry, and it's wildly unfortunate that no such button exists, I remain convinced that there does exist a reset button. If you've ever owned an

electronic device of any kind, be it the smart phone in your hand, a laptop that you work on, or even a video game console from long since ago, there are some things in life that, when they go awry, require a good old fashioned reset because nothing else will do. And while a reset isn't easy, it's much easier than not hitting the button at all.

There have been at least two, maybe three times, in my youth ministry that we've had to hit the reset button. Reasons vary, and it's usually because seasons change. Seniors leave, Jr. High kids join, volunteers transition, the church schedule adjusts, and now what once was working no longer is. In fact, it may be true that youth ministries need more resets than other ministries. While children's and preschool ministries typically hug the same Sunday morning schedule as the main adult gathering (which we all know isn't moving to a different day), youth ministry takes place at differing times, such as Wednesday night and Sunday night, or maybe a different time altogether. If the Senior Pastor's vision for the church calendar changes, you can almost bet that the youth ministry will have to pivot as well. But that's not all.

As rapid as culture is changing, it's not changing near as noticeably fast in real time as youth culture. New social media apps, language, and trends date and put away our old words, clothing, styles and emphasis faster than the speed of light, and typically by the time a youth pastor is saying the cool word, wearing the cool clothes,

or choosing a cool logo/name, it's not even cool anymore. There's never been another opportunity like what 2020 just gave us to rethink, rebrand, and maybe even relaunch our youth ministries. Maybe attendance has dropped off. Maybe your ministry technique is changing. Whatever the maybe is, don't panic, just pivot! It's time for a reset. Can you relate? If so, here are some ways to hit the reset button.

1. THINK FROM SCRATCH

There is a reason that the greatest disruptors in any given industry are new to the game. They have nothing to protect, no sacred cows to honor, and no concern whatsoever but success. Whether it's Uber changing taxis, Airbnb changing lodging, or Amazon changing retail, the best ideas usually start with no resources, no people, and no doubt. The quickest way to reset your youth ministry is to let go of the past. Don't hold onto the old wineskins and pray for new wine. Build something new that holds the fresh move of God - what He's doing now. Don't build something you like and ask God to bless it. Ask God what He's doing and build something to contain it!

2. GO RELATIONAL

The old adage is true: people don't care what you know (or envision) until they know that you care. If all you've got left in your youth ministry is a faithful core, don't rush to cast vision. Instead, eat. Hang out. Go play ultimate frisbee. Invite them over to your house and pray and worship. Pour into them one on one as if they were the only one. This group is your future reset launch team, and the depth of relationships you build while you've got no other plans will allow you to soar to new heights once the harvest breaks the soil.

3. TAKE A TRIP

Seriously, get out of town with your youth group and go somewhere. A youth conference, summer camp, an inner-city mission trip. Go somewhere that's outward focused that brings inner transformation. Worship and pray together and serve and laugh and BOND. Get your group closer to God and closer to one another, by travelling somewhere.

4. CAST THE VISION

On the trip, towards the end, in good spirits, gather the group around a table filled with food, or a fireplace with a cup of coffee, and talk about the wins from the trip,

and share what God's placed on your heart. Perhaps it's a new service, a small group launch, a prayer meeting, or an outreach plan. Maybe you're moving service nights to a different time or maybe you're even changing the service type all together! Whatever practical change you're making, cast the vision, make it plain, and make the ask by calling the group to pray into it, serve at it, and invite their friends along for it.

5. GROW THE LAUNCH TEAM

While the excitement is still hot and the vision is still burning, within a couple weeks buy some donuts or pizza or crawfish or what-have-you, and have your crew bring a couple friends over for a hangout night where you can cast the why, what, when, and how of your new youth ministry. Make it awesome, have fun, and make the ask to the large group. Don't be afraid to pass out invite handouts or share an rsvp link for your launch team to send around school to the launch night of your new service, group, or event.

6. LAUNCH!

Go big or go home! Feel free to use some budget to do it BIG on kickoff night. New night, new name, new branding, new social media account, new approach. If it's not new, it's not a reset. Welcome the friends of your faithful crew's friends. Put up a planning center form link and get their contact info. Find out their favorite sonic drink and make a run for them during the service! Do something to show you're glad they're here and that they're welcome to the table from now on.

Every ministry is different, every church is different, and the above steps may not work in every situation, but the heart behind each step is transferable and adaptable to your moment as you prayerfully consider hitting the reset button for your own youth ministry! It may take a few months, it may only take a few weeks but some things can't be cured by mere course corrections. Some seasons require a full-blown reset. And if your youth ministry is on life support, is stagnant, barely survived covid, or just simply isn't how you envision it anymore, it may be time to hit the button yourself.

There's never been a better time for a reset button in the Church. I encourage you to ask God what your reset button looks like, and when He shows you, slap that thing and enjoy the ride! It's going to be fresh, fun and filled with faith. And those three things are an Easy Button in and of themselves!





JOHN "HAZMAT" HADDAD JR.

Today's growing churches find themselves facing a relatively new challenge, impacting almost every aspect of their ministries, technology. Most modern churches, no matter the size, must accept the impact of technology on their budget, ministries, and overall success. Let's face it, technology is a fact of life, and the church is no exception. Unpacking all the complexity and costs of technology is no easy feat. It's no surprise that many church leaders avoid the subject completely, and rely on the willingness of church members to tackle the technological challenges each church faces. This may seem like a solution, but in fact, it creates vulnerability to all kinds of influences that may be contrary to the vision of the pastoral leadership. A better approach would be to provide guidelines for budget, fiscal operations, social policy and procedures, application in the ministries, and a plan for your church's acceptable use of technology.

First, let's talk about what I mean by technology. Oxford defines "technology" as "the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry." In the church, that means email, websites, online giving, streaming, scheduling, phones (office and mobile), security, social media, bookkeeping, presentation content, worship, video, sound, and lights. Let's not forget digital bibles, digital publishing, and digital music. My guess is that your church is using most of these. Each one of those areas listed has a cost association and requires a person, or persons to manage them. Think about that for a minute. Are you certain that those people understand the power and influence they have over the church's message and overall success?

Successfully managing how your church interacts with technology requires leadership, vision, guidance, and pastoring. The church's vision, and perhaps your vision, is directly impacted by the outcomes of these interactions and the corresponding relationships. Has your church included technology in its vision?

Audio in church

Does your church have clearly defined roles and responsibilities for those who oversee and manage technology? Does the church leadership understand how to manage the technology it has implemented, making sure every dollar spent is used to its fullest? It's understandable if you have delegated these responsibilities to others who are more qualified to understand the application, BUT, they may not understand the implications on your church's vision, or how technology will impact the interpretation of God's word by the flock. It's essential in managing your technology to manage and pastor the people who run it. Here are some tips: develop a leadership strategy that incorporates discipleship, sow into the inexperienced address the spiritual needs of your teams, work to create a technology spirit filled culture based on prayer, the bible, and FORGIVENESS. Those are some of the best practices I have seen work with many churches over the years.

What should the main goal be for the church regarding technology? Easy answer? Glorifying God and growing the body of Christ! That doesn't mean bigger screens, more lights, and better sound systems. There is a fallacy that bigger is better. God grows churches according to his will, not our desire. Be careful not to create false idols when thinking about technology (Zechariah 10:2). Be a good steward of God's resources, and always make sure God is at the center, not technology. No matter what we do to serve him, it must be at our best, not cost the most (Matthew 25:21). Extracting the best from what we have usually comes from developing our people, not from buying something and expecting it to work. A Godly church is about its people and relationships, it's about the hand and not the tool.

Let's look at some strategies to solve a few of these challenges we have discussed. I'm guessing that when God called you to serve as a Pastor, you weren't prepared for some of the obstacles you and your church have faced. You may not understand technology, but you should understand people. Work with them, develop them, invest in them, pastor them. Foster their faith in God, and reliance on the Holy Spirit to guide them when challenged by technology. Here's an example: Instead of buying new equipment to solve problems, pay for the training of your tech team. Then, in collaboration with your team, which you have sowed into, discuss upgrading. Or, have a professional come and talk with you about your vision and options. Just

remember, not all technologists have the church's best interests at heart, that is the church leadership's job. Be wary of salesmen who are only interested in selling you the latest, what the church down the road has. Each church is unique and requires relationships, rather than equipment to grow and prosper, especially where technology is concerned. Do your research, ask for references, and try to include whoever will be operating the technology in on the discussion. Here are some examples of questions I ask pastors when they want to start upgrading their technology:

- 1. WHY? WHAT NEED ARE YOU TRYING TO MEET?**
- 2. DOES YOUR CONGREGATION BRING THEIR BIBLES TO CHURCH?**
- 3. DO YOU HAVE PEOPLE AVAILABLE AND QUALIFIED TO RUN AND MANAGE THE TECHNOLOGY?**
- 4. HAVE YOU DETERMINED WHAT THE LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM COSTS/GOALS WILL BE?**
- 5. WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH?**
- 6. HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY FIT INTO THAT VISION?**



JOHN HADDAD JR. WAS BORN IN LUBBOCK TEXAS, AND SPLIT TIME GROWING UP BETWEEN AUSTIN AND EL PASO. HE STUDIED COMPUTER SCIENCES AND BUSINESS WHILE ATTENDING AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND UT

AUSTIN. AFTER COLLEGE, HE BEGAN HIS CAREER AS AN AUDIO ENGINEER, RECORD PRODUCER, CONSULTANT, AND SYSTEM DESIGNER. HE HAS ALSO OWNED AND OPERATED AN INSTALLATION COMPANY, A RECORDING STUDIO, AND A NIGHTCLUB. CURRENTLY, HE SERVES AS THE HEAD OF AUDIO AT CHRISTIAN LIFE AUSTIN, AND HAS A MINISTRY WHICH HELPS CHURCHES WITH TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT JOHN DIRECTLY, PLEASE EMAIL HIM AT JOHN@RIGHTCROSSMINISTRIES.COM.

FAITHFULNESS PRODUCES

Fruitfulness

"You can not be faithful and not be fruitful."

-Dr. Phillip Brassfield



ONLINE

DESTINYLEADERS.COM/GIVE



CALL

1.501.887.9933



MAIL

P.O. Box 341
Heber Springs, AR 72543

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR MONTHLY GIVING?

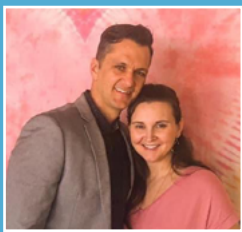
Your faithful monthly support allows Destiny Ministries to invest into the Kingdom of God by supporting efforts like **MINISTRY STUDENTS** and **INTERNSHIPS**, **PASTORS IN CRISIS**, **MISSIONS**, **CHURCH PLANTING**, and **MINISTRY SUPPORT**.



CALL 1.501.887.9933 FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON SETTING UP A RECURRING CONTRIBUTION



MOVING FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL



DAVID AND HIS WIFE
COURTNEY PLANTED
REAL CHURCH IN
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA
IN SEPTEMBER OF
2018.

VISIT THEIR WEBSITE
REALCHURCH.US FOR
MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THEIR CHURCH.

DAVID JOHN PHILIPS

I will never forget sitting down with Pastor Rick Lee at the Journey Church in Fernandina Beach, Florida. Pastor Rick used to be a missionary to the Bachata, a region on the Amazon Delta in Northeastern Brazil. While there, Pastor Rick had helped to plant over 250 churches. I am very thankful for the time that I got to spend sitting in his office, soaking up the wisdom that he had received from walking with God throughout his life. He would always go back to what he called “the body life” teaching of the Bible, and would tell me that I was created with a unique purpose as a distinct part of the “Body of Christ”. Pastor Rick would then explain how my purpose fit with the purpose of others to accomplish the mission of Christ throughout the world. Those discussions have stuck with me. What if we took that same analogy, and zoomed out from a personal perspective to a perspective at the level of the local church? If Pastor Rick is right, then that would mean a deepening synergy comes when the local church pursues meaningful connection with the Global Body of Christ. If Pastor Rick is right, then each local church can only fulfill its ultimate mission if it is connected to the parts of the Global Church with whom it is designed to be connected.

Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in

advance for us to do.” This verse is usually taught and preached from an individual perspective. That perspective is not wrong. Each of us individually are God’s handiwork. Our Heavenly Father knows the count of the numbers of hairs on our head in this very moment. He knew us before we were born. He formed each one of us in our mother’s womb. He has prepared good works for each of us, and these good works are not random. They are planned. They have purpose. They are connected. Yet, when Paul writes these words, all of the pronouns are plural. He is talking to the Ephesians as a group, as a church - together. The local church is God’s handiwork. He knew each church before they were planted. He not only prepared each individual with good works in mind, but He prepared those good works to be perfectly fit together in the local church to carry out His global plan! The local church has a purpose, and its full purpose is fully realized as it more deeply connects with the Global Church!

I am excited to help Destiny Ministries with a confidential and anonymous diagnostic survey that is designed to explore the connectedness of local churches within Destiny to each other and to the Global Body of Christ. The more connected we are, the more unified we are. According to Jesus’ prayer in John 17:22-23, the more unified we are, the more effective we are at helping the world to know Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior!



IF YOU ARE A SENIOR PASTOR, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND
FILL OUT THE SURVEY AT REALCHURCH.US/GLOBAL.



DESTINY MINISTRIES INC
P.O. BOX 341
HEBER SPRINGS, AR 72543

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIX, AZ
PERMIT NO. 5892

DESTINY YOUTH

LAUNCHING @ THE DESTINY GATHERING

FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.DESTINYLEADERS.COM/YOUTH

CONFERENCE CONNECTION COMMUNITY

