

SUMMER 2022

# DESTINY

M A G A Z I N E

**A TOUCH OF  
STAINED GLASS**

**THE CURE FOR ANXIETY**

**SERVE DAY  
2022**

**INTRODUCING OUR PRESBYTERY**

**THE 2022 DESTINY  
GATHERING CONFERENCE**

JUNE 7-9TH | CHRIST CHURCH WEST MONROE, LA



# DESTINY LEADERS

## WELCOME TO YOUR FUTURE!

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!

### **A PLACE TO GROW...**

As a Christian Leader you need a safe place to be challenged, equipped and encouraged to reach your greatest potential. At Destiny we are absolutely committed to meeting those needs. Through Destiny Membership you will find growth opportunities such as: one-on-one coaching, exciting events & conferences, roundtables, internet webinars, strategic relationships, educational travel and mission outreaches. Each designed to grow you into the leader God wants you to be.

### **A PLACE TO SERVE...**

The Kingdom of God is about service to God and to others. At Destiny you will find many opportunities to serve by assisting other Christian Leaders to achieve their goals and dreams. We do this together as we plant new churches, develop interns, train leaders, participate in special projects and various short term missions efforts.

### **A PLACE TO SOW...**

Destiny's Covenant Family is filled with generous people. We are a giving/sowing culture. We believe strongly in the principle of tithing and that it should be practiced at every level in the Kingdom. We believe that both individuals and organizations are included in God's concept of sowing and reaping, and that as we submit to God's plan, both are abundantly blessed. As individuals we sow in obedience, and as organizations we teach giving and lead by example.

[WWW.DESTINYLEADERS.COM](http://WWW.DESTINYLEADERS.COM)

# A Word from Phil & Cathy

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Welcome, everyone, to the Destiny Magazine! We are so honored to have you take a few moments and read through the news, updates, important announcements, and featured articles in this edition. There's a ton of relevant information and inspiration in these pages!

Plus, this is a special edition, because it is the one that breaks just before our annual Destiny Gathering. And are we so excited! In this edition, you will find out what to expect during the Gathering, what the schedule looks like, and other important information provided to help to make your experience with us one you will never forget. This is our 23rd annual Gathering, and we simply cannot wait to see you all in West Monroe!

As always, this edition is packed with other things as well-things that will help you move forward in these days with confidence and the comfort of knowing you are not alone. We are all in this thing together. Enjoy!

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SCAN QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DESTINY AND INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS.



# A Touch of Stained Glass

## DESTINY TO CONSECRATE PRESBYTERY

### PHILLIP BRASSFIELD

I have always loved old churches. There's something comforting and reassuring about them. There's an interesting majesty I feel when I am in one. I love the acoustics, the smell, and especially the stained glass. I visited St. Peter's in Rome as a child and will never forget the beauty of the glass and the way the sun brought the images to life as you walked by. While stained glass is considered out of style and maybe a bit "old school" by some, to me it has always represented a legacy, reminding me of the fact that my generation, every generation, stands on the solid ground of the sacrifice and service of others. Stained glass, through its iconic images, informs, instructs, and inspires us. It comforts us, as pilgrims, with the fact that other faithful travelers have been this way before. In a culture where the focus on deconstructing traditions, institutions, and social and societal norms has even crept into the Church, I believe we should endeavor to preserve a touch of stained glass amid all our cool trends, sophisticated systems, and contemporary ideas.

Stained glass was introduced into the Church in the early 10<sup>th</sup> century and became a focal point in medieval churches through the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well. Many of the great cathedrals of the world are noted for their beautiful stained glass displays. And the purpose of their introduction was quite brilliant when you think about it.

Picking up where the elaborate mosaics of a previous era left off, stained glass took visual art and storytelling to a whole new level. As in previous eras in the premodern world, education and literacy were reserved for an elite few. Most people in medieval times were illiterate, so churches had to be creative in how they shared the core elements of the Biblical narratives with the common people. They began to use the beauty of colored glass to tell the story of the Scriptures. It was their version of multimedia. The beautiful colors exploded as the sun bathed the glass with light. Through these windows, the stories that they heard

from the pulpit took on a memorable dimension in living color. The Ten Commandments, the stories of David, Jesus, and the Disciples, and the exploits of the saints brought encouragement and challenge through the medium of color and light.

The beauty and majesty of stained glass communicated a sacred message to the leaders and laity alike, a message of hope, community, and holiness.

In the same way that I've described beautiful stained glass and how it can serve the local Christian community, the foundations of the Church are supported and communicated through ministry gifts given to the Church by Jesus Himself. In a way, they are the living stained glass of the Church. Paul speaks of them in Ephesians Chapter 4. When Christ ascended into glory following the Resurrection, Paul said, "He gave gifts to men." We call them the Five-fold Ministries, or Ascension Gifts. They are Christ's anointing divided among His disciples for the purpose of continuing His work on earth till He comes again. They consist of the Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher, and they serve both the Body of Christ at large and a specific Christian Community of believers. Like the stained glass of antiquity, they inspire us, correct us, and comfort us, building the story inside of us, helping us internalize the message of the Gospel.

Someone asked me not long ago if there were modern day apostles. My response was that when considering the five ministry gifts Paul mentions in Ephesians Chapter 4, it's important to understand that the **gift suggests the need**. In other words, the gift will only become obsolete when the need for the gift has gone away. And this begs to question, at what point will the body of Christ not need unity, health, and wholeness? At what point will the body not need mentoring, nurturing, and strengthening? Until then, we can expect to find Jesus working in His body through the gifts He gave at His Ascension.



Ephesians 4:11, "And **He Himself** gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 4:12 for the **equipping** (*katartismos*) of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

The close of the passage suggests that these gifts of Jesus Christ are given to serve and develop His church and Christ's purpose in the earth till He comes again. We understand from the text that the objectives of these ministry gifts are the equipping of the Saints for the work of the ministry (which includes both service to the world and to the believer as the fundamental element of the church), the building up and general foundational support of the universal Body of Christ, and to promote unity of doctrine and committed faith leading followers to spiritual maturity and the expression of Christ's character in the earth. It is then the purpose of these Ascension Gifts **to develop a healthy, committed community of believers that constitute the universal Body of Christ in the earth functioning as Jesus in the world.**

## How This Relates to Destiny and Consecrating a Presbytery

### ***A Specific word from Dr. Brassfield about Destiny***

After over twenty years of development and growth for Destiny, and in the interest ensuring organizational continuity into the future, I believe it's time to identify and set apart a presbytery within the Destiny Covenant Family. This presbytery would consist of Apostolic Leaders who are known and respected among us. This year at the Destiny Gathering on Thursday morning before the general

ordination service, we will be consecrating several men and their wives who will serve our family in this capacity. These leaders will help Cathy and myself to provide pastoral care, mentoring and oversight to the Destiny Covenant Family. They will also work alongside Cathy and I, bringing wisdom, experience and counsel to the challenges and issues we face as Executive Directors. They will form a council of presbytery (Bishops) and will serve in three-year terms. Their assignment is to love, guide, guard, and watch over the wonderful body of believers that constitute the Destiny Family, working in tandem with Cathy and myself, as well as the Destiny Board of Directors. Like the stained glass of my illustration, they will help to convey and continue the story of redemption, hope, victory, and grace that has been handed down to us by those who have gone before.

In a day when casualness is preferred and tradition and institutions are suspect, this council will provide clearly identified, available and accessible spiritual fathers and mothers in the faith that our Covenant Family need so desperately. They will help to mentor a younger generation and inspire, inform, and support a new generation of leaders as they move forth to do the work of the ministry. They will provide Destiny with a touch of *stained glass*, and as with the stained glass of the historical church, they will remind us that we are not alone in our journey, and that we will overcome.

I'm asking you, as a family, to receive them, respect them, and call on them when you have a need or if they can serve you in some way. They, by agreeing to serve, are making themselves available. Get acquainted with them, make yourself known to them, and let's grow together.



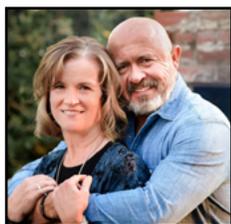
# *Destiny introduces* **OUR PRESBYTERY**



## **PHIL & CATHY BRASSFIELD**

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

In 1997 Destiny Ministries was birthed and today has grown into a globally recognized apostolic ministry committed to church planting, developing Christian leaders, and ministry efforts internationally. The Brassfields currently serve as Executive Directors and provide visionary leadership for the ministries associated with Destiny.



## **MARK & LAQUITA BRIGGS**

Mark & Laquita Briggs are the founding pastors of Riverpark Church. They are passionate about people & helping them discover all that Christ has to offer. Their mission is to use all of their God-given talents to help people become better. Their transparency yields a deep, honest, and open relationship with God & with people.

Mark is an author of two books, *Behind the Mask of Religious Traditions* and *Confessions of Job's Wife*. Together Mark & Laquita enjoy fitness, playing tennis, working on their farm, and spending time with one another, their three children, and their 9 grandchildren.

*At Destiny we affirm the purpose and operation of the five-fold ministry gifts, as recorded in Ephesians chapter four. Each of the couples who form the Presbytery of Destiny Ministries serve as powerful leaders in the Kingdom, possess strong apostolic giftings and are recognized in the larger body of Christ as such. We honor you all, and are incredibly grateful for the influence and input you have made and are making in the development and continual growth of Destiny Ministries.*



## **RANDY & RENEE' CLARK**

Bishop Randy & Pastor Renee' Clark are the founding pastors of Triumph Church, a non-denominational church with multiple locations in the regions of Southeast Texas and Southwest Houston. They were married in 1976 and have three children who also serve in ministry and seven delightful grandchildren.

Triumph began in 1983 and has continually birthed new congregations and trained pastors and leaders for the work of the ministry. Randy and Renee' travel extensively overseeing churches and ministries while continuing to serve as pastors to the congregation.



## **JABO' & POLLY GREEN**

Bishop Jabo' & Polly Green serve as spiritual parents to a multitude of leaders in the body of Christ. Together they founded Spring Tabernacle (now Champion Life Centre) in Spring, Texas—a dynamic growing church now pastored by their son, James and daughter-in-law, Debbie Green. Jabo' is a past chairman of the Global Network of Christian Ministries and has served on the Oversight Team for Destiny Ministries from its inception. Jabo' and Polly have four sons that serve in ministry with their families, creating a powerful legacy in Christian Ministry.



**DELBERT & ELOISE HERRIN**

Bishop Delbert Herrin has been in pastoral ministry for 64 years and has been married to his wife, Eloise, for 59 years. He has served as Bishop, having oversight of several other ministries in addition to The Fellowship of Texas City. He travels nationally and internationally with a strong message of faith and encouragement to the body of Christ. He and Eloise are spiritual father and mother to many across the globe.



**TOM & TRINA LOWE**

Tom and Trina are the senior pastors of Christ Church, a vibrant diverse body of believers committed to serving people, developing leaders, and impacting succeeding generations. Tom and Trina, love the people they serve at Christ Church and enjoy connecting on all levels. Tom serves as overseer at numerous churches and influences Christian ministry leaders nationwide. They also love their life together with their children and grandchildren.



**NELSON & PAM HIGHT**

Nelson and Pam Hight have spent the majority of their lives as Lead Pastors at Church of the Crossroads, a strong and growing interdenominational church in Corinth, MS. Their leadership, loyalty, and love have been life-changing for scores of families over the years. Together they speak into the lives of ministers, ministries, and churches throughout the nation. They have three children who, along with their spouses, serve alongside them in their church.



**PAUL & DELIA RUSSELL**

Pastors Paul and Delia are church planters and mentors engaged in raising up next-generation leaders. They celebrate over 40 years of ministry, including pastorates in Salt Lake City, Utah; St. Louis, Missouri; and Nashville, Tennessee. In 2005, they moved to Houston to launch Christ Family Church and fulfill a long-time vision of planting a life-giving church in Northwest Houston. They are parents to three grown children, all in Christian service, and six grandchildren.



**SCOTT & MELANIE JONES**

Scott Jones is a fourth generation pastor who holds a Masters Degree in Ministerial Leadership and is on the path toward a doctor of ministries degree from Portland Seminary. Scott lives by the mantra "life moves at the speed of relationship". He finds great fulfillment in mentoring pastors, churches, and teams, as well as, bridging relationships between ministers and ministries, people and God. Being naturally gifted as a communicator, his mixture of heart and humor have taken him across the nation and around the world.

Pastor Paul is Lead Pastor of Christ Family Church. He holds a Master of Practical Theology from Oral Roberts University. He is on the oversight board of several churches and organizations and continues to offer friendship and mentoring to leaders. In recent years, Paul has served as Chairman of Global Network of Christian Ministries and Associate Pastor at Christ Church Nashville.

Pastor Delia serves as our Administrative Pastor, providing each ministry with practical support and counsel. Her life is a reflection of her personal passion for prayer, daily Bible study and her love for family.

Scott and Melanie, his wife of 35 years, are co-senior pastors of Grace Church in Houston where they have served for over 26 years. Spencer and Savannah, their two adult children, also serve at their local church which is a source of great joy.



**JONATHAN & STEPHANIE SUBER**

Jonathan Suber began his itinerant ministry at the age of 14. He has been in full-time ministry for over 40 years and married to Stephanie Dawn for over 34 years. Together they have ministered Jesus on 5 continents in over 45 nations of the world. Jonathan has an earned M.Min and an honorary Doctor of Christian Missions.

The Subers have pastored 3 Churches and founded Oasis Church in 2016 where they currently serve as Sr. Pastors.

Jonathan and Stephanie have 3 children, Alex, Alayna and Allister, as well as 2 amazing grandsons. They minister alongside their eldest son, Alex, and his precious wife, Hannah, who are Lead Pastors of Oasis Church in Round Rock, TX.



**RON & SHERRY LILES**

Bishop Ron & Sherry Liles served as Pastors of Calvary Church, Ft. Worth, Texas for 40 years. They are both native Arkansans and hold degrees from Arkansas State University. They have served the kingdom in many capacities over the past fifty years. Bishop Ron serves as a spiritual father to many senior pastors and Christian leaders nationwide. They are the parents of Alison and Ryan and have six grandchildren. Their home is in Ft. Worth, Texas.



# TRANSFORMATION STARTS HERE

TRANSFORMED MEN'S RETREAT MINISTRY

## NATHAN THOMPSON

How does one write an article about a ministry that is, in many ways, built on complete confidentiality? That was my first thought when I was asked to write for our Destiny family. One goal of this article is to tell you all about the Transformed Men's Retreat Ministry, which has dramatically impacted thousands of men here at Christ Church, as well as in our community. Another goal is to inform you of the opportunity you and your church may have to build your own Men's Ministry and possibly your own Retreat Ministry in the future.

There is only one glaring problem; everyone who has ever been to the retreat is asked to keep what is called the River Rule. It is the commitment by every attendee to not damage the experience or others' trust by sharing the details of the retreat with anyone who hasn't been. The only thing retreat guys can share is what God did in their own lives that weekend. No sharing the schedule; no talking about exactly what happened; no sharing what other men might have said. Nothing!

### But, What I Can Tell You ...

Retreat weekend is a lot like Christmas morning. You know there will be presents, and you hope you will like them, but you simply don't know for certain that you will. You aren't given any hints. You can't shake the box or get even the slightest peak. You just have to trust that what's inside will be worth the wait. And trust me, it is.

The Transformed Men's Retreat is a chance for men to experience God like never before. It's a 48-hour window of time in which men disconnect from their worlds and focus solely on God and who He is with other men who are passionate about the Father. They willingly leave their cell phones, watches, and families behind and walk into the unknown - no concept of time, no way to communicate with the outside world - a total and intentional disconnect.

### So, Why Do Men Go?

What does all this secrecy around the schedule, forced disconnect, and the River Rule produce? With so little information provided about retreat weekend, *why would anyone sign up, pay the registration fee, pack their bags, and go?*

### 1. A CHANCE TO DISCONNECT

When a man doesn't know the schedule, isn't told the time (clocks are out of sight), and has no device capable of outside communication, he is forced to be fully present. Most importantly, when distractions are removed, he can more easily focus inward, and ultimately upward, to God.

In our culture, we all lead such connected, and often distracted, lives. Men love to be in control. Most men have never experienced this type of intentional disconnect, and it can be extremely powerful when they do. In the absence of our daily distractions, the Holy Spirit can more easily be heard.

### 2. A SAFE PLACE TO BLEED

Because of the River Rule, the details of retreat ministry are an incredibly well-kept secret that everyone knows is happening. But there is more to the rule than just keeping things quiet. This rule also produces the ideal conditions for transformation by creating a space in which men can be completely open about the real battle going on in their hearts, lives, and thoughts.

Recently, one of our retreat brothers had this to say about the River Rule - "It's a principle that creates a safe place for men to be vulnerable. Here, men confront the lie that to be a real man you must divorce your head from your heart."



NATHAN SERVES AS THE SMALL GROUPS PASTOR AT CHRIST CHURCH IN WEST MONROE, LOUISIANA. HE SPENDS HIS TIME BUILDING RELATIONALLY-DRIVEN COMMUNITY AND HOSTING MEN'S RETREATS WITH AN ARMY OF CHRIST FOLLOWERS. BESIDES KNOWING GOD, HIS BIGGEST PASSION IS BEING A HUSBAND TO HIS AMAZING WIFE, AMANDA, AND FATHER TO HIS ADORABLE 9-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, NATALIE.

TO SPEAK TO NATHAN ABOUT SMALL GROUPS OR MEN'S RETREATS, YOU CAN EMAIL HIM AT [NATHAN@CHRISTCHURCH.LA](mailto:NATHAN@CHRISTCHURCH.LA).

Men rarely get a chance to be real. But at retreat, they are surrounded by other men committed to doing the same without fear of judgment or repercussions. When men have a safe place to bleed, they stop trying to put quick fix Band-Aids on emotional bullet holes and begin letting God address the reality of their situation. Additionally, they come out of isolation to find a community of men who endeavor to live what Scripture teaches and realize they are not alone on spiritually isolated islands.

*"Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2*

### 3. EVIDENCE OF CHANGE

The main reason men attend the retreat year after year is simple. They see men leave one way and come back totally transformed. Men hardened by life return with a new light in their eyes. Men weighed down by depression and anxiety return home feeling lighter and with a new hope about life. Wives report a complete change in the men they love. Men wake up to a renewed purpose. The beauty of the retreat ministry, the evidence of its effectiveness ... is changed lives and total transformation.

#### Changing a Community - One Man at a Time

Christ Church isn't the only church in Northeast Louisiana putting on men's retreats. On any given weekend, it's hard to find a church that isn't hosting a retreat somewhere in our area. God is transforming the hearts of men across our community. The retreat phenomenon came to our area over a decade ago. This movement started with just one church and a handful of men and is now impacting thousands of lives and families.

Because of this retreat, the men's ministry of Christ Church is stronger and more vibrant than ever, chock full of men that are devoted to Jesus and fiercely committed to walking with their brothers. They grow together, fight alongside each other, and consistently seek ways to build each other up in Christ. I have heard countless stories about men that felt isolated and disconnected, men that lacked purpose and passion, men that had zero accountability, suddenly inheriting a God-given band of brothers.

And because these men have been so deeply impacted by this ministry, they all sign up to serve and willingly give their time, money, and sweat to host the next retreat so a next group of men can experience what they have. There is an energy and excitement in their service because their purpose and calling becomes one of rescue - watching men rescued by God wake up to be the men that God designed them to be.

#### The Mission Going Forward

In February 2022, Christ Church hosted our first mission retreat. We invited everyday men and leaders from churches across the country to experience this incredible retreat ministry. Men came from New Mexico, Texas, Ohio, Arkansas, and Louisiana, including several of our own Destiny family churches. Phase One of the mission was introduction, and God moved mightily. We then followed up with each church about their interest in hosting their own retreats.

Phase Two is all about helping other churches start retreat ministries in their own communities. In September, our team will travel to Las Cruces, New Mexico, to help their team launch a retreat ministry.

We plan to host the next TM Mission Retreat in Spring of 2023, then help another church launch their retreat ministry in the Fall of the same year. If you or your church are interested in learning more about this amazing ministry or how to take part in the next TM Mission Retreat, please contact Keith Cromwell, Director of Christ Church Men's Retreats at [kcromwell0467@gmail.com](mailto:kcromwell0467@gmail.com).

We are thrilled to see what God is continuing to do through the Men's Retreat Ministry, calling dead men to life and filling them with renewed purpose. We are praying for all our Destiny family and the men of your communities.



# THE CURE

## for Anxiety

### LANDON GALLOWAY

A man was constantly worrying that somebody was under his bed. He went to a counselor who was willing to help him but at a high fee, over many months. A few weeks later the counselor met the man on the street and asked him why he had not returned. The man replied, "I met a friend who gave me some great advice for free. It worked perfectly." The counselor asked what advice had been given him, and the man replied, "He asked me to cut the legs of the bed down to ground level."

Sometimes, conquering our worries is not quite so simple. Jesus is aware of worry's omnipresence and gives us wise counsel.

Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV)- 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 28 And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

In verse 25, we are told, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life." In verse 31, we read "So do not worry."



*Landon Galloway is the 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.*

Verse 34 adds, "Therefore do not worry." Here's a tip for you: When Jesus repeats a command 3 times in 10 verses, you can believe He's serious about it. And Jesus is serious about it, because it's a serious issue.

Anxiety is part of the human experience, and leaders are especially prone to its disastrous effects. We not only carry our own burdens, but we are entrusted with the burdens of others. Jesus doesn't provide the hypothetical, "If you happen to deal with anxiety..." Instead, He straightforwardly says, "Do not be anxious." He is working from the assumption that anxiety is and has been a routine part of life since the fall of man.

Anxiety can be really specific or really broad. Jesus touches on both here in verses 25 and 31. **"What am I going to wear, what am I going to eat, what are we going to drink?"** Those are really specific concerns. But He also says, "Don't be worried about your life," in verse 25 and "Do not be worried about tomorrow," in verse 34, which demonstrates the much more broad and general concerns we may have. Sometimes, we're anxious about specific what ifs:

**What if that family leaves?**

**What if that volunteer is offended?**

**What if this sickness I'm feeling is actually a bad disease?**

**What if we don't meet the budget this month?**

**What if I don't accomplish all of these important tasks this week?**

**What if my relationship doesn't work out?**

And other times, our worried thoughts are much broader:

**What if my life and ministry just doesn't turn out how I want?**

**What if I don't have what it takes to lead at a high level?**

**What if the future gets worse?**

**What if church changes so quickly that I'm no longer relevant?**

**What if I never find happiness?**

Here, Jesus is talking about future-focused anxiety. "What if something bad happens in the coming days?" But anxiety also stems from the past and the present. Toward the past, it takes the form of regret or shame. "Why did

I do that?" "Why did I say that?" "Why did I preach that?" "Why did that happen to me?" "Was that the right decision?" You see it with Peter after he denies Jesus. We are told that, "He went out and wept bitterly." Peter's present emotional state was defined by past-focused anxiety, and worry about something that he literally had no power to change.

There is also anxiety toward the present. It's just a constant, nagging sense that something's wrong. When someone texts and asks if you have a second to chat, you automatically go to the worst-case scenario. "He's going to fire me." "That family's going to leave." "I've offended them somehow." "Something bad happened to the kids." You are perpetually on pins-and-needles, wondering what's about to break.

When we think about past, present, and future worries, Solomon's words ring true: An anxious heart weighs a man down (Proverbs 12:25). Sometimes, this isn't just mental or emotional heaviness. We feel it in our physical bodies. Jesus in the garden facing His crucifixion literally sweat blood. **Luke 22:44- "And being in agony he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood."** We sometimes refer to physical anxiety as stress. Stress is our bodies responding to feeling out of control. It can lead to tightness, pain or pressure in the chest. Stress leads to ulcers, hypertension, heart attack, headaches, and weight gain. Almost every medical condition is made worse by stress.

So, anxiety is part of the human experience and has devastating consequences. So, why do we do it? Why don't we just stop being anxious? Why can't I take Jesus' word to "not be anxious" at face value, say "yes and amen," and then go on my merry way? Anxiety isn't easy to quit, because it's a symptom of a much deeper problem. Anxiety is a misguided search for security. Jesus hits this throughout his sermon:

Matthew 6:19- *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal...."*

Matthew 6:26- *"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"*

Barns and laid-up treasures are not just about luxury, they're about security. Humans long for security. We want to feel safe and stable. We want answers to the unknown questions of what might happen tomorrow. But, we also know we live in a broken world. So, we look to all kinds of things to be there for us and to give us a certain sense of security that will quiet our nagging anxious thoughts. In

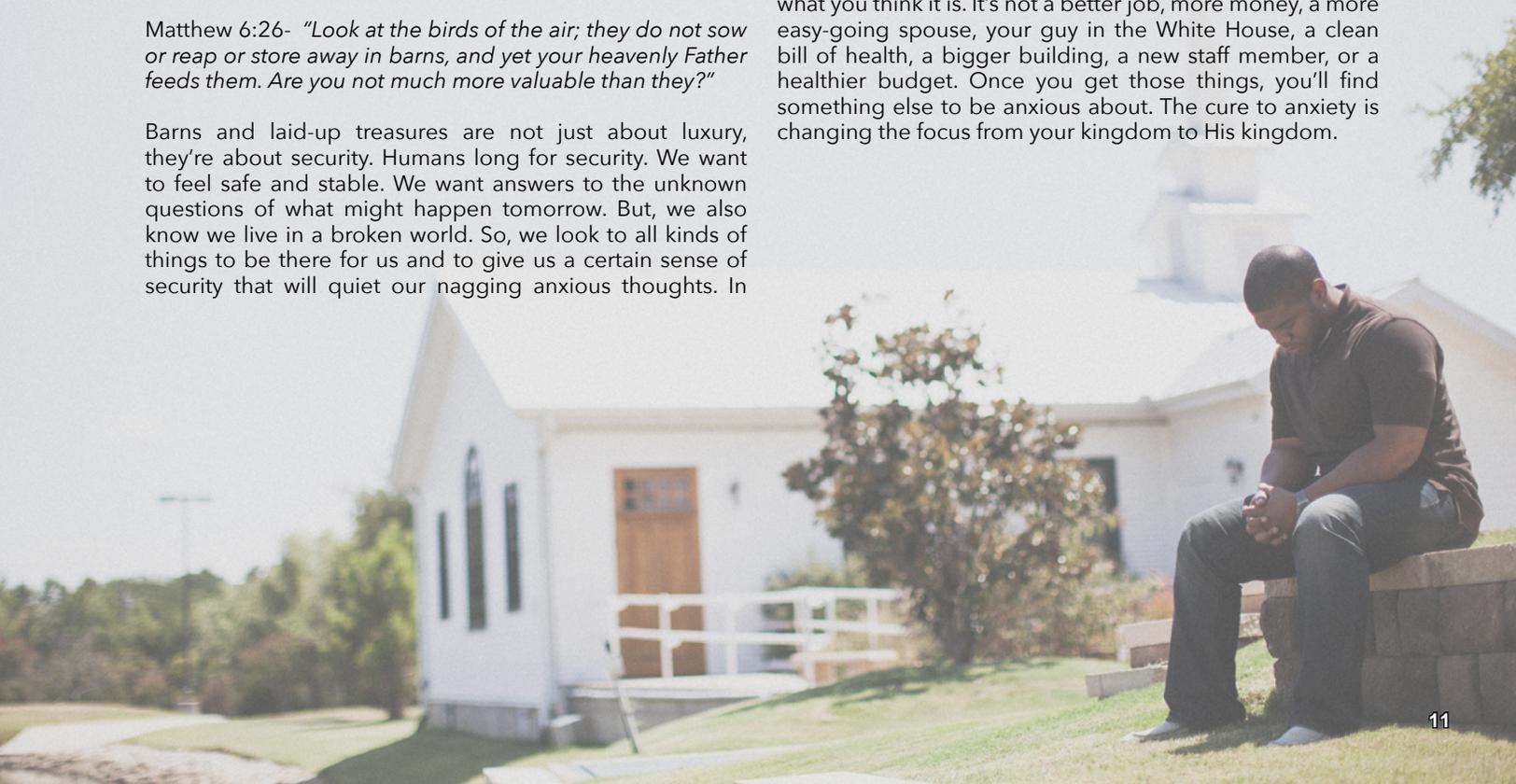
this passage, He specifically mentions looking to money and finances to provide us with this sense of security. "If I just have enough. If my barns are full. Then I'll know that I'm okay and I can handle whatever comes my way." But, He also points at the hole in this security plan. It's not secure enough. He mentions thieves, moth, and rust. If Jesus was talking to us, maybe He would have mentioned pandemics, inflation, high cost of living, fast-rising real estate prices, and supply chains problems that threaten to crash global economies. However, money isn't the only place we look for security. We look to people and relationships, systems and structures, platforms and gifting. The problem is that none of these things are secure enough. People leave. Systems get outdated. Platforms can be canceled. Giftings can go unappreciated.

Here's a difficult reality to accept: **Anxiety is telling us a partial truth.** We aren't nearly as in control as we'd like to think. As Jesus says, *"Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"* Moments of pronounced anxiety are just revealing what was always true.

We were never in control. But we know the One who is. You know there are days you can't figure out how to boil water. God is actively feeding billions of birds around the world. There are days you can't microwave leftovers without setting off the smoke detector. Meanwhile, God is setting a daily feast for sparrows. You can trust Him.

Jesus isn't asking us to turn our brains off, to be hopelessly and boundlessly optimistic or to stop being honest about the reality that we live in a broken world. Jesus is calling us to fix our eyes on the fact that God is at work in all of it. Yes, life is broken, AND God is working to put it all back together. Yes, the circumstances of life are outside of your control, AND God is always in control.

The key is found in verse 33: **"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."** The cure to your anxiety is probably not what you think it is. It's not a better job, more money, a more easy-going spouse, your guy in the White House, a clean bill of health, a bigger building, a new staff member, or a healthier budget. Once you get those things, you'll find something else to be anxious about. The cure to anxiety is changing the focus from your kingdom to His kingdom.



# HOW TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO GROW YOUR CHURCH

## BRADY STICKER

In 2021, the average person spent 2 and a half hours a day on social media.<sup>A</sup> The good news for pastors and churches is that there has never been a better time to get your message to your community than today. Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc., are incredibly powerful if used correctly.

People in church talk about social media as a tool to get “engagement.” Comments and likes don’t change lives. Solely getting “engagement” for the sake of engagement doesn’t get new church visitors. How can you effectively use social media to get new visitors walking into your church on a Sunday morning?

There are two different types of marketing: branding & direct response. Churches are typically great at branding (or branding is where most churches focus their marketing efforts). These are the Instagram graphics, fancy videos, etc. Direct response, on the other hand, is a marketing strategy that gets someone to take a next step.

Do you remember the 2022 Superbowl commercial with the bouncing QR code? That’s direct response. It took viewers directly to the Coin Base website (so much so their site crashed). When it comes to social media for your church, don’t only focus on branding. If you don’t get someone to take a next step, then you’re both missing out on a huge opportunity.

In ministry these days, we’re always tracking “next steps” whenever it comes to growth in our church, whether it’s salvations, baptisms, first-time tithers, etc. These “next-steps” track spiritual growth on an individual basis. What if you could track these next steps before someone ever showed up at your church service?

This is where the “Plan Your Visit” (or PYV for short) strategy has come into play. One of my favorite social media strategies for churches is using direct response marketing with a PYV call to action, or “next-step.” This will get people to plan a visit to a Sunday service by filling out an online form with their name, email, phone, etc. This strategy is a proven method that will actually get you new visitors walking in the doors on Sunday. You can see an example of this at [vibranttx.com/plan-your-visit](http://vibranttx.com/plan-your-visit).

The hard truth is organic reach isn’t what it used to be. On average, 5 out of 100 people that follow your church on Facebook will actually see your post.<sup>B</sup> Plus,

the people that follow you online are probably already attending your church. In order to reach new guests, you’ll need to invest in ads. Ads on Facebook and Instagram are a lot more affordable than you think. The majority of churches we work with get 30+ families planning a visit for about \$15 each on average every month. That means if you invest \$150 into ads, 10 new families would plan a visit to your Sunday service.

After you get people to plan a visit to your church, you now need to have a solid follow-up strategy in place. I recommend using a mix of automated text messages that are written as if you are personally texting them, thanking them for planning a visit and reminding them about your Sunday service. Don’t send text messages as if it’s from the church; send them as if it’s from a person. When your follow-up sequence is more personal, your show-rate of families that plan a visit is going to be dramatically higher.

At the end of the day, it’s important to have a goal. Do you just want likes and comments? Or do you want to use social media to grow your ministry and really make a difference in the lives of people in your community? These are things that you can implement yourself within your church’s social media strategy. If you have any questions or would like some hands-on guidance on using social media to get more church visitors, the ChurchCandy team and I are happy to help. You can schedule a time to hop on Zoom with me directly at [churchcandy.com](http://churchcandy.com).



*While attending Christ for the Nations Institute and Dallas Baptist University, Brady and his father, Billy, grew one of the largest digital marketing agencies in the chiropractic profession, ChiroCandy Marketing. After graduating from CFNI and DBU, Brady and his wife, Sara, moved to The Woodlands, TX, to help launch Vibrant Church. Brady and Sara served as Student Pastors at Vibrant while still managing over 300 clients’ Facebook ad campaigns at ChiroCandy.*

*Brady has managed the ad campaigns for Vibrant since pre-launch. Vibrant has grown substantially in the midst of a global pandemic. Vibrant has had to expand its building and now consistently see 20-50 first-time guests from Facebook ads every month! Brady’s heart for the “Big-C” Church has led him to start helping churches grow through digital marketing with ChurchCandy Marketing.*

<sup>A</sup><https://www.statista.com/statistics/433871/daily-social-media-usage-worldwide/>  
<sup>B</sup><https://blog.hootsuite.com/facebook-statistics/#:~:text=The%20average%20organic%20reach%20of.strategy%20for%20your%20existing%20audience>

# Get 20-50 New Visitors Every Month on Autopilot with Facebook Ads



"Brady and his team make the process so easy! We get several families planning a visit every single week!"



**Jeffrey Nicolette**  
MVMNT Church

"We're getting fantastic results! There are new families planning a visit almost every single day and new visitors every Sunday!"



**Ben Sanders**  
Revelation Frisco

**MENTION DESTINY  
LEADERS & GET  
\$250 OFF YOUR  
FIRST MONTH**



**CHURCHCANDY.COM**

**ChurchCandy**  
Marketing



## TUESDAY, JUNE 7TH

**6:30PM** Welcome Party  
*at the Convention Center across  
from the church*

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH

**9:30AM** DLI Graduation  
**11:00AM** Break  
**11:15AM** Morning Session  
**12:00AM** Lunch  
**12:30PM** Breakouts

**\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\***

**6:30PM** Evening Session

## THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH

**9:30AM** Installation & Ordination Service  
**11:00AM** Morning Session  
**12:00AM** Lunch  
**12:30PM** Breakouts

**\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\***

**6:30PM** Evening Session

**JUNE 7-9TH  
2022**

**CHRIST CHURCH  
WEST MONROE, LA**

Join us for an amazing time of fun, fellowship, and refreshing at the 2022 Destiny Gathering! We will kick off Tuesday evening with a Welcome Party at the Convention Center across the street from Christ Church. Wednesday and Thursday mornings will begin with large group worship followed by lunch and breakout sessions to encourage and equip you and your ministry. The evening services will include engaging worship and dynamic speakers. While all sessions and breakouts will be held on the Christ Church campus, we will be serving dinner each night after service at the Convention Center across the street.

This is going to be an amazing time! We can't wait to see you there!

**BRING YOUR FAMILY. BRING YOUR TEAM.**

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

## DESTINY KIDS

Destiny Kids! Come on down! You're the next contestant on The Summer of WOW Show! As a contestant, you'll be placed on some awesome teams and compete for some great prizes! Here's the best part - everybody wins on The Summer of WOW Show!

The Summer of WOW Show will feature awesome team games and worship nights, nerf and water wars, and a summer dance party! Here's what you'll need to bring with you this year: sunscreen, play clothes to get wet in (flip flops, bathing suit, etc.), a towel, and big smiles!

We can't wait to see YOU this year for The Summer of WOW Show!



**SINGLE:** \$90  
**COUPLE:** \$180  
**FAMILY:** \$200

**5 MEALS PROVIDED**

*Tuesday Dinner, Wednesday Lunch & Dinner,  
 Thursday Lunch & Dinner.*

**DESTINY YOUTH**

We're gearing up for the greatest Youth Gathering we've ever had, and we want you to be a part of it! Every year, Destiny Gathering is a phenomenal, life-changing experience for so many Christian leaders from around the nation, and over the last couple years, we've seen this same experience handed down to the next generation. Teens are not only welcome, but wanted and celebrated at The Gathering, and I'm really excited about what we're working on for them this year.

This year at The Gathering, youth can expect a round of powerful, FUN morning sessions that we're calling, "FUTURE Conference." Including young adult-led worship and three tag-team preaching sessions from some incredible speakers, this time will make a huge impact in the lives of our young people and will be a blast. We are the future generation, and the future begins NOW!

Teens can also look forward to a morning at Skate Town in West Monroe! We'll load up and head over to the roller rink for fun on wheels. This is time just to make some friends and memories to take home. The skate time and morning sessions will be great enough, but we'll be throwing in some bonus perks, too, and that's not to even touch on the amazing night sessions of The Gathering.

To put it plainly: You won't want to miss The Gathering this year, and you WON'T want to miss the FUTURE Conference that's waiting for you. We'll be there, and we'll be ready! Will You?

**WEDNESDAY BREAKOUTS**

**Soul Health**  
*Panel*

**Small Groups**  
*Nathan Thompson*

**Starting an Internship**  
*Landon Galloway, Michael Scobey*

**Children's Ministry**  
*Ashley Clinton*

**The Best Thing We Do**  
*Mike Acosta*

**Services that Work**  
*Mario Mouser, Amos McFalls,  
 Chris Simmons*

**Women of Destiny**  
*Church of the Crossroads*

**Social Media**  
*Brady Sticker*

**THURSDAY BREAKOUTS**

**When Leaders Fail**  
*Panel*

**Small Groups**  
*Nathan Thompson*

**Effective Men's Ministry**  
*Jeffrey Kent*

**Children's Ministry**  
*Ashley Clinton*

**The Best Thing We Do**  
*Bryan Larson*

**Services that Work**  
*Mario Mouser, Amos McFalls,  
 Chris Simmons*

**Young Leaders**  
*Jarred & Evelyn Moss*

**Social Media**  
*Brady Sticker*

# STUDY WHILE YOU SERVE

The purpose of Destiny Leadership Institute (DLI) is to make biblical and leadership training available anywhere in the world, enabling Christian leaders to develop character, discover calling, increase competence, and operate within their respective organization's culture. The training is designed to raise the quality of service coming from every level of leadership—not just those entering full-time ministry. The program is interactive, flexible, and affordable, so that emerging leaders can discover their purpose and develop their gifts without interrupting other duties (i.e. family, work, local church ministry obligations). DLI seeks to be part of the answer to the prayer that Jesus instructed his disciples to pray, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field"* (Luke 10:2).

The mission of DLI is to train Christian leaders through both study and service. Students learn Bible, theology, and leadership through online courses, while serving as interns in their local church under the guidance of spiritual leadership.

**FIND OUT MORE AT [DESTINYLEADERS.COM/DLI](https://destinyleaders.com/dli)**



YOUR  
LOGO  
HERE

# START AN INTERNSHIP IN YOUR CHURCH!



**LANDON GALLOWAY**

I wear a few different hats in ministry. I am the Director of Destiny Leadership Institute, a pastor at Grace Church in Houston, TX, and a Ph.D. candidate.

As a pastor, I recognize the need for identifying and training new leaders. As someone in the academic world, I also recognize that much biblical and ministry training is too abstract for those who are involved in boots-on-the-ground local church ministry.

So, about a decade ago, Dr. Phil Brassfield and I developed Destiny Leadership Institute, a two-year ministry training program that offers academically sound bible, theology, and leadership courses. These courses are entirely online and are designed so that students can immediately apply what they are learning to their lives and leadership.

Now, we are directing our efforts to work with pastors and churches to start their own white-labeled in-house bible colleges or internship programs using DLI courses. Yes. White-Labeled. That means you can name it whatever you'd like. You're not promoting Destiny Leadership Institute to your congregation, you're promoting something with your church's name and brand. For example, our friends at Vibrant Church in The Woodlands, TX are calling their DLI-powered internship program "Vibrant College." At my home church, Grace Church in Houston, TX, we have "Grace Leadership Institute."

We provide the online academics and the back-end administration. You get to do all the fun stuff like pouring into and mentoring

the next generation, while reaping the benefits of energized and trained leaders pouring themselves into the mission and vision of your church.

Our model is based on three simple principles:

**LEARN-** Students complete their courses online.

**LIVE-** We will show you how to add a "live" component through a class or small group, where you can impart your distinctive visions and values to them.

**LEAD-** We also will help you give your interns an opportunity to "lead" by plugging them into formal mentoring relationships with serve team leaders.

And, as always, students can transfer at least 18 credit hours to Southeastern University where they can then complete an associates or bachelors degree through SEU's online program.

The DLI side of the program is incredibly affordable. It's only \$1500 per year per student, which is a fraction of the cost of similar programs. Some churches may wish to charge more to cover their expenses. We can accommodate that!

Perhaps, you have had a promising young leader go away to bible college, seminary, or some other training institution and never come back. We want to help you build your own program so that you never lose another young leader again!

For more information and to schedule a call to help you set this up, please email [dli@destinyleaders.com](mailto:dli@destinyleaders.com).



# AN INTERVIEW *with Ty Shirey*

*Recently, Pastor Amos McFalls had the privilege of sitting down with Pastor Ty Shirey to record a special episode for the Destiny Leaders Podcast. During the recording, they discussed Ty's ministry journey as well as some of the questions we feel that the worship leadership community faces. The podcast recording was so well received that we decided to post the questions and edited the discussion for the Destiny Leaders Magazine.*

**AMOS:** "Today, I have the privilege to sit down with Pastor Ty Shirey, the worship pastor at Christ Church. He works with all the production team and the worship team to make sure all of the worship sessions are on point for The Gathering. As you know, if you were able to attend last year, these conference worship sessions were absolutely incredible."

**TY:** "Hey, everyone! ...I have the honor and the privilege of pastoring here in my local community, West Monroe, Louisiana, at Christ Church. I'm so excited to be speaking with you."

**AMOS:** "What are some ways that you work with your senior leader in order to best benefit the weekend service?"

**TY:** "I believe that that is so important, whether you have "Pastor" beside your name or not, to understand that we're all working towards a larger vision.

If you are working toward your own vision, then it should probably be altered to fit the vision of that house. And obviously, it's all subject to the gospel of Jesus Christ being advanced and the glory of Jesus. I think that it's just so important to have a relationship and to have an openness with the senior leader.

That doesn't mean that your senior pastor will be your best friend, that you're going to coffee with every single week, but there needs to be real effort into having an open door with them. The way that relationship begins is by putting in the effort to identify your senior leader's love language and what their communication styles are. Then adapting and adopting a method to basically have a seat to where you can just listen - not a seat to where you can speak, not a seat to where you can express your opinion all of the time - but just a seat at the table where you can listen and try to anticipate the things that are important to them."

**AMOS:** "How do you choose songs? Is there a process that you go through to figure out what songs work best?"

**TY:** "It's very important to remember that we're there to lead people, not lead songs. We are there to help people hear the transformational Word of God. We're showing them that the table has been prepared by Jesus and that the food is hot, and it's time to eat. Having that mindset goes a long way into thinking about songs that sing well. It goes a long way into thinking about songs that don't require large amounts of explanation. So, there are songs that we will still steer clear of from time to time, because its meaning may not be clear to everyone singing it.

Also, there's no substitute for knowing your church, knowing the people in your church, and knowing what they listen to. It's okay to fit the song to your church culture."

**AMOS:** "How do you train people not to just sing a song well, but to lead worship?"

**TY:** "I think you're a product of your environment. If you're creating your rehearsals to be spaces for perfect music to be played rather than worship to be engaged with, that's what you're going to get on a Sunday."

My dad always said as our baseball coach, "We're gonna play the way that we practice. If you want to get better playing outfield, I'm going to hit you some hard fly balls. I'm gonna hit you some line drives because the team that you're playing is not going to take it easy on you."

Also, I think that we're lying to ourselves if we don't truly believe that there's major spiritual warfare going on. Because as a worshipper, we have a tribe of Judah mentality where we step out on the front lines with our praise. We want to let the enemy know that he's not taking the glory from our God.

During our services, we know that there are families in the audience going through tough marital issues. There are people on their last little bit of money and they don't know how they will pay their bills. But we are going to praise God. We're going to give glory to God even in that moment.

If Sunday morning is the first time that our worship team engages in worship then we are fighting an uphill battle. We are fighting against the tide. Our team must engage in worship before Sunday service.

I think you have to prepare a culture that takes time in rehearsal to worship. Things are caught more than they're taught, and providing the space in rehearsal for authentic worship prepares our team for the Sunday service."

**AMOS:** "What's the best piece of advice you've received on leading worship and on being a worship pastor?"

**TY:** "There are so many great people in my life that have given me incredible advice. A friend of mine reminded me that the Bible says, "in the presence of my enemies, *you* prepare a table for me."

This advice took so much stress off of me. I'm not in charge of setting the table. I'm in charge of making sure the AC is good; I'm in charge of vacuuming the carpet so that the environment is nice for people to have dinner, but it's God that sets the table.

I want to encourage other worship pastors and leaders-before everyone else is in that building, begin to prepare your own heart -and engage, not only for the Sunday service, but during the rehearsals in the week. The table is prepared. Our responsibility is to let people know the food is hot and they can enjoy the goodness of God's table.

So many times as ministers, pastors, and church leaders, we work so hard in ministry that we forget that it's not ours."

*If you are interested in the complete conversation with Pastor Ty, please check out and subscribe to the Destiny Leaders Podcast.*



# ARE YOU LISTENING?

THE  
DESTINY LEADERS  
PODCAST

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[DESTINYLEADERS.COM/PODCAST](https://destinyleaders.com/podcast)

# introducing NEW CHURCH PLANTS



## VILLAGES CHURCH

JUSTIN & TIPHANII MEADORS | COLUMBUS, OHIO | WWW.VILLAGES.CHURCH

When it comes to taking steps of faith, the Meadors are no strangers. For the past 13 years, they have served in some capacity of full-time ministry. While they have served in multiple locations and positions over the last decade, they knew that God had a specific place and calling for their lives.

During the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, God opened a door for the Meadors to move to Columbus, OH. They moved with the initial thought that it would only be for a season. However, they found a place that they love, a place to serve, a place to call home. They often say, "We didn't choose Columbus, but Columbus chose us."



So, why Columbus? That's a question that we get asked a lot! We have just recently moved to Columbus and don't know many people here. We don't have a lot of family here. We have never lived here before. So, why Columbus? Over these last two years, we've had an opportunity to see the beauty of Columbus. We've seen everything that makes Columbus one of the most attractive and fastest growing cities in the United States. We've seen the beauty, but we've also seen the brokenness. We've seen people trying to navigate what life looks like on this side of the pandemic. We've watched people try to navigate their way through social injustice issues. We've watched people looking for purpose and direction, and we knew that God was calling us to do something. God had been talking to us about church planting for years. We see a unique expression of His Church in our hearts. We just didn't know when or where. Now we do! Over the last few months, our calling has become clear, our burden loud, our commitment strong, and our hearts are full!

So, why Columbus? Ultimately, because God called, and we said "yes" to living in and loving on the people of Columbus. It's time to plant Villages Church! You can follow the journey on social media @villages.church or on our website [www.villages.church](http://www.villages.church).



## THRIVE CHURCH

ROGER & STEPHANIE POWERS | SEARCY, ARKANSAS | THRIVSEARCY.COM

We are passionate about sharing the life-giving message of Jesus Christ, and how to find freedom through a personal relationship with Him. For over 10 years, we've known that God has had a plan and purpose for us in Searcy, Arkansas. After doing ministry in Searcy for years, we moved out of the community believing the door had been closed on the area for us. But, after two years God began to stir in our hearts about returning, and after much prayer and counsel, we felt confirmation that it was time to move forward with the dream we believe God placed in our hearts years ago. Therefore, we began the initial steps to plant, meeting with a small group of people. We knew then that God had placed on our hearts to take a different approach than the cultural norm in church planting, with what we felt like was a word from God to "Grow Organically." We didn't quite understand what that meant at the time, but we would soon find out.



When Covid hit, it became more evident to us that our church planting process would be different. Though the pandemic presented a new set of challenges, we were still able to prepare for the future. We purchased a home and moved back to Searcy in the fall 2020. We were able to rent a suite in April of 2021 that we thought would be ideal for meetings, fellowship, and eventually a small service. After a few months of teaching virtually on Sundays and in weekly small groups, we felt that even with our small community of believers, God was leading us to open our doors for Sunday Morning Worship and teaching, and on July 11, 2021, we had our first service. Still in the early stages of our church, and coming out of the pandemic, we are now building teams and ministries that will help us better serve our members and the community of Searcy, most recently launching our Kids Ministry on Easter this year. We believe this will be a game-changer for our future.

Our ultimate goal is to be a safe place where imperfect people can come as they are and have a real encounter with Jesus. We want to help people experience freedom, grow in their relationship with Christ, and develop life-giving relationships with other believers. We believe that we all are created with a purpose, and we want to help others THRIVE in who God has created them to be. For more information on our church, visit [thrivesearcy.com](http://thrivesearcy.com) or follow us on social media @thrivesearcy.

DESTINY YOUTH

# INTENSIVE

## Want Your Youth to **LOVE** the **Local Church**? We Can Help.

This Youth Intensive is a one-of-a-kind **discipleship program** that puts the power of youth internships into the Youth Pastor's hands for their students right where they are: *in their local church.*



VISIT [DESTINYLEADERS.COM/YOUTH](https://destinyleaders.com/youth) FOR MORE INFORMATION

Coupling a solid curriculum of in-depth Bible-based teaching with a recommended practicum involving outreach, prayer and church service hours, the Destiny Youth Intensive is a launch pad for young people to find a deeper passion for God, and a fiery love for the local church.

We simply don't have time to wait until they become adults. The Destiny Youth Intensive is an avenue to get students in the game NOW. Because as we like to say at Destiny Youth, the youth aren't the next generation, they're the NOW generation.



# Want to **Expand** Your Ministry **Reach?**

Digital marketing services  
that make impact!

You have a life changing message that needs to be heard. We have the experience, tools and help you need to engage your community. Tell your story. Change the world!



- ✓ Strategic Planning
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- ✓ Email/SMS Marketing

## "Serving Ministries Across North America and Around the World"

For more than 30 years, Web Geeks has been helping ministries of all types share the Christian message through technology and communication solutions. We are a Christian-owned business with a sense of mission and love helping our ministry partners succeed. Our experience and empathy position us to help you make the most of digital tools and best practices to spread the gospel, inform your audience and educate. It all starts with a conversation about your ministry goals and challenges.

-  **+1-855-564-1200**
-  **info@webgeeks.com**
-  **webgeeks.com**

# THIS IS MY STORY



## KRISTA COWDEN

I'm thankful I am not the author or the finisher of my story of faith. I don't believe I would ever have enough courage to write my own story with all the obstacles and struggles it has taken me through. I have walked through some of the darkest seasons way beyond what I ever thought I could survive. But my God. My Jesus. He has proven Himself time after time how He is faithful past my ability to comprehend, forgiving of sin that I thought destined me for hell and saved me from the grip of bondage.

During my entire teenage years and my twenties, I was wrapped in the counterfeit pleasures of addiction. Where did I go wrong? Where did I cross the line? When did the bondage set in? I became that person where there was no drug I wouldn't try, no high I denied, and no drink I wouldn't consume. Before I knew it, I had no clue how to cope with stress and hurt, no clue how to live a "normal" life. I became manipulative, selfish, cold, and hopeless. I blamed every decision I made on my upbringing, but at the end of the day, my choices were exactly that - mine. I was an empty shell of a human constantly trying to fill a void in my life with a substance.

Looking back now with eyes that actually see, I know this was a slow fade from my childhood into my adulthood. There were many red flags. Satan had motives that were meant to be unnoticed. Satan hates us and will do or say anything he can to make sure we are on a slow path of destruction; I just didn't know it. If he would have come to me in the beginning with the package I would receive in the end, I think I may have run with horror, but he starts with "fun," "friends," and "lies." Do I wish I had never tried drugs? Of course, I do. But, I did. Thankfully, God will use everything for the good to those who love Him. All of my sin, mistakes, and poor choices don't define me. My new life in Christ does. My old life is gone, because I have been redeemed by my Father, who makes all things new. Four years ago, my church family intervened with the love of Christ and walked me through the decision to check myself into the Home of Grace.

Home of Grace is a 90-day Christ-based rehab. I had no fight left in me and was beyond desperate for help. I could not bring my daughter with me, and at the time I thought that was the hardest decision to ever make. Looking back now, I know it was the best, for me and for her. If you have never been forced to be away from your family for 90 days and had no other choice, but to face yourself for who you truly are, consider that a blessing! It is ugly, and it is painful. I had to deal with years and years of hurt and brokenness, countless regrets without a blanket of drugs to suppress the pain.

God began to do something new in me. See, I didn't want to heal, because I didn't want to hurt, and sometimes the healing hurts worse than the wound. But, it is so worth it. With healing came freedom. With freedom came growth. I remember sitting in that intake room thinking to myself, "Who are you kidding, Krista? You're NEVER going to make it a day here, let alone 90 days."

This was a thought planted by the enemy. The joke is on him. I'm four years sober today. Glory to God! I am a new creation. I am trusted, loved, looked up to, and cherished. I have a home, a car, pay my own bills, a stable job. These are all things that may seem small to some, but for me, these were all things I never dreamed were possible for my life. Now, they are my reality.

I had goals that I have achieved, and I have goals I will achieve. I have victory. I've learned how to allow God into the darkest crevices of my life - how to heal, how to recognize that the choices I make today matter tomorrow. Truthfully, we don't have to look like a "strung-out" drug addict to be exactly where Satan wants us. We can have a successful life and still be walking in chains.

There is no in between; it's either death or life. I chose life. Home of Grace is where the healing came. Not long after completing that program, I enrolled at Destiny Leadership Institute. This was an absolutely incredible experience. This is where God rooted me in His Word. The Bible began to come to life in a way it didn't before. My time at DLI was far more than just being taught leadership. It taught me how to dig. Just a year into my sobriety, I was so hungry for more, and DLI gave me exactly that.

My life started to shift. I'll forever be grateful for all I learned during my two years there and am grateful to have the connections there as well. The opportunity DLI gave me really was a dream come true during that time of my life, a dream that God fulfilled. I thank God for every open door and for my freedom. I'm so thankful for just Him. He gave me a new life. If He can do all of this for me, He can do it for anyone. The best part about that is He wants to! I know how incredibly hard it can be sometimes when our life looks like a huge mess and nothing like what we wanted or expected. I couldn't see it then, but the story He has been writing for me is ultimately so much better than I could have written for myself. Even with every mistake and wrong turn I made, He was there. His hand was over me. Instead of tying my hope to the outcome of life, I tie myself to the heart of God. Psalms 118:17-18, "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord has chastened me severely, but He has not given me over to death."

*Krista Cowden lives in Ocean Springs, MS, and serves on the media/production team at Center Pointe Church. She is a DLI Alumni (class of 2021) and Teaching Assistant. Krista is currently attending nursing school to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. She has a 6-year-old daughter that will turn 7 in June.*



# DESTINY PARTNERS WITH ARC FOR SERVE DAY 22!

## You're Invited to Join Us for SERVE Day 22!

Are you looking to reach people in your community with the love of Jesus?

SERVE Day 22 is the perfect opportunity to do just that! On **Saturday, July 16th**, we invite you to join in with thousands of churches and individuals from all around the world as we link arms to spread the love of Jesus through acts of kindness - no strings attached. Whether it's by hosting a free car wash, cutting someone's grass, giving away fresh flowers, or simply taking time to listen to someone's story - the sky is the limit! It's all about spreading the hope, joy, and love of Jesus with others.

Visit [serveday.com](http://serveday.com) to get registered and find all of the tools you need to plan an unforgettable, life-changing experience.

To help churches simplify, coordinate, and promote their local Serve Day efforts, Church of the Highlands has developed a free web-based platform and mobile application that is available as a free gift to you. Register your church to receive access.

## SERVE DAY SCOPE

This summer, we will celebrate our 8th global SERVE Day movement where we've seen thousands of churches, across six continents, in dozens of countries, and in all fifty United States participate. There is nothing like seeing the Body of Christ work together in unity to spread Jesus' hope with the world - one person at a time!

Over the years, we've seen volunteers in Hong Kong, Australia, Moldova, Germany, Italy, Tanzania, Philippines, Trinidad, Tobago, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Canada, San Francisco, New York, and Baltimore... painting, cleaning, landscaping, cooking, hosting prayer drive thrus, meal packing, doing home renovations, water giveaways, block parties, lemonade stands, and free oil changes. In both churches that have been serving for many years and churches that haven't even officially launched yet, we've seen children, grandparents, moms, dads, and teens shine with an endless range of talents, creativity, generosity, and joy. And every year, it all boils down to the ONE.

It all boils down to the moment when Miss Reba gave her heart to Jesus, to the time when Christy's prayers were answered, and when Daniel led his first outreach reaching people who are homeless - just like he once was.

Pastor Dino Rizzo shares, *I love how the Kingdom of God continues to expand and reveal more and more layers of hope and love and joy! I love seeing everyone getting fired up for SERVE Day! I believe this year is going to be extra special. Just thinking about how many moments are in store - the conversations, stories, and smiles that will be exchanged. And how the world is about to get DRENCHED in the love and hope of Jesus Christ.*

That's what SERVE Day is all about - spreading Jesus' love through kindness for the sake of the ONE.

## SERVE DAY PLANNING TOOLS:

We know that mobilizing your whole church to participate in SERVE Day can be a well-worth it, yet big undertaking.

That's why, at [serveday.com](http://serveday.com), we've shared the following resources to help your SERVE Day planning go smoothly!:

- Project Strategies
- Budget Guidelines
- Communication Plan
- Promotional Graphics
  - Project Ideas
  - Small Group Guides
- Downloadable Acts of Kindness Cards
  - Prayer Video
  - Shirt Artwork
- Directional Signage
- Online Training
- And MORE!

## SERVOLUTION

While SERVE Day efforts continue to bring deep impact to communities around the world each year, it's the everyday culture of serving that SERVE Day sparks that makes the strongest impact. SERVE Day isn't just a one-day event. SERVE Day can become an everyday lifestyle. This is how a "Servolution" (a revolution through serving) begins.

Over a decade ago, Dino Rizzo and his team wanted to love people like Jesus loves. They simply began saying 'yes' to every opportunity they could find to serve others - picking up trash at local events, mowing lawns for widows, giving away free bottles of water. Before they knew it, a revolution of serving had been sparked in their community – **a Servolution!**

Now, many years later, churches, teams, small groups, and individuals all around the world are joining the movement to follow the example of servanthood that Jesus set. Saying "yes" to opportunities to do good, cherishing people, serving needs, and sharing His life-changing kindness.

Head to [servolution.org](http://servolution.org) to get free resources and connect to the community where our heart is to serve YOU as you serve others!



## IDEAS FOR SERVE DAY

The fun thing about SERVE Day is that there are no rules except to spread Jesus' love through simple acts of kindness. We encourage churches to get creative and plan outreaches that reflect the needs of your local community and the gifts and talents of those in your church.

### Here are 5 SERVE Ideas to help you get started:

**GAS POP UP** – Choose a local gas station to takeover with kindness and pay for customers' gas at the pump.

**BUSINESS PRAYER KITS** – Visit local businesses to pray with them and deliver personalized "prayer kits" with hand written prayers, devotionals, and goodies.

**PORTRAITS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS** – Set up a photo shoot for residents at local nursing homes. Plan to do their hair, makeup, bring backdrops, props, and make them feel special!

**LAUNDRY LOVE** – Set up a station at a local Laundromat. Hand out quarters, dryer sheets, and snacks. Offer to help customers with switching laundry, folding, and loading clothes into their cars.

**KINDNESS SCAVENGER HUNT** – Send volunteers out in teams and give them kindness tasks to complete. Encourage them to be bold, sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and expect Him to do great things!

For "How To" guides on these ideas and more, head to the shop at [servolution.org](http://servolution.org).

For even more practical serve ideas, **check out our SERVE Ideas Bank** at [servolution.org/ideas](http://servolution.org/ideas).

# DESTINYCONNECT

BIGGER. BETTER. STRONGER.



## FALL DATES COMING SOON!

VISIT [DESTINYLEADERS.COM/CONNECT](https://destinyleaders.com/connect) FOR FALL DATES AND LOCATIONS.

Join us as we worship together, participate in transformational conversations and dynamic breakout sessions, and hear powerful messages that are sure to help you take a huge step forward in your leadership. You do not want to miss a minute of these awesome events. While children and teenagers are welcome at this event, we will only be providing child care for children ages 1-5. **Cost is \$30 per person.**





# THE ROAD AHEAD



## DR. PHILLIP BRASSFIELD

Roads are a big deal! They take us places. They represent adventure, success, destiny, or misfortune, depending on the ones we take. Often, the idea of roads is used metaphorically. They speak of purpose, planning and strategy. When we speak of the roads of life, we often talk of them in terms of a life well-lived or a warning for the ones that lead to disaster. As a traveler for over 40 years, I've traveled lots of roads, both literally and metaphorically. And I've learned a lot about life and leadership during the journey.

I'm turning 60 this year, and I understand just how important our choices are regarding the roads ahead, both for Cathy and myself, and for Destiny Ministries. I feel the weight of how the decisions we make and the paths we choose today will affect thousands of people's lives in the future. And it's okay; there's a grace for it, as there always is when God calls us to a particular assignment. We love what we do. But, as I enter this season of life, I've been especially thinking about things like legacy, foundational and authentic Christianity, and effective ministry in today's complicated world. I've been thinking about leadership, culture, and transition. I'm reading about these issues, listening to people talk about them, and praying over them.

From these contemplations have come a list of ten focal points that I believe we should emphasize in the Destiny culture and experience moving forward. They are the roads that we will carefully travel into the future as a Covenant Family.

These paths must be a priority moving forward:

1. Making authentic Christian faith and spiritual experience a priority
2. Focusing on true Christian discipleship and leadership development
3. Encouraging and celebrating excellent biblical scholarship
4. Promoting attitudes and actions of service, kindness, and generosity
5. Challenging leaders to discover their God-ordained purpose and developing materials, events and activities that speak to that purpose
6. Pursuing, promoting and challenging leaders in the areas of personal and institutional integrity
7. Intentionally creating mechanisms for generational inclusion and leadership transition; making sure every part of our Covenant Family (every generation) has a seat at the organizational table, is valued, heard, and feels welcome
8. Creating atmospheres of love, unity, and community, not conformity
9. Expecting authenticity as opposed to hypocrisy, coupled with mechanisms of restoration and healing
10. Making a commitment to reflect the diverse and beautiful Body of Christ, while seeking to understand and appreciate cultural uniqueness, experience, and flavors

*Dr. Phillip Brassfield is the Founder and Executive Director of Destiny Ministries Inc.*

I believe that if we do these things well, consistently, and sincerely, we will move forward into the future strong and effective, even in the challenging seasons that lie ahead. We will grow, love, and serve God and His family together, and Destiny will continue to get Bigger, Better, and Stronger.



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