

FALL 2017

# DESTINY

M A G A Z I N E

**HARVEY  
RELIEF  
UPDATE**

**BEGINNING  
WITH THE  
END IN MIND**

**DOUBLE VISION**

**BRINGING HOPE TO THE HILLS**

**A Return  
to Being  
the Church**



**NEW LOOK** | *Functionality, connectivity and easy access is the theme of the new website.*

**NEW WEBSITE** | *The Destiny Vision Center and Destiny Leadership Institute web sites have been merged into a single robust online center for resources and connectivity to all things Destiny.*

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## A WORD FROM PHIL & CATHY



Dear Covenant Family,

Welcome to Fall! And has it ever come in with a bang - hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, and the threat of war in a number of places on the planet. Sounds Biblical, right? But I can say with calm assurance that the Church of Jesus Christ is alive and well. We saw it via satellite when Harvey slammed into the Texas Gulf Coast. According to USA Today and the Washington Times, it was the Church, not a church, but THE CHURCH, that out paced even the Federal Government in relief efforts

and support. In Texas we all witnessed what the Church can do when push comes to shove.

I'm so proud of our Destiny Covenant family! You arose in concert and with one voice to make a difference. Money, supplies and manpower were mobilized, and almost immediately, help was on the way. I want to express my greatest heartfelt thanks to all who gave and served, but especially to Pastor Jonathan Suber who led our efforts in Texas. He is a "coordination and networking" Rock Star!

I hope you enjoy this edition of Destiny Magazine. It is filled with interesting and relevant articles that will inspire, challenge, and encourage you to reach your greatest potential. If you need us, shout!

Phil and Cathy

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# Beginning with the End in Mind

DR. PHILLIP BRASSFIELD

Beginning with the end in mind is about more than simply accomplishing a significant task, it is about living a significant life.

Most of you know, if we have had any personal time together, that I am a planner. I can't seem to help it; it's just who I am and how I think. And I've discovered over and over again with my own life when I have failed to plan, personally, and by watching the lives of others who failed to plan, just how important it is. Having a mental target in your imagination, a goal you're driven to achieve is one of the principle steps in developing a clear vision for action in the life of a leader. I remember an old mentor of mine that used to say, "he who aims at nothing usually hits it." Great leaders are not about wielding their power; they are about shouldering their responsibilities. It's hard to do this effectively without planning; planning is being responsible.

Stephen Covey, one of the great thinkers in the arena of personal empowerment and leadership, identifies this truth and includes it in his famous list of Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. It is habit number two, "Begin with the end in mind." Beginning with the end in mind in another way of saying that you should have a clear vision of what you want to do. It's very important in the process of accomplishing goals, but it is also important in the process of living a significant life.

In ministry, most leaders understand this concept at some level as it relates to accomplishing ministry goals, but there seems to be a disconnect when it comes to the area of personal finances. Maybe we think of it as a lack of faith to plan for our personal financial lives? Or maybe we see it as less spiritual or, in some way, selfish. As ministry leaders I believe it is our responsibility to not only plan for the future of the ministry but also to plan

for our families' financial future as well. Really the two are connected. It dawned on me several years ago that one of the greatest gifts I can give to the ministry after a lifetime of service is to be financially prepared to step aside when it's time.

Too often people are forced to stay in particular ministry positions too long because they have no other financial recourse. Most of us have seen people occupy a position past their passion, past their productivity, and past their vision. These people who were once an asset to the ministry can sadly become a liability. In most cases, this could have been avoided with proper planning and management.

So, it's time to think and plan for your retirement, and let me say that the earlier you begin the process, the less traumatic it is to your personal finances as well as the ministry's. With that said, let me encourage you today to consider your compensation package and the three components that I believe should be considered as a part of it. Your compensation package goes beyond just your weekly paycheck. Here are some things I have learned and that I wish someone had taught me earlier:

## **1. Have a vision and plan your life the same way you plan your ministry future.**

Have a vision for your future outside of vocational ministry and apart from the current position you occupy. We all plan to serve God and others for the rest of our life, but it's ok to acknowledge that there may come a time when the "senior responsible party" position may be better filled by someone else. Don't be afraid of it. Envision that time, strategize for it and when it's time, embrace it. You can, if you are financially prepared. I turned 55 this year, and more than ever I am aware of the fact that





nothing is forever but God. Cathy and I have been working for many years to prepare for life in our 60s and beyond. We have not accomplished everything in our plan yet, and we need several more years of consistent acting in accordance with our plan, but are in a much better position that we would have been if we had not taken action years ago. The point is you need a goal and a plan.

**2. Every paid leadership position should include a savings/retirement mandate.** A certain percentage of your salary should be set aside for retirement, or at least for savings. This will serve you well at the time of retirement, but beyond retirement, sometimes positions we thought would last forever do not. It is not uncommon for a church or ministry who hires a leader to help pay for relocating expenses if necessary, but seldom are there monies provided for your departure if the position doesn't work out. There are several different opinions on the subject of tenure; some suggest the average tenure of a local church pastor is 3.6 years (Lifeway), others a bit longer, some as high as 8 to 10 years. Regardless of who is right, it is not normally a full career. Staying in one position your entire career is the exception not the rule. If there is a savings mandate in place on the front end, then there should be monies that you have saved to help you transition from one place to the other should you have to move. I have seen numerous situa-

tions when there was an unexpected departure and simply no money available to help with the transition. As a senior leader you must have this possibility on your radar and have a contingency plan in place. When taking a position, don't make the assumption that it will last forever. Begin with the end in mind. Plan to stay forever, but be prepared; you might not.

As savings relates to retirement, the earlier you begin to have a savings plan as part of your compensation package, the smaller amount you have to save at once to accomplish your goals. Studies show that if you manage to sustain 7 % interest and save \$40 a week, you will have \$953,404 after 50 years of saving. So, maybe you don't have 50 years, increase the weekly number to the amount you can afford and have it put into a secure investment where you cannot get to it. This is a key. Life happens to us all, but some monies you save should be secured in a location that cannot be touched except in life or death situations.

**3. A Life Insurance Policy(s) should be part of your plan.** None of us plan to pass away unexpectedly, but if that should happen, your family will have to deal with expenses associated with your passing and any potential medical expense associated with an accident or illness. Plus, it will take an extended season of adjustment for the family to adapt to the absence of your personal income in the

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

family's budget. Life insurance is a financial solution to this potential problem in the short term.

Another reason life insurance is important is that if you study personal finances, you will find that most people get really serious about saving for retirement during the last 15 to 20 years before retirement. A life insurance policy becomes a bridge that lets your family experience the retirement plans you had in mind even if you don't live long enough to accomplish them through savings and investment. I believe that my family is my responsibility whether I'm alive or not. Having an appropriate amount of life insurance provides options for your family and the ministry should something happen to you.

I know this is not an exhaustive list of things to do to prepare for retirement, but they are a start. I believe that if you put them in place, you will be so much better off in the end. A friend, Pastor Brett Jones, recently posted a powerful statement that hit hard but is true. Essentially he said, *"Too many in the church world today prefer miracles above discipline."* When I read that I thought how true, if we fail to discipline ourselves, we are always going to need a miracle. Thank God for His grace and His faithfulness to send miracles when we need them, but when it comes to personal finances, I believe the mature route for Christian leaders is being disciplined to do what we can and then to trust God to do what we cannot. Begin with the end in mind! Develop a vision for your future. Make a plan that works. Work your plan.

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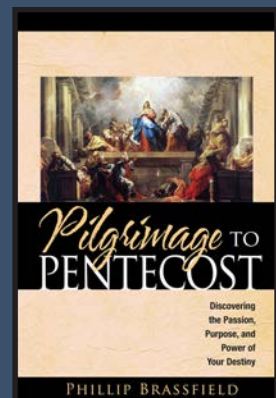


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# 2017 GATHERING RECAP



Download Conference Photos and Audio on our website at [thedestinygathering.com](http://thedestinygathering.com) or from the Destiny App.

Sermon audio can also be found on itunes under the Destiny Leaders Podcast.



# A RETURN TO BEING THE CHURCH

BY: PASTOR TIM ESTES



The old flatbed farm truck chugged through the pasture, missing on two cylinders. I was riding on the passenger side with the window down as we drove into a 75-acre hay meadow along the river. This was only our second time to meet. We talked about hay, cattle, fishing, and the artifacts we have found along the river. I needed to get back to the office, but something inside me said, "You are doing what I need you to do." The Holy Spirit had been dealing with me about my personal witness. My new friend was rough, really rough, but I could tell he was lonely and wanted to talk. He confided about his drug addiction brought on by a devastating motorcycle accident. He told me about his divorce, his anger, his social anxiety and of almost giving up on life. In those moments, I felt God recall me to the bedrock reason I had surrendered to ministry many years ago. I was returning to being the church.

Managing a growing church has many demands. Motivating teams, reviewing finances, sermon prep, and much more is quite consuming and necessary to progress. Yet I have discovered one can become so involved accomplishing church work they may forget to do the work of the church, the difference between 'doing' and simply 'being' the church. Make no mistake, both are essential. But as I heard a wise man once say, "The why must precede the what."

God has certainly blessed us here in Siloam Springs despite many challenges. One is our overt religious census. We were once in the World Book of Records for having most churches per capita. One of our main streets is even called, Mt. Olive! We are also a transitional

church, meaning we have moved from a very conservative paradigm to a grace message. Through God's favor we are on the cusp of building a new facility that will seat 800 people for His glory!

We have no magic formulas to share, only simple principles that fall in line with the theme of 'Nuts and Bolts.' It seems that the progress we have made through the years has largely been due to maintaining a steady hand on the workings of the church, by continually renewing our purpose through prayer, and by remaining tethered to forums with good growth ideology. Although there are many churches who seem to have immediate and explosive success, for which I am grateful, I recall Bill Hybels saying, "There is no shortcut to longevity." In other words one must position themselves with a passion and a plan to remain planted for a significant tenure in order to establish true, generational success.

Tricia and I have been on staff since 1989 and were elected lead pastors in 1999. Our lowest attendance during transition was 90 people in 2006. We have weathered some storms, but we have witnessed the hand of the Lord continually lead people through our doors to a life-changing experience in Christ. Currently we regularly see 600 plus people walk through our doors on a weekend.

Our evangelistic focus at New Life is multifaceted. Remember Jesus never invited the sinner to church, but He commanded the church to 'Go' to the world.





## FOLLOWING ARE FIVE WAYS IN WHICH WE GO:

### GO BY GIVING

We believe the placement of our treasure demonstrates to God the location of our hearts. We intentionally give in three areas. **1. To local missions:** This includes food pantries, a crisis pregnancy center, shelters, and non-profits that serve the needs of people in our community. **2. To national ministries:** We give to rehab centers, church plants, children's shelters, and organizations that support conservative values in our state and in Washington D.C. **3. To international missions:** I cannot overstate how important it is to involve your church in giving to missional partnerships abroad. We have built churches and drilled water wells in India, built homes in Guatemala and Africa. We will increase this endeavor commensurate with the church growth.

### GO BY SERVING

Often the gospel is best told without words. To demonstrate the love of Christ with heart and hands, meeting a specific need, is the greatest message of all. We have had serve weeks where we painted, trimmed, built, and planted. Annual community events attract thousands of people to our campus. These acts of kindness sow seeds in our city that we will eventually reap as souls.

### GO BY GOING

Unless the gospel is mobilized it fails to meet the criteria of evangelism. There is nothing more impactful than for our people to actually go to a foreign field. There are

some opportunities out there that are not prohibitive cost-wise. Getting a team to the field is a blessing to the missionary as well as your team.

### GO BY CREATING FUNCTIONAL SYSTEMS

Connecting the unbeliever is challenging and requires an intentional process. We created a 'Guest Center' where guests can meet members of our pastoral team after service. We give away a nice gift and serve coffee and sodas. Being intentional with the placement, call and collection of Connect Cards is vital in each service. Also we adopted a four-week class that meets during our regular services for guests to learn more about the church and to answer questions about how and where they may connect to the church. We provide snacks and childcare during every class. The class is well done and highly professional, with nice signage, video inserts and usage of our best leaders. Guests are often intimidated when coming to church and this Growth Track gives them an 'on-ramp' to our church family.

### GO BY BEING

I saved this one until last intentionally. I firmly believe this is the most effective evangelical tool, and the one Jesus both modeled and taught. It is the idea of winning people to Christ on an individual basis. For too long we have defaulted to the concept of the leaders or the pastor winning the lost. According to Ephesians 4:11-12, the pastor is to equip the believers to win other people and to do the care-giving work of the ministry. Everyone should have a personal evangelism project on which they are working! Connect Groups become the 'net' for catching lost people. The key is to befriend an unbeliever and first win them to yourself. This will likely require you to go where the sinner is and to get into their world. Eventually you will be able to lead them to salvation!

The drive through the hay meadow in the old truck was a moment for the Lord to speak to me. That day I recommitted to personal evangelism. If I run a smooth religious business operation and fail to win souls with the gospel I have failed. As we extend ourselves, Christ has promised to build His church, adding to it daily such as should be saved.



*Pastor Tim and Tricia Estes have been married for 30 years. They are lead pastors of New Life Church in Siloam Springs Arkansas. They have two married children, Kendra Estes McCormick, and Justin Estes and one grandbaby, Kaylee Ann.*

*Tim enjoys the outdoors and Tricia loves worship and music. Both are active in their community serving on various boards and committees. Tim has over 30 years in chaplaincy with area law enforcement. They expect to break ground on their new church facility this fall.*

# HARVEY UPDATE



**DESTINY RELIEF SUPPORT**





## DEAR DESTINY FAMILY,

We are absolutely amazed at your response and the relief efforts and work that is already being accomplished through our covenant family.

Champion Life Center, pastored by James Green was our base of operations for the first two weeks. Accommodations for over 40, showers and A/C were a luxury as our Destiny family sent trailer after trailer of supplies to the Houston area.

As evacuees began to come North we were able to serve food and clothing to the largest shelter in the Austin area, as well for first week after flooding.

The first weekend we were able to serve over 1200 hot meals in Spring and the 3rd Ward area of Houston, plus take supplies or funds to Rockport, Vidor, Victoria, Kingswood, Beaumont, Spring, Cypress, Pearland and Rosenberg. As the supplies and food kept steadily coming in, our team was able to take loads of supplies that Friday to 7 Houston neighborhoods for anyone who was in need. It was amazing to see the love of our Destiny family in action.

Then began the cleanup efforts. We were privileged to help clean and muck Connections Church in Cypress Texas, repair the children's center in Victoria, Texas for Covenant Life Center, and help muck out Pastor Frank Mazzapica's 2 yr old home. We also sent teams to 3 other churches in Houston as well.

We then began to focus on the Beaumont, Vidor, Nederland and Port Arthur, Texas areas. It was amazing to see the response in immediately serving the community of the Triumph Churches in that region that were also hit hard and flooded as well. They activated a distribution center while still flooding and began the process of repairing homes in that region at least until December!

We also partnered the second week with Turning Point Church in Vidor. In the first three days they fed over 15,000 hot meals. Many of you began to send supplies and teams there at that point.

In just the past two weeks we have had over 50 volunteers from our Destiny family to either bring supplies, muck or repair from that location. It's been incredible.

We're still receiving calls and teams are prepping to come serve and repair for the long haul.

Thanks so much for your heart of compassion and living the vision of Dr. Brassfield of us all doing something great together.

It's happening now!

*PASTOR JONATHAN SUBER*

To get involved with Destiny Relief Support visit [destinyleaders.com/relief](https://destinyleaders.com/relief)



# BRINGING HOPE TO THE HILLS

**PASTORS DREW & DIANA BRASSFIELD**

With the season of fall drifting through the air, we are reminded of the season a couple of years ago that we began to feel God call us to Lometa, Texas. Unbeknownst to us at the time, we knew God was calling us to a people, just not certain where, but to a people, and we knew that calling was sure- so sure that we began to put our move in motion with the help of our pastor and other mentors in our lives. Completely God-designed, He relocated us to Church of the Hills in the sweet hill country of Texas. Little did we know that we would fall in love with this church, this church family, and this community so quickly!



Referring back to God calling us to a people, we are firm believers that when God calls you to a place, He calls you to the people, and the community. This is something we learned early on in ministry and something that we knew had to be emphasized, so we planted our feet and dove right in!

With having three young children, we found ourselves getting involved in youth sports almost immediately, and God opened an opportunity for me to be an assistant coach for the little flag football team my 6 year old son played on. You can never under estimate one opportunity to make a difference. We would travel every weekend and we began to build a relationship with other moms and dads, and the next thing you know some of those families, just by loving them and their kiddos, began to come to our church. One family in particular comes to mind, our local Justice of the Peace, Camron Brister. He and I coached football together, and as the season progressed, we began to build a friendship that I believe will last a lifetime. Last fall we did a campaign entitled "Hope for the Hills" and Camron's Mom and Dad began attending the church and took an outreach bag and left one with Camron and His wife. That next week they came and the rest is history. Fast forward a year, and now they lead our first impression department. They are a family of 6, and God has done an incredible work in their lives. I say all that to say, I never badgered them to come to church, or bugged them to death. We simply loved them, and met them where they were, and now they are a vital part of what God is doing in Lometa.



God has also opened an opportunity for me to become the FCA director and character coach for our local school. So far I have led 2 devotionals with our senior high football team, and now just by loving them and our coaching



staff, some of the players are attending our church. Diana and I are not only committed to our church, but we are committed to loving and leading in our community. These are just a few ways as a family we have been able to make a difference in our community, through reaching out, and taking the opportunities God has put before us.

I will say through all of these efforts of reaching out, in the last 19 months we have seen our church almost double, marriages restored, wounds from the past healed, and trust built back in the local church. People have given their lives to the Lord, dozens and dozens have been baptized, and the hearts of the people have been sparked to reach the lost. By the grace of God we have been able to renovate most all of our facilities, creating welcoming spaces for all ages of life. We are currently renovating our children's space, preparing to launch children's church this fall. Our church family has really caught the vision of changing the world one life, and one family at a time.

No matter the size of your city, I have found that every city has one thing in common. Every city has people, and since there are people there, we know that every person longs to be loved, and desires to be a part of something bigger than themselves. So we have never let the size of community determine the greatness of our vision. Therefore we have made our mission to find the people, love the people, and disciple the people. Maybe, just maybe, this article can encourage you no matter where you live to remember that there are people in your city who are counting on you and your church to introduce them to the hope found in Jesus Christ. May God grant you the desire, the strength, and resources to reach your community for Jesus.

# DOUBLE VISION

## *The Danger in Misaligning Your Student Ministry's Vision, and the Vision of Your Church.*

**BY: PASTOR MANNY GONZALES**

I haven't pastored long, but one thing that I am learning as a student pastor is that I need to be a better follower than a leader.

We can't escape it, and it's a good thing that the desire to lead with vision is in us. As the leader of our student ministries, we should have a goal, a mission to accomplish for the students that we have been privileged and selected to pastor. But the solo mentality has been the decline of many student ministries and churches alike. Let's look at the average scenario: the student ministry is misaligned, in a separate room or on a separate night from the rest of the church body. And often the student pastor is left to do their own thing. Often becoming a church within a church. It's the thought that "as long as the church van is clean everyone is happy."

### **SO IT'S ALL GOOD THEN?**

But is it really? There are many student pastors who have their own vision for their ministry, which is vital considering that the alternative is not having a vision at all. But I feel one of the most important decisions we can make as a student pastor is to honor and instill our senior pastor's vision for the church within our respective student ministries.

It blows my mind to hear so many student ministry workers who allow their vision for their ministry to veer separately from the overall vision of the senior pastor and their church as a whole. Of course! Having our own vision for our ministry is great. But can we allow it to divert the vision or even offer a competing vision of the direction of our senior leader?

### **DOUBLE VISION, BRINGS DOUBLE THE DILEMMA.**

When any ministry does not match the vision of their church, it can cause some serious issues. Although it may not be our intention, it can create division within the church. We all have probably heard of horror stories of churches collapsing or splitting because of

this. One ministry is doing well and the church is not and it's because they are headed in another direction, even if it's the right direction, and it creates tension. It will create division when within one church, there needs to be unity.

I believe, at it's root, that this may be one of the causes of the short tenure of many student pastors, which is already alarming when the average tenure length is 1 year. But what is an even harder pill to swallow, especially for those of us that take seriously the longevity of our student's connection to their faith, is the post-high school transition (or lack thereof) into the church body as a young adult.

Statistics tell us that within five years following high school graduation, roughly 75% of our students who have graduated are no longer connected with a local church. Honestly, that just brings tears to my eyes typing that statement. My mind instantly goes to all of the ball games, band/choir concerts, camps, retreats, services, texts, phone calls and every other attempt we make to create a lasting impact on our students and the one avenue that we know can help sustain them in their faith walk, which is the church, we find that they are totally disconnected from it.

It is speculated that the reason for this is students were never really a part of the church body, just a part of a student ministry that headed in a different direction than the rest of their congregation.

Below are some pretty difficult questions I've had to recently ask myself about the ministry God has appointed me to. My prayer is that I continue to align my vision, culture, and strategies with the vision of our church and that you would be challenged to do the same:

- Do you know the heartbeat of your senior pastor for the students in your church?
- Do you know the clear and defined vision of your church?





### **ACTION STEP: ONE CHURCH, ONE VISION.**

What is the vision of your church? What is the vision of your student ministry? Are they the same? This question is very simple but, it is the most important question that, unfortunately, a lot of student pastors never really ask themselves.

Your church has a vision and it should match the vision of your senior pastor. There are so many student ministries that have a vision statement, which is awesome, but do they really match the vision of their church?

It's like the church is headed in one direction and I think in order for us to be most effective in the lives of our students we need to make sure our vision statements are very similar if not the same.

We want our values to be the same:

#### ***Calvary Church's Vision:***

*To give you the best opportunity to become a developing follower of Jesus Christ by helping you to Know God, Find Freedom, Discover Purpose and Make A Difference.*

#### ***All Out Student's Vision:***

*To give you the best opportunity to become a developing follower of Jesus Christ by helping you to Know God, Find Freedom, Discover Purpose and Make A Difference.*

Well, there is definitely no double vision there! While I would have loved to create my own statement, I'm

really beginning to learn and buy into the importance of alignment. What this does, is it leaves little room for doubt on where our heart lies when it comes to why we do any of our programs as a church. Every pastor, every leader, is now clearly headed in the same direction, eliminating all of the friction and tension from anything that may be contradictory.

### **ACTION STEP: PROGRAMS THAT MATTER**

Now it's all about creating a model, systems, and programs that point further into accomplishing that vision and allowing ourselves to let go of anything that may not be doing that.

If we broke down our vision this is what you would see.

#### **KNOW GOD**

God wants to know you personally. More than just practicing religion, He wants to have a relationship with you.

**OUR CHURCH BODY:** Our Sunday Services are where we focus on helping people know God.

**OUR STUDENT MINISTRY:** First Wednesday services are where we focus on helping students and their friends discover and know God.

#### **FIND FREEDOM**

We all have things from our past that need to be settled once and for all. God's process for you to experience freedom from yesterday is to have the right people in your life.

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

OUR CHURCH BODY: Connecting with the church through Small Groups is how we find life-changing community at Calvary.

OUR STUDENT MINISTRY: Connection with each other through TRIBES (small groups) every Wednesday is how we find life-changing community at All Out Students.

#### DISCOVER PURPOSE

If you are looking for hope in a hopeless world, you will find it in your calling. You are an important part of God's plan, and your life will never make sense until you discover your purpose.

OUR CHURCH BODY: Our Growth Track is made up of three classes designed to help you in this important step.

OUR STUDENT MINISTRY: Our Growth Track is made up of three classes designed to help you in this important step.

#### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This step is God's ultimate plan for your life—to make a difference in the lives of others. When you make a positive impact on people's lives by doing what you do well, it is then that the Bible says your joy will be complete.

OUR CHURCH BODY: Through our Dream Team, we hope to connect every person to an opportunity to live their calling by serving others.

OUR STUDENT MINISTRY: Through our Dream Team, we hope to connect every person to an opportunity to live their calling by serving others.

All of the programs at our student ministry are similar and represent how we accomplish the vision of our church. They are designed specifically for students, with some of the programs mixing adults and students together.

What this does is creates a likeness with a familiar environment and culture that students would easily assimilate into when they graduate, all while furthering the vision of our church as a whole.

When students graduate from our program and enter the church as an adult, there is no real change to what their values and vision are. They have known, participated in, and owned the values from our senior pastor from the very moment they entered our ministry.

I encourage you to discover what vision your senior pastor has for your church and begin to implement the programs that will further that in this next season of your student ministry.



*Manny is a DLI Graduate, class of 2015. His start in ministry began seven years ago as an intern at his local church, just two weeks after graduating high school. Since then, Manny has poured his love for God and people into numerous areas such as kids, students, young adults, and even media production. He is passionate about seeing young people and young leaders find their purpose and encouraging them to passionately pursue Jesus. Today, Manny is the lead student pastor at Calvary Church of Fort Worth, Texas.*

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# DLI STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Brooklynn Langston

**My name is Brooklynn Langston** and I am twenty years old. Thirteen years ago my parents, my brother and I moved to Jersey City, NJ to start a church. We began with five people in our living room and have been portable ever since. We have had church everywhere from a bar, to a pizzeria, to a senior citizen home, to a boys and girls club, to public schools. Just recently God has blessed us with an amazing permanent home in a central part of the city. And a little over a year ago my family purchased property upstate that we have since used for retreats and camps for not only our church, but other growing churches in the tristate area. God has been fulfilling our dreams in wild and exciting ways in this season of blessing and growth.

I am the leader of our youth ministry, Urban Thread. We have a thriving group of eleven to eighteen year old inner city students, most of which come from broken homes of abuse, drugs and neglect. God has been raising up worship leaders, musicians, prayer warriors - students after His own heart. At our most recent baptism we had six students go public with their faith. They inspire me every day and I know God is going to use Urban Thread to make an impact on the youth of our area.

I had enrolled in a college in New York City but only made it through three days of school. I knew God was pulling me in a different direction. I joined DLI last fall and it has changed my life. I preached my first sermon to our people on a baptism sign up Sunday using the Bible study techniques and Biblical geography that I learned during my first semester of DLI.



I am now in my second year and have been recommending DLI to every person that will hear me out. The program has been so beneficial to me and my ministry and I feel better prepared to teach, and stronger in defending my beliefs. Being a leader in my church, the flexibility of DLI allows me to continue serving while getting this important education.

I have been personally ministered to throughout my studies and my relationship with God has seen new depths. Several of my church's leaders and members have enrolled and are now almost done with their first year. You don't have to be in some level of ministry leadership to be a part of Destiny Leadership Institute. If you want to know more about God, His Word, and what He has in store for you, you should enroll in DLI.

**DLI IS NOW ENROLLING FOR THE SPRING 2018 SEMESTER.**

## OASIS CHURCH

ROUND ROCK, TX | [OASISTX.ORG](http://OASISTX.ORG)

PASTORS JONATHAN, STEPHANIE AND ALEX SUBER

What an incredible Summer it has been at Oasis Church! It seems that every week as a church plant is your first something. This Summer has presented several firsts from a Team fish fry that we expected about 50 people to attend and close to 200 showed up. We took 12 of our youth to NOW Camp for their first ever Summer youth camp. Our first A/Cs went out which resulted in some pretty creative solutions to keep our building cool on Sunday morning, because let's be honest, you can't have church in Texas without A/C. We also had the first of our record breaking attendance Sundays- in the middle of July! Most recently we hosted our first child sponsorship service with One Child Matters. We were able to sponsor 36 kids in Haiti! We will be taking a trip to visit them next Summer.

Now we are preparing for a big Fall. Our church is growing and the need for more services and space is significant but we want to make sure that as God sends people we are able to properly steward them. In this season we're focusing on getting better before we get bigger. We are growing our discipleship and leadership pipelines, training and equipping our teams, and growing personally as leaders. As I write this we have teams who are updating our auditorium to create a better environment in which people can experience Jesus. We know God is going to do some amazing things.

We're also partnering with DLI this Fall. We have 4 students who will be interning at Oasis. We will be supplementing DLI with some hands on development in preaching and teaching, team leadership, and practical ministry. A part of our mission is to empower people, so we are so excited to be raising up new leaders to help build The Church!

## CITY LIGHTS

FORT WORTH, TX | [THECITYLIGHTS.COM](http://THECITYLIGHTS.COM)

PASTORS ANTHONY AND ERIN MOREHEAD

It's been six short months since City Lights opened in Fort Worth, Texas. It has been amazing to see God bring together people from diverse backgrounds and experiences to shine the light of Jesus in Fort Worth.

One of the most powerful demonstrations of this has been a man named Evan who says he reluctantly visited City Lights at the insistence of his girlfriend. He had never had much exposure to Christianity at all. During service that day, Evan committed his life to Christ. Since then, his life has transformed. We baptized him in the backyard of our home on his birthday, and he is even our drummer now. There is much to celebrate, and we thank God for the opportunity to pastor this great church.

God has blessed us with a beautiful facility we are able to rent right in the heart of downtown Fort Worth at the Norris Center. We will soon begin Light Groups, mid-week small groups that will meet in homes and businesses across Fort Worth.

Please pray that City Lights continues to grow and reach the city of Fort Worth. We want to make a lasting impact here. We also would like to say a special thank you to Destiny Ministries and all the pastors who have reached out to us. Your prayers, texts, phone calls, and financial gifts have been invaluable to Erin and I. We have felt your love and support.



# NEWS FROM THE GALLOWAYS



Sarada and I are excited to announce that our family has relocated to Houston, TX to join the pastoral team at Grace Church. Grace Church is a dynamic, multisite church with a passion to share the love of Christ with Houston and the world. Our role is to serve in each of the campuses, and to help develop young leaders to lead both now and in the future. We know that God has opened this door, and are delighted for the opportunity to serve under Pastor Scott Jones and Pastor Brett Jones and to serve alongside the incredible Grace team.



*Grace Church, Humble*

We will continue to lead DLI and serve the Brassfields as well as Destiny family. We will just do so from Houston. DLI has always been committed to the local church. We operate in the local church and exist for the local church. Our students are required to serve in their church while they study online. Our transition to Grace holds true to our values. We will train leaders in the church to serve the church, while we serve the church! We are 100% committed to Destiny and are more excited than ever about the future of both the ministry network and DLI.

God is setting up something special that will be a blessing to us, to Destiny, to our students, and to Grace.

Landon & Sarada Galloway



A DESTINY COVENANT FAMILY OF FRIENDS  
**GATHERING**  
c o n f e r e n c e

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**JUNE 5TH-7TH, 2018**

