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SPECIAL MISSIONS EDITION

**DESTINY: DOING
SOMETHING
GREAT TOGETHER**



DESTINY MINISTRIES

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 Minister of the Gospel 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.destinyvisioncenter.com



A WORD FROM PHIL & CATHY

From the very beginning, Destiny's Covenant Family of Friends have been about Missions. In fact our Vision statement rings as true today as it was the day it was penned: *"Destiny Exists To Develop Excellent Christians Who Work Together To Fulfill The Great Commission."*

Recorded in Matthew chapter 28 in Jesus' own words, the Great Commission, by which it is commonly referred, instructs believers to *"go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..."* This will always be the mission of the church and of Destiny Ministries. But missions is not limited to far away lands and unfamiliar people, it begins at home and spreads from there.

In this edition of Destiny Magazine you will meet Destiny Members and hear their stories. Some are planting churches others are serving in distant locations and others are bringing missions into their homes, families and local churches.

We pray you will be inspired to get involved, take a trip, make a donation, and join with other believers to make a difference this year!

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HOW THE PHILIPPINES CAPTURED MY HEART



Pastor Robert Griffin

“YOU’VE GOT TO GO TO THE PHILIPPINES WITH ME.”

That statement came at me every time my family visited The Presley’s Country Jubilee in Branson, Missouri. Finally, in the Christmas season of 2009, I agreed to take a missions trip with my friend, Scott Presley and scheduled it for January 2010. Scott had been involved with Harvest House International Ministries, Philippines for several years.

A local Branson realtor, Shane Grady, founded this ministry in order to fund and support the local indigenous people around Davao City. Davao is the largest city on the Island of Mindanao in the southern Philippines. I went with them that January and have since made 9 more trips. I also serve on the American advisory board.

One of the things that I have been impressed the most about this ministry is that almost all of the money donated goes to the Philippines. No American

is on salary and there is very little American overhead, since Shane has continued to run the American side of this ministry through his reality office. With the exception of some minor publication expenses, everything else is done without an overhead charge.

At the time of this writing we have just returned. I am truly amazed what can happen when a group of people—a realtor, an entertainer, a car lot owner, a retired nurse, a pastor, and such like—get together and decide

to facilitate ministry. Harvest House Philippines has 7 churches and another one on the way shortly. We also have a ministry outpost to an area of great poverty called the Badjao. At this outpost, we are working with Muslim children, teaching them English using the bible, wash their hands, providing a daily meal while teaching them how to eat from a plate, and getting them ready to enter into the public school system for a chance to bring change to their families and community.

These children, who live in the worst environment one could imagine, are getting the opportunity to learn, while we also put the word of God in their hearts—with the approval and knowledge of their parents. We have a long range goal here: Educate them, feed them, integrate them into the society outside of this place of degradation, help them get into college and gain a vocation, and then encourage them to take what they have and share it within this trapped community. That is a tall order, but thankfully we have a group of dedicated Filipino ministers and workers who see the vision and are willing to sacrifice to make it happen.

We were also amazed at the progress that they are making with the kids. Last

year, many of these children did not know how to use a plate and spoon. They would dump their food on the floor of our classroom and eat with their hands. Last month, we witnessed them sitting at tables, waiting to pray over the food, and then eating with utensils. They also recited the English alphabet, read from the chalkboard, and demonstrated basic math skills. You can see God at work in their eyes.

The seven churches are doing well at reaching their communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Of note is their ongoing mission to win young people. Their reach to high school and college age youth is amazing. They are raising up a new generation of disciples who worship, witness, pray and lead home cell groups. At present, there are hundreds of young people being mobilized by Harvest House to infiltrate their people with the good news.

Taking a trip to the Philippines is not easy. All together we spend 40 hours on airplanes and in airports. We arrive in Davao City at 6 a.m. since our arriving flight is always the 4 a.m. departure out of Manila. Fifty or so enthusiastic Filipinos always greet us at the airport. They are ready for ministry, and so we go.

The next 6 days are filled with prayer meetings, church services, Badjao visitation, and crusades.

This year we included a healing crusade. I personally prayed for a lady who had a visible tumor in her right nostril. A simple prayer, a moment of faith, a look of excitement, the tumor disappeared right there. That level of simple faith is amazing in this place. I know many of us have experienced something like this. But going every year, and seeing it fresh, is a true blessing to my life and to our church.

I asked one of our pastors, “Pastor James, why does it seem that the people, (many of whom have never experienced something like this) so easily move into the things of the Spirit?” His reply will forever mark me. “Pastor Rob,” he said, “We live on the edge of desperation. When we realize it really is God, and it really is true, it doesn’t take much to push us over the edge.” I realize, then and now, I need to live closer to that edge in my own life!

If you would like more information about this ministry opportunity or would like to get involved, you may email me at pastorrob@destinyleadershipinstitute.com. Also check us out on Facebook at facebook.com/harvesthousephilippines



ROBERT GRIFFIN HAS BEEN IN MINISTRY SINCE 1986. HE IS THE FOUNDING PASTOR OF TRIUMPH WORSHIP CENTER IN GLENPOOL, OKLAHOMA. ROBERT IS ALSO THE FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF GRIFFIN MINISTRY GROUP, A NON-PROFIT MINISTRY AIMED AT HELPING LOCAL CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES REACH THEIR POTENTIAL. ROBERT IS AN ALUMNUS OF ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY WHERE HE EARNED A MASTER OF DIVINITY, IS CURRENTLY A DOCTORAL CANDIDATE AT ORU, AND TEACHES FOR DESTINY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE.





DLI STUDENT SPOTLIGHT LILIYA PONOMARENKO

Hey! My name is Liliya and I live in Venice, FL. I come from a big family, four sisters, two brothers, nine nieces, one nephew and another one on the way! The holidays are always entertaining and by the end of the day I'm ready for some quiet. I have the most amazing parents. They have always been an example of what a true Christian looks like and they're the reason why I am in church today. I've been a part of CoastLife Church for almost seven years now and it is one of the greatest churches to be a part of! I didn't know church could be so fun. I was never a part of a church that had a vision to reach the lost-a church that you wanted to invite your friends to, a church that made it comfortable for people to experience Jesus for the first time, a place where I enjoyed coming. I couldn't wait for Sundays. My pastor, Jason Warman and his wife Heidi, took

me in and let me be a part of the lead team, even though I didn't have any experience in leading. They let me be a part of the planning, thinking, dreaming and growing of CoastLife. It was because of their leadership that has brought me to where I am now. I'm on staff as the Dream Team Coordinator. This is a new role for me but with their support, lots of prayer and the amazing leaders I work along with, I know I'll be able to do this.

I am in my second semester of my first year of DLI and this has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. Landon Galloway visited my church last June and he spoke about Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch. I never heard that story taught that way before. It was a story of redemption. The Eunuch wasn't qualified to be a part of any religious groups at that time,

however Jesus accepted him. I knew at that moment I needed to go to DLI. I wanted to learn the Bible the way Landon knew it. I wanted to read the Bible not just to mark off my daily reading - to know it and read it for all it's worth. My favorite book we've read was 'Servant Leadership' by Gene Wilkes. It's very practical, made Jesus' ministry come to life. Jesus was the best example of a true leader.

I recommend DLI to anyone who wants to learn the Bible, learn about Jesus and about leading ministry at your local church. It's flexible so you can manage a full time job, a family, and serve at church while studying. It does take time to do the work but it's fulfilling and worth every minute.

*For more information on
Destiny Leadership Institute, visit
destinyleadershipinstitute.com
or call 501.887.9933.*



why **Destiny Leadership Institute?**

You can start a ministry training program in your church.

We provide quality leadership training--all online.

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We offer transfer college credit.

We provide a solid foundation for Biblical education.

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DLI VISITS INDIA

**DLI DIRECTOR
LANDON GALLOWAY
AND DLI STUDENTS
JARED HIGHT AND
AMOS MCFALLS VISIT
CHRIST FOR INDIA.**

LANDON GALLOWAY

John 20 records the resurrection of Jesus and his subsequent appearance to his disciples. Apparently, St. Thomas was not with the other disciples when Jesus walked through the walls, showed them his battle scars, and breathed the Holy Spirit on them (Jn. 20:19-23). Therefore, it is understandable that he doubted their claims that His Lord, Savior, and friend had actually been raised from the dead. When they excitedly told him the news, he famously replied: "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe. (Jn. 20:25, ESV)"

But, that should not be the most enduring expression of Thomas. "Doubting Thomas" might be a memorable moniker, but it inaccurately captures the content of his character. His words after Jesus revealed his scars to him are much more significant: "My Lord and My God. (Jn. 20:28)" His temporary disbelief was radically transformed into a life-altering commitment to His Lord Jesus and to the God who raised him from the dead. The belief that Jesus was both Lord and God, defined the remainder of his life. According to a reliable, ancient

tradition, the apostle Thomas was the first missionary to India. It's unfortunate that we remember him for his moment of doubt rather than for his work bringing the Gospel to the Indian subcontinent.

Last November, a team from Destiny Leadership Institute had the opportunity to visit India. I mention St. Thomas as a preface for a recap of that trip for a couple of reasons. First of all, I am a preacher and just can't help myself. Second, it is a reminder that we went as students, as well as missionaries, and learned from our Indian brothers and sisters more than we taught them. After all, their Christian roots perhaps go back deeper than ours!

Destiny pastors and DLI students Jared Hight and Amos McFalls accompanied me on the trip to the other side of the world. After approximately two days of travel, we safely arrived on the beautiful Christ For India (CFI) Campus. CFI was founded by Reverend P.J. Titus and is currently lead by his wife, Mary and his two sons, Jameson and Johnson. The campus houses a primary school, a children's hostel, a junior college, a fully-accredited seminary, a hospital, a printing press, housing for all

of the staff, faculty, and seminary students, and much more. They have two different industrial kitchens that serve three meals a day to over one-thousand people. The scope of the ministry is really hard to describe, and there is really no way to capture the impact of CFI on the surrounding community and in the country.

Children at the school are given an opportunity to acquire a coveted English education that might otherwise be unavailable to them based on their given economic and social status. CFI literally breaks generational curses by giving impoverished children opportunities that their parents never had and by supplying them the tools they need to attend university and/or to find employment. The ministry provides scholarships and housing for children that cannot afford the requisite tuition. After a child finishes school, he has an opportunity to attend the junior college on the other side of campus. If they are called to be an engineer, doctor, teacher, or the like, then they next move to the city for university. If they are called to ministry, however, they can enroll in the seminary on campus and complete their Bachelor's, Master's, or even their Ph.D.! And, it doesn't stop there. CFI sends their graduates to plant churches across the nation and provides them with financial support and ministry resources.

Imagine this: A young impoverished child, possibly from a Hindu home, can attend primary school, junior college, seminary, and become a fully-supported pastor all because of one ministry—Christ for India. St. Thomas would be proud.

While on campus, I taught "The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke)" to eighteen bright and eager Master of Divinity students. I was scheduled to lecture Monday through Thursday, from 8:00-3:30, and was quite surprised when our time wrapped up and they asked if I could lecture through the day Friday as well. There were things they still wanted to know. In addition to the classroom time, there were a

plethora of ministry opportunities. Amos, Jared, and I spoke at numerous chapels, village church services, and at the annual CFI pastor's conference. A couple hundred pastors from across the country, many traveling days by train, attended the conference of impartation and training. It was such an honor serving alongside Amos and Jared, who are both my lifelong friends and current DLI students who not only bless me, but their ministry had such an impact on all who heard. Both delivered powerful, life-giving sermons and lessons. Amos led worship as only he can do, and Jared loved on everybody that he saw with that big pastor's heart of his.

This palatable hunger from both the students and the pastors left a great impression on us. Persecution is on the rise in India. As I was writing this little article, I came across an article in the Christian Post detailing the recent death of a 50-year-old Christian convert in India after he and his wife were forced to stand neck deep in a freezing pond for 17 hours after they refused to renounce their faith in Jesus Christ. These stories are all too common. Our Indian brothers and sisters at CFI are being trained for ministry in a very hostile context, and are literally laying their lives on the line for the Gospel. Though we taught and preached a lot (I know Amos and Jared will be happy if they never hear my voice again), we were ultimately the recipients of ministry rather than the givers of ministry.

Destiny is looking forward to a continued relationship with CFI. To see how you might get involved immediately, visit christforindia.org. Also, stay tuned for details about our upcoming India trip in 2017. We are taking The Gathering Conference to India! We are sponsoring their annual conference and bringing Destiny partners with us to be both a blessing to our friends in India and to be blessed by their faithfulness and their fruitfulness. Because He isn't just "My Lord" and "My God." He is "Our Lord" and "Our God." "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, one Father, who is above all, and in all and



THE RECEPTIVE SKEPTICS: A CHURCH-PLANTER'S PERSPECTIVE ON RESPONSIVENESS TO THE GOSPEL

JEREME JEANE



Reports of the death of the Church have been greatly exaggerated.

We hear them often, from a variety of sources. Some in the form of well-intentioned warnings, others as a malicious jab at the supposed decline of the Church of Jesus Christ. They all bear the same grim news: people are turning away from faith in Jesus at an alarming rate. These reports usually invoke terms like “post-christian”, “secularized”, “postmodern”, “relativistic” and various other gloomy and incredibly depressing descriptors. Reading these accounts and

believing their cheerless perspective could easily lead one to believe that hell had enlarged her mouth, and was about to consume the Bride of Christ like a great white on a shark week tv special. Don't believe them.

**“WE CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER, NOR A
GENERATION BY STATS AND STEREOTYPICAL LABELS.”**

Seven months ago Jill and I, along with our two girls, moved to Knoxville, Tennessee. We came to this city because it contains a high percentage of people

who the reports discussed above would identify as “post-christian”. Since our arrival, we've been very intentional about associating with and reaching out to a demographic that is largely unchurched, or in some cases “de-churched”. We've attended creative gatherings, social events, town meetings, parties, concerts—anything you can name that this tribe of people resonates with. These are completely secular gatherings, with no ties or affiliation to any church or ministry in the city.

Without fail, the people I meet there show a high level of interest in the community of believers we're here to launch. They prolong the conversation. They ask to get lunch or coffee and talk more. I always say yes. It's important to note that these are people who hold political and social views as far removed from some of ours as they could possibly be.

What I find in these lunches and coffee meet ups is astounding, and stands in stark contrast to the “post-christian” prognoses given by the skeptics and doom-speakers shouting in our ears so much the past few years. I have encountered NO ONE who expressed animosity toward Jesus, or my belief in Him. I have encountered no radical perversion & depravity, no villainous secularists out on a dark mission to extinguish the flames of our faith in this city. What I have encountered are people who are daily victims of their sinful nature, in desperate need of redemption and grace that can only be found in Jesus—just like you and me. I have encountered people who have an innate belief that there is something more. People who want to believe in God. People whose hearts are reaching out for they know not what...people who Jesus is Calling.

I've met amazing pastors and fellow church planters who are doing a fantastic job of presenting Jesus and the Good News to Knoxville in fresh and authentic ways. God is adding a steady stream of people to their churches, and we're honored to love this city alongside them. If we could offer a collective “report from the trenches” of church planting, it would be this: Jesus is still building His Church...it just looks different than most of us expected it to.

**“THE REALITY IS THAT RATHER THAN A “POST-CHRISTIAN”
AUDIENCE, WE ARE EFFECTIVELY FACED WITH ONE THAT
IS ACTUALLY PRE-CHRISTIAN.”**

Most of these people were not raised with a belief in Jesus, or at least not the Jesus we all know and preach. Most of them have never darkened the door of a Life-Giving church. And perhaps most heart-wrenching of all, they have never heard the pure,

untainted Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Instead, what they've experienced of “Jesus” and His “Church” is actually a kind of fantastically horrible Religion smoothie. You know, like the times when we were kids, and dared each other to put a bit of everything in the fridge into a blender, mix it up and drink it? Imagine that, with some stuff that's not even edible thrown in for good measure...like paint thinner or antifreeze. Some of the stuff these pre-christians have been told is toxic, and comes straight from the lying mouth of the enemy. They've been offered rules rather than relationship. Condemnation rather than grace. Hype rather than hope. And while I understand that this is not the Jesus that any of us is preaching, the reality is that the Gospel we all believe in is being misinterpreted at best, and misrepresented at worst. Unfortunately, this predicament is nothing new. The Apostle Paul faced the same kind of difficulty in the earliest days of the Church. When we examine it closely, we realize that the entire book of Galatians was aimed at this very issue; Religion was polluting the Good News of the Gospel.

**“IT'S TIME TO ASK OURSELVES WHERE THESE REPORTS
OF A “FAILING” CHURCH ORIGINATE, AND WHETHER OR
NOT THEY'RE EVEN REFERRING TO THE SAME CHURCH
WE ARE PART OF...”**

I believe we make a critical error when we reduce the Church to simply an organization or institution, when in reality it is much more...so let's be bold enough to let go of our predefinitions, and take a closer look at what the Church actually is.

“Ekklesia” has generally been taken as a reference to the body of believers, the “called out” group of people who place their faith in Jesus; we view it as an audience which has responded to an invitation. But what if the truest definition was much deeper and simpler than that? What if the Church is not only the group of responders, but the Invitation itself? It may be that the most accurate definition has been staring us in the face all along. Ekklesia is a compound word; formed by the combination of “ek” which denotes origin, or the point from whence something proceeds, and a derivative of “kaleo” which means simply, “to call”. Ekklesia = “Calling from God”.

So in its simplest translation, the word we've always used to describe an institution actually describes an Invitation from God. Not just a calling out of something, but an Invitation into something. An Invitation to know Someone. And this Church is doing anything but dying. To the contrary, it is alive and well, and growing by leaps and bounds. There is no decline in the



SOZO APP DESIGNERS

Calling Out of God for the souls of men, only a decline in their response to a culturally tainted representation of it. The gates of hell have not prevailed against the Church, nor will they ever be able to do so.

“PEOPLE MAY BE REJECTING THE REMIX OF RELIGION, BUT WHEN THEY HEAR THE ORIGINAL COMPOSITION, THE PURE ORGANIC GOSPEL...THEY COME RUNNING JUST LIKE THEY ALWAYS HAVE.”

The Gospel is still the power of God for salvation, for those who believe. The only counteragent to the toxic effects of Religion is an infusion of the Good News about Jesus. Our job as ambassadors for Christ is to make sure everyone has the chance to hear the original, genuine article. We must seize every opportunity to amplify the truth above the lies, helping a pre-christian generation hear a Voice that's been calling them since the moment they were born. We're finding that the most effective way to do this is to show them the Gospel rather than tell them; taking an active and intentional interest in their lives, while reflecting Christ in the relationships we form with them. And as we do, we're seeing that the true Gospel still produces

the same result it always has—hearts transformed and overwhelmed by the awesome grace of a loving God.

We stand on the threshold of an incredible harvest. The fields are white. The buds are bursting on the branch. People are embracing belief in the supernatural in numbers unprecedented since the dawn of the modern age. This is not the time to falter or doubt. This is not a time to believe the lie that people are uninterested in a relationship with God. In our experience, nothing could be further from the truth! Instead let's do the opposite.

Let's be the Church. Not the false religious concoction that's passing away, but the hands and feet of a Savior who never stops reaching out, and never stops pursuing hearts that have not yet known His love. Let's be brave enough and flexible enough to let God shape us and our ministries into new wineskins. Embrace innovation, while holding fast to the foundations of our faith. Let's send, support and encourage church planters to bring in the greatest harvest of souls in the history of humankind. We have a chance to be an Invitation, the conduit through which God calls people to Himself, and into His Kingdom. Never forget that the Kingdom of Heaven is winning! And of this Kingdom there will be no end...in fact, it's just beginning.



Jereme Jeane lives in Knoxville, Tennessee with his wife Jill, and their two daughters Jules & Jaymes Ivy. He enjoys fly-fishing & hiking in the nearby mountains, and frequently over-indulges in his consumption of coffee and good books. Jereme & Jill have a passion to bring people into relationship with Jesus, and His purpose for their lives.

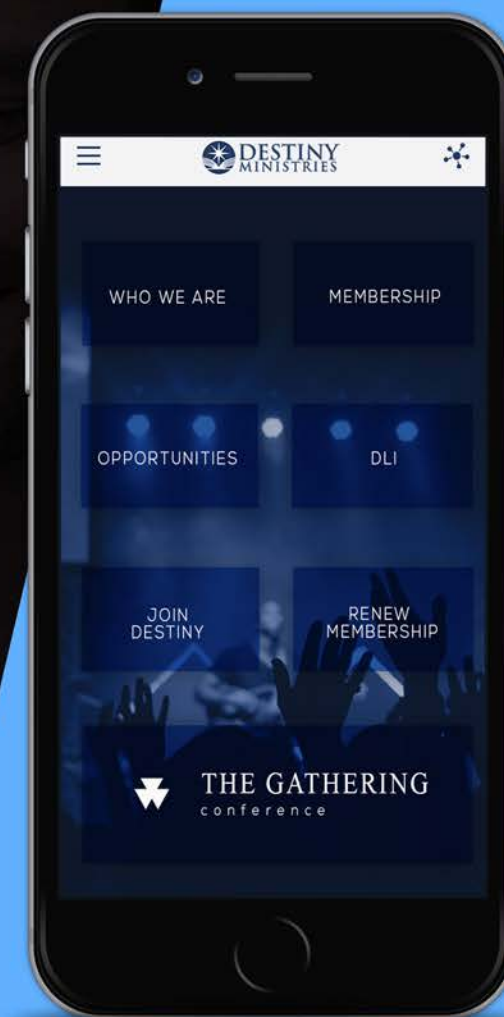
They are currently launching The Calling, a new community of believers in downtown Knoxville.

Follow their launch at: www.thecalling.co

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A DESTINY COVENANT FAMILY OF FRIENDS
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2017 | THE YEAR OF THE CROSS

JUNE 6TH-8TH, 2017
CALVARY CHURCH
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We are taking the Destiny Gathering Conference on the road again, but this time we are headed to the great state of Texas! Our conference is scheduled for June 6th-8th, 2017 at Calvary Church, Fort Worth. In true Destiny fashion, we will kick off Tuesday evening with a Welcome Party. We will begin Wednesday and Thursday mornings with a great line up of Target Talks followed by breakout sessions. Our Evening services will include great worship, and dynamic speakers. The Kids Gathering will be in full swing, and activities are being planned for your teenagers to connect and fellowship during the morning sessions. Four meals will be catered and served on the church grounds for your convenience. Meal tickets are available at a discounted rate during registration.

We have also built in a "bonus day" on Friday, June 9th for those who wish to hang around and enjoy more fellowship time together with a relaxed schedule. Options would include, shopping, golfing, a trip to the zoo, botanical gardens, stockyards, sightseeing, or even just swimming at the hotel pool. Those who choose to stay an extra day will gather for dinner at a local restaurant for a final time of fellowship. Register your family and purchase your meal tickets today!

REGISTER AT DESTINYVISIONCENTER.COM/THEGATHERING

WHAT IS THE GATHERING CONFERENCE?

Imagine a three day meeting filled with the presence of the Lord, great worship, inspirational messages and some of the friendliest people you've ever met. A kid friendly place where the entire family can be strengthened and encouraged and have tons of fun. This is the Destiny Gathering. More like a family reunion than a conference, it's now in its 18th year. At the Destiny Gathering, you'll find helpful ministry tools and support in an environment that is life-giving.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

The Destiny Gathering is for everyone. If you're a Christian leader in any area of ministry, you are welcomed and wanted at Destiny. Destiny goes to great lengths to plan activities, topics, and events that are relevant to everyone in leadership.

CAN I BRING MY KIDS?

Absolutely! The Gathering is a family friendly conference. We host a Kids Gathering for your children, and provide nursery for your babies for all morning and evening sessions—at no cost to you. This is to allow young families to come without having to find childcare for their children. We also have planned opportunities for your teenagers to meet kids their age and connect! The bonus is, while you are building lasting relationships, so are your children!



WHY SHOULD I COME?

God never designed us to do ministry alone, you need people in your life. You need relationships in your life where you will find accountability, friendship, and support—and people who understand what you are doing and how to help you get it done. Life giving relationships are one of the most valuable things a leader can have. The Destiny Gathering is a place where you can find all of these things and more. Once you have attended one, you won't want to miss another.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED?

At Destiny, our desire is to minimize cost for those attending The Destiny Gathering. Registration is free. Our conference is supported by generous contributions of our partners, and love offerings that will be received during the evening services.

This year we are having four meals catered and served on the church grounds (Tuesday Dinner, Wednesday Lunch & Dinner, and Thursday Lunch). Meal tickets can be purchased at the time of Registration. Prices for all four meals are as follows: **Single \$60, Couple \$100, Family \$150.** Single meal tickets can be purchased at conference at \$20 per person, per meal.

DESTINY HOTEL BLOCKS

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\$102 King Study Standard | \$112 King Suite
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\$89 Standard Rooms | \$99 Suites
Ask for Destiny Ministries Rate



One couple's story of how missions begins at home...literally.



WHEN GOD WRITES YOUR STORY

DANNY & CALLEY REED

DANNY AND CALLEY REED LIVE IN VIDALIA, LOUISIANA WITH THEIR EIGHT CHILDREN WHERE THEY PASTOR CORNERSTONE CHURCH. YOU CAN READ THE ENTIRE FIRST ADOPTION STORY OF THE REED FAMILY IN, [TAKE THIS CHILD](#), BY CALLEY REED, AVAILABLE ON AMAZON. CALLEY ALSO BLOGS ABOUT FAITH, FAMILY LIFE AND ADOPTION AT [THEHANDMAID.ORG](#).

Danny and I often laugh about a conversation we had while we were engaged. We were discussing how many kids we'd like to have and he was pretty set on two kids; that was a good even number. I thought four kids sounded great, an even amount also but two times the fun, right? Today we sit at the table as a family of ten, and both of us agree that it really doesn't seem like a crowd at all!

Our early married years sped by and we filled our time enjoying our three young sons and pouring ourselves into youth ministry. It was an amazing season in our lives. We were happy and we were comfortable.

Early one morning during this comfortable season I woke up from a dead sleep after having one of the most jolting, "God-dreams" of my life. It had been so real and I sat up in the bed in cold sweats. In the very vivid dream I was in a canoe in the middle of a muddy river in South America. I had no connection at all to South America but knew indefinitely that that was exactly where I was. The river was lined with thick, green vegetation and there were hundreds of drowning, tanned faces staring up at me from the water. The people in the river screamed for my help. It was the most terrifying moment as I assessed if I even had the capability of helping. I remember looking in my

canoe and realizing that I could probably help one person, but two would be a stretch. Then I decided I just couldn't help anyone. I reconciled my decision to row away with the knowledge that surely if I let one of these people into my canoe, they'd only throw me out to help one of their friends.

I rowed away as quickly as possible until I couldn't hear the screams anymore. As the river hit a bend I rowed up to the bank and walked up a hill to see a large shopping mall. I went inside and began shopping the sales, never giving another thought to the hundreds of drowning people a small piece upstream.

This dream really shook me.

Was there something inside of me that would make a terrible decision like that? I asked the Lord continually what it meant and if there was some part of myself that I had not given to him.

It was almost exactly a year later when things began to become a little more clear. I woke up one morning with an undeniable burden that I needed to look into adoption. Truthfully, Danny and I had talked about adoption several times before but it seemed completely impossible for us. Each time it came up, we'd end up putting it back

on the shelf in a pile of "hope-tos" and "we'll sees" and it would always end there. This day was different and I couldn't shake the burden. Danny had a busy work day followed by meetings, but I spent that day and evening emailing ministries and agencies to even see if this was a possibility for us.

The next day we had to take some of our cattle to sell and I knew that there would be a long drive for me to bring up the topic of adoption. It was on the way home when I popped the question. "Danny", I said. "Do you ever think about adoption anymore?" When what felt like an eternity had passed without response, I looked up to find Danny weeping. He told me, "You're not going to believe this. I've spent the last two days trying to figure out how we can go about adopting!"

Silence overtook our vehicle because that was the moment of reckoning for us. God had certainly made His plans known to us. Now we had some decisions to make.

The months that followed were filled with a nearly constant battle between fear and faith. "What if we

couldn't come up with any of the money? What if we cannot handle a child who comes to us with severe needs? What if everything changes about our life that we love so much? What if we tell everyone we are adopting and then something prevents it from happening?"

Then the questions evolved as we saw God miraculously pave the way for a \$35,000 process that we had not one penny to begin. Our questions became, "Are we going to walk by faith or not? Would God ask us to do something He would not supply for in every immediate and long-term way? Do we really believe God, or not?"

Two difficult and long years later we traveled to Iquitos, Peru to bring home our daughter Camila. Iquitos is a city land-locked by the Amazon jungle. When I stood on the bank of the Amazon river, with my little tan faced and black-eyed daughter

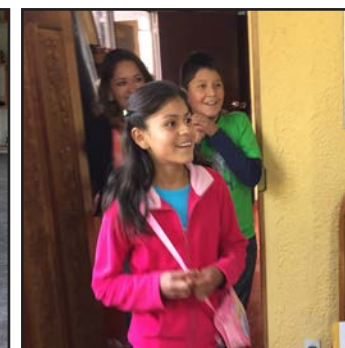
and His great power at work if we didn't desperately need it for every step of this journey? We, along with the world, did not need to witness anymore of what we thought was attainable in our strength.

God has since asked us to walk through the adoption process two more times. Only a few years later we traveled back to Peru to bring home our older daughter and son, at ages ten and eleven. This process had it's own challenges and we once again saw God do the impossible. Yami and Carlos are two amazing kids who are some of the most incredible blessings of our lives. Only a year and a half later and we brought home our daughter Chapel Xin from China at two years old. She's only been home for a couple of months and she is such a precious little girl who we all adore.

We daily find ourselves at the drawing board of comfort and



Meeting our daughter Camila.



Yami and Carlos seeing us for the first time.



Meeting Chapel.

who had been in desperate need of a family for her three broken years, everything made perfect sense.

God never once asked us to take a survey of the space in our canoe- although we found ourselves doing that time and time again during that first adoption process. What He revealed to us over and over again was this simple truth. What He had called us to do, was not limited by our canoe space, or our resources at all. If we could accomplish what He was beckoning us to do with our own strength, time and resources, where would the testimony be in that? Where would our faith grow in that? How would we know Him

surrender. Through the journey of the last seven years we have a constant reminder of the strength and limitless power available to us through Jesus Christ that will enable us to complete every good work He has called us to. We never want to return to assessing our personal store-house to decide if we can sacrifice without it costing us too much. No, even in our weakness, and in the battles, we want to fully give Jesus the pen and allow Him to write His miraculous story over all of our faults and weaknesses. We have seen His great rescue in this realm of surrender- and we never want to return to the realm of what we can do, again.

UNTIL ALL THE PIECES FIT

PASTOR TOMMY BRANDON

THE CONNECTION STATION



TOMMY BRANDON PASTORS CALVARY CHURCH FT. WORTH ALONGSIDE HIS WIFE DINORA. THEY HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS SELAH AND ESME. YOU CAN CHECK OUT CALVARY'S WEBSITE AT CALVARYFTW.COM

"Pastors are pastors for everyone." It is a privilege and calling from God to provide the church experience for every single person, no matter their capability or disability. God has called us as leaders to not only love all, but provide the opportunities for others to love ALL as well. Calvary Church continues to pursue the goal of "all means all" by creating opportunities for the special needs community within and beyond the walls of the church.

Even before the Connection Station was built in 2016, the heart for special needs was a part of Calvary Church's culture. When the ministry could no longer fit within its boundaries, Pastor Tommy Brandon pursued the vision of creating a special place that would bless the families of special needs students and adults. The building itself was specifically designed to support the needs of disabled children and adults, from the lighting that has no hum and the shades of color on the walls, to the wheelchair accessibility. It goes far beyond and much deeper than a building. The

ministry has been refined into a connection group facilitated by trained, qualified adult leaders who have a passion to help kids and adults with a wide range of disabilities by showing them the love of Christ and teaching His ways.

A MINISTRY THAT BLESSES

At Calvary, we are all about "doing life together." It is not typical for people to grow up with or see someone with disabilities. At Calvary, it is normal. Our children grow up alongside children with disabilities. Our students volunteer with special needs children and adults. Our whole church family embraces what the world does not.

By having the Connection Station, we have also been able to love on the parents of our special needs students. A lot of the time, our church service is the only chance parents have a moment to rejuvenate themselves in God's presence with no worry of their special needs child. Likewise, it is an opportunity for our special needs students to be away



them a safe place to be a kid and included.

The children and adults of the Connection group have quality Bible lessons that minister to their hearts and minds. These students want to know about God and His goodness just as much, if not more, than others. They are eager to learn and dwell on the Word of God. They gather together and discuss the word of God, their understanding of it, and how to apply it to their everyday life. They love to worship Jesus by singing songs and playing instruments. Some of the students have had the chance to learn to play instruments and



were able to perform at a special needs banquet with 100 plus attendees. They exude gratitude in their praise. They are bold in their prayers. Students lead prayers with confidence. Before the enemy would try to lie and tell you differently, Calvary has experienced the hearts of special needs students, and they choose to follow Christ and be baptized.

MORE THAN SUNDAY

Throughout the week, special needs students fill the Connection Station with laughter and learning. People with disabilities can stay in the public school system until the age of 21, but after that there are not many affordable options for parents.



from their parents and connect with others. With the limited accessibility to activities and social events, church at Calvary becomes a highlight for our special needs students. It gives

Our doors are intentionally open for these students and their families. The students continue to learn life application skills. The trained adults teach them how to complete daily tasks to help them become more independent. The students learn social skills.

Something that may seem simple to you or me, like eye contact when speaking, was one of the most celebrated skills one of our students had spent years learning. Our special needs family members learn and practice how to communicate with others. They also learn how to recognize others' emotions and ways to respond. The parents are free to complete tasks, run errands, go on dates, and take a break while their students are learning.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The success and support of the Connection Group has spread to families in the surrounding areas. We have had multiple families come to Calvary specifically for the learning program the Connection Station offers and in doing so they stumble upon a church family that welcomes them in. It is a place where parents who wouldn't have given church a chance enter and become open to the idea of becoming a part of our church family. This past Wednesday I met a young mother whose two year-old had been recently diagnosed with a disability. She felt overwhelmed, hopeless, and alone. She found out from neighbors about the Connection Station. While we talked in the main room of the Connection Station, she expressed her appreciation for a place with people who are willing to walk through this difficult journey with her. I could see her countenance turn from despair to hope. She was elated to hear she wasn't alone. There was now a place where her oldest could be in youth, another in children's ministry, and the youngest in a ministry specifically designed for her child.

The Connection group has abled a disabled part of the body of Christ to love all in a way that leads to knowing God, finding freedom, and making connections to further make a difference.



PROJECT SAMUEL MISSIONARY ANNOUNCES ENGAGEMENT



Congratulations to Brenden and Kim!

Wedding bells are ringing for long-term missionary and friend, Brenden Vowell, and his fiancé, Kim Close. Brenden has been living and serving in Zambia with Project Samuel full-time since 2007. Kim, who shares his love for ministry, worked for many years in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific.

The couple plans to be married in Canada on April 15, 2017. Later that month they'll celebrate with friends and family in Texas before traveling to Zambia. They plan to arrive back at Project Samuel mid-May in order to prepare for visiting summer missions teams.

As you can imagine, this is a season full of anticipation and preparation for Kim and Brenden as plans are being made for wedding festivities and an international move. They have asked for prayers for the chil-

dren at Project Samuel while Brenden is away, a smooth transition for Kim, and for joy and blessings upon their new marriage and life together.

In lieu of traditional gifts that cannot fit in suitcases, the couple has created a registry where you can give toward shared memories or helping them set up their new missionary home.

If you'd like to send along a wedding gift, their registry can be found at:
<https://enveloperegistry.com/us/kimandbrenden>

"We're so grateful for your continued love and support in this exciting season! We believe God has brought us together and we look forward to the adventure of continuing to serve Him and the children of Project Samuel." ~ Brenden Vowell

Destiny is proud to congratulate Kim and Brenden and wishes them all the best in their upcoming marriage!

BLESS BRENDEN & KIM

I want to give you a special opportunity to bless Brenden & Kim. I believe we as the body of Christ, and the Destiny Covenant Family should raise the money to provide them private housing at the project! We need to raise \$35,000. I know we can do it together! Please prayerfully consider what you will be able to pledge and email me personally at info@destinyvisioncenter.com or call the office at 501.887.9933. Every dollar will go to meet this need! Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Dr. Brassfield



Destiny *trending*

THE CHURCH, ROSENBURG, TX celebrates their 4th anniversary. Congratulations Pastors Jimn and Phyllis Kyles and team on an amazing 4 years.

DESTINY SUPPORT STAFF VISITS FT. WORTH Amy, Jeannie, and Stephanie recently visited Calvary Church in Ft. Worth, TX to finalize preparations for the 2017 Gathering Conference. This is shaping up to be a Gathering you do not want to miss! Special thanks to Pastors Tommy and Dinora and their outstanding staff for hosting this year's event!

LANDON AND SARADA GALLOWAY, welcomed their second daughter, Zarra Quinn on January 5, 2017. Zarra weighed 7lbs 2oz, and was 19 inches long. She has a head full of hair and is beautiful like her mother and sister.

DESTINY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE is currently enrolling for the Summer and Fall 2017 terms. For more information visit destinyleadershipinsitute.com

DESTINY MEMBER CALVIN BARNES recently became campus pastor of NLC Beebe, a campus of New Life Church of Arkansas. Congratulations Calvin and Brienne on your launch!

DESTINY MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are currently due for the year 2017. This year members can renew by mail and also can renew online at destinyvisioncenter.com.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN Find out all the 2017 conference details and register your family today at destinyvisioncenter.com/thegathering.

MY TRIP TO ZAMBIA: PROJECT SAMUEL



Hello everybody, my name is Hannah Patterson and I am from Poplar Bluff, Missouri. I am 20 years old and I attend Three Rivers College full time and I work at an accountant's office part time. Over the summer I had the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Zambia, Africa to work at Project Samuel. I went with every intention of making a difference in those kids' lives - but instead, those kids changed mine.

I would first like to give credit where credit is due. I had been praying for years for the opportunity to go on a mission trip and God worked out all the details perfectly. I wouldn't have had the chance to go without Him providing the open doors. I would also like to thank everyone who lifted my name up in prayer and/or gave donations for the trip. My support system humbles me.

As a result of going to Africa, I have so many different stories and learned so many lessons about life but I will just hit the high points. One of the first things I learned is that many Americans are spoiled. I am not excluding myself from this. Sometimes we

act like we are entitled. We are not better than anyone else. I am blessed to live in America and I am thankful for the men and women who have defended this country. However, the mind set too



many have adopted in our country is disgraceful and is not of God. Oh how much we take for granted. How many toys did you have growing up? Most likely the answer is "too many". Generally speaking, American kids think that they need the newest toys, the newest gadgets, the newest "it" thing. Where do kids learn this? Parents, are your

kids seeing you put value where value doesn't belong? Don't put your happiness in objects because they will never be enough.

"My kids" in Africa had one flat ball to play with when we first got there. I have never seen kids happier and more content in my entire life. 1 Timothy 6:6 says, "But Godliness with contentment is great gain." The kids at Project Samuel live this verse out in real life in a beautiful way. I am not saying it is wrong to have toys or to have nice things, what I am saying is that it is shameful to put more value in material objects rather than in people. How many of you have eaten or will eat today? In Africa, farming is a way of surviving. If they don't grow their own food then they might not have any. I learned the importance of perspective as God sees it and learned what to value most. I am not saying this to judge or to preach, but rather to show the perspective of how blessed we are.

Another thing I learned is the definition of the word "beautiful". As a young college student this concept has always been hard for me to grasp. Society has such a twisted view of what beauty is. On this trip I had the amazing opportunity to check



a few things off my bucket list; seeing Victoria Falls being one of them. I stood there in awe, witnessing the magnificence of God's masterpiece, and realized I am also one of His masterpieces. As I was watching the water fall, a sense of utter peace rushed over me. The God that is commanding that water to fall is the same God that is commanding my life. I imagine the time God must have spent painting the canvas known as Victoria Falls - the detail He put into it. We are also God's canvas. When we nitpick at ourselves we are telling God that He messed up. He created us exactly the way He wants us to look and He gave us the gifts He wants us to have. So I am done telling God that He messed up. Instead, I am going to marvel at the time He spent making me unique. In the real world, if a work of art is not properly taken care of it becomes faded and worn, eventually being stored out of sight. Every artist wants their artwork to be put on display for all to see. When people look at a piece of art, they see the signature of the creator. God wants others to see His signature in our lives, on display for all to see. It isn't the artwork with the talent; it is the Artist that shines through His work. When I was looking at Victoria Falls, I knew I had never seen anything so beautiful and so breath-taking. It overwhelms me to know that God looks at us with that same feeling. Except more, because...well...He's God!

I spent a little over 2 weeks in Africa with my sweet kids who are now my nieces and nephews. They call me Aunt Hannah and I have never loved my name more. Sundays were my favorite because we would walk to church and I would get to hear my kids lead worship. Their voices mixed together beautifully and you could see on their faces that they loved worshipping their Creator. After church we would walk back to Project Samuel and all the kids would pile into our staff house and we would

all watch movies together. I will never be able to watch The Lion King without wanting all the kids around me again. Such sweet memories were made during my time there. I got to spend time tutoring them and helping them with their reading. The kids were so quick to accept me as one of their own that several times they would slip into their native language and I would have to remind them to speak English so I could understand what they were saying.

I also had the privilege to get to know my sponsor child and my parents' sponsor child. It was so cool to get to know the kids that we are helping. Sponsorship money goes towards their everyday

life. It pays for their school expenses, their food, and other living expenses. It is nice to know that 100% of the sponsorship money goes directly to the kids' expenses. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a

child or is interested in a mission trip, feel free to visit www.projectsamuel.org.

This was an absolutely life changing experience for me and I look forward to the next time I am able to serve God in this ministry. I would challenge anyone to seek God concerning their involvement in this mission. Perhaps God would have you go, pray for someone who is going, or sponsor someone else that God has called to go. Being obedient to any of these callings is giving a cup of cold water to one of God's little ones.





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