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The Church of God of Prophecy
TEXAS NEWSLETTER

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IMPACT

Our Communities

Serving to Impact Our Communities

By Pastor Patrick Kasongo

One of the most impactful and yet fundamental teachings Christ left the church was one of servanthood. His demonstration of a God who was not only willing to live among men, but serve the same, gives us a clear picture of his tremendous love towards his creation. It was equally clear that humanity perceived leadership or rulership differently than God as we see depicted in the passage of Mark 10:41-45:

“And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.””

Mark 10:41-45 ESV

Christ reset the standard for humanity’s perception and gave us the model for what we would ultimately use to recreate his image. The impact of his message left a lasting impression on every generation that followed thereafter. Its fundamental basis and approach is what we will later find to be one of the core foundational elements for the establishment of the "church". Without a spirit of servanthood, we simply cannot replicate the full image of Christ.

Today, we find it a most challenging task for churches to replicate true servanthood. Yet, because it is a core message of the reproduction the Christ character, we must endeavor in ensuring that our churches build a culture of servanthood. This, not only within the confines of the four walls of our establishments, but within our communities. Communities are where people share common attitudes, interests,

and goals. If we ignore these, we will have a hard time connecting with what matters most. Because our churches are made of people within our communities, we must work to fill the current existing gaps. Until our churches understand the importance of this notion, we will have a hard time connecting, growing, and impacting the world we are called to change.

We are living a momentous time in the history of the creation. There is a world that is crying out for help, communities that are in disarray. We have the answer in the Gospel we received from Christ and it must be shared in our communities to heal a wounded world. We know that gospel was not just given as an answer to spiritual issues, but social ones as well. Even more importantly, **the anointing God pours on us is for our service to his people.**

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.””

Luke 4:18-19 ESV

With an ever evolving world, we must continue to find innovative ways to be most effective in our mission to reach the world through our communities. We must be intentional in building relationships within key and strategic areas of our communities in order to “serve to impact” the world. As we move forward, our goal should be to shift our focus from the habitual desire to simply fill our pews with people to a true desire to be servants of His people. Our churches can work in partnership to create powerful dynamics and strategies to achieve this goal. By sharing these ideas and strategies, we will evoke the transformative power of Christ through servanthood.

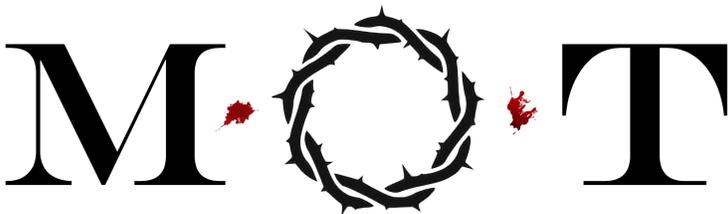


FAITH OVER FEAR

By Mary Hoefling, Wake Village COGOP

In tough times, we get the best lessons on the importance of being a child of God. While many talk about the failures of this world, we know that the power of the Sword of the Spirit provides the understanding of what is true. I am thankful for the Gospel of Peace that stills my mind from worry and the Breastplate of Righteousness guards my heart. I benefit from having the Belt of Truth and the Shield of Faith that give me confidence in His plan. And I am comforted in knowing with the Helmet of Salvation that my treasures are not here. This suit of armor protects me daily. But what blesses me most in Ephesians 6 is what happens after the armor is on. How thankful I am that I am not called to be the bravest, fiercest, or most skillful. Instead, in the midst of our struggles, I am called to stand firm with my brothers and sisters in Christ. The battle is the Lord's!

Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1 Peter 5:9



meditate on this

Join Bishop Daniel Felipe on the premiere of his monthly podcast and video publication of God's Word called Meditate On This (MOT). MOT explores biblical principles, and challenges believers to live out their faith and influence intentionally. With its primary focus on Christian leadership MOT recognizes that the Christian faith is a call to lead, and the command of making disciples is only possible when believers are empowered with biblical leadership principles. Join the MOT journey and allow the Word of God to take your calling and anointing to lead to greater heights. MOT with Bishop Daniel Felipe premiers on September 15th.



PRAYTEST AT THE ALAMO

On Saturday, July 11th, 2020... a "Praytest", rather than a "Protest" was held in downtown San Antonio at the Alamo. This was organized by Phillip Lute, a former officer with the San Antonio Police Department. Pastor Jimmy Brooks was the main speaker for this bold prayer gathering. Pastor Brooks shared with the San Antonio congregation how Solomon knelt down on his knees before the people and stretched forth his hands toward heaven and cried out to the God of Israel. As Solomon pleads for divine intervention, seven times he repeats the phrase, "then hear from heaven" (2 Ch. 6). Yes! We must hear from heaven today. Here in America we are facing serious issue that our political leader cannot solve. America is in need of healing that will come on from God.

"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

SERVING IN TIME OF NEED

Pastor Ervin Light and the Llano Church have found themselves even busier during these difficult times of pandemic. As many families face many difficulties including financial stress and wondering how they are going to feed their families, the Llano Church has stepped in to meet a need. Pastor Ervin and Barbara Light have partnered with a local Food Bank to provide groceries items to those in need. During the month of July they were able to give out 128 boxes of produce. What wonderful way to display our new Core Value of serving those around us!





As a church family we celebrate the Homecoming of those that have been called to Glory.

These are the ministers who have passed away during the month of July.

Bishop Aaron Colley

Retired Minister - Woodville, TX

Homecoming Day, August 3rd, 2020

Bishop Aaron Colley

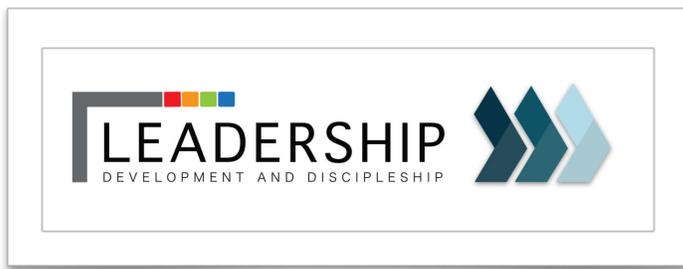
Retired Minister - Woodville, TX

Homecoming Day, August 3rd, 2020

Janelle Logan

Retired Minister's Wife - Mt. Pleasant TX

Homecoming Day, July 30th, 2020



FALL WEBINARS

On **Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 pm EST** Leadership Development and Discipleship will host a webinar with *Pastor Sharon Farruggia*. For more than 21 years, Sharon has served as Associate Pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship Church in Knoxville, Tennessee and has recently stepped into the role of Senior Pastor. She has worked in her local community and throughout the United States with troubled teens and women who have endured domestic violence. Recently she led a team in the development and implementation of a mentoring program for young leaders throughout Tennessee. Sharon will share on a much-needed equipping tool, "Mentoring Matters."

Todd Boslinger, author of the best-selling Christian leadership book, "Canoeing the Mountain" will present "*Healthy Church Leadership in Uncharted Territory*" on **Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 pm EST**. Todd is a Vice President and Assistant Professor at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Finally, *Barry Hutchinson*, will present during the LDD webinar on **Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 pm EST**. His topic will be "*Pursuing Continuous Personal Development*." Barry is the senior pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in the United Kingdom as well as an adjunct instructor for Spirit and Life Seminary.

HURRICANE LAURA PRAISE REPORT

After awaiting the historical disastrous impact of Hurricane Laura during the month of August we are thankful that prayers were lifted and many were kept safe and out of harms way. We were particularly concerned with our local churches in **Orange** with Pastor Jimmy and Tina Ponton, **Bacliff** with Pastor Raul and Nayara Umanzor, **Angleton** with Pastor Reda and Vernon Runnels, and **Brazoria** with Pastor Clive and Leona Varlack. By the grace of God the hurricane did not cause extensive damages according to Pastor's reports. We will continue to pray for God's covering over our people during this hurricane season.

EVANGELISM

By Bishop Lance Johnson

I participated in a program called SEL (Sharing Eternal Life) many years ago. Each week, we would go door-to-door telling others about Christ. It was a great experience where we saw many people saved. There have been many other programs started to help others learn how to share their faith with others. Some of these programs are good, but many have not taken the training required to learn the program. I have since gotten away from the programs and have learned that there is a much easier approach that comes naturally for most people. So forget about all the formal training you have had or perhaps the lack of training and let's make evangelism easy. I find the best way to evangelize comes from a passage in Numbers 10:32... (Read the full article at www.txcogop.com/evangelism)



SEPTEMBER
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS
MONTH



Relationship is not only an emotional and physical need; it is also a spiritual need. Our Creator designed us to live in loving relationship with others. That's why local church membership matters. The Church of God of Prophecy has developed the course called MEMBERSHIP MATTERS, a five-session course that guides new believers in building meaningful relationships with other believers and using their unique abilities and spiritual gifts to serve in the ministries of the local church. **September is Membership Matters month**, we encourage each local church to promote the importance of church membership. For more information and to download the MEMBERSHIP MATTERS material visit <https://lddcogop.org/membership-matters/>.

Youth Leadership CORNER



Adner Ramos

*Texas Youth Director
Church of God or Prophecy*

The other day I was watching a documentary about Michael Jordan, his ups and downs, and how everything turned out to be at the end. As I was watching there was one thought that crossed my mind. They train their heart out to conquer their own fears for their own glory, why the sons of God, the ones that give all glory and honor to Him, don't work and conquer the same level of success...because of fear. God has given us the earth to be conquered by the sons and daughters of God. In Romans 8:37 we find the following words "...in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Many of us may believe that fear is the butterflies we feel when I'm about to perform in front of everybody, that's not what I'm talking about. The fear I'm talking about is the one that gets on your way when you want to grow and evolve in God and in life. Perhaps you've been thinking about going back to school and finishing that degree you once started or took photography classes, even bought the camera but you had to drop out for uncertain reasons and now you're thinking of going back and finishing it. Whatever your passion is, the only thing holding you back from finishing what you started is your fear.

There's an important fact about fear that you need to know. Fear is a disguised form of ego. You may be asking why, well...when you have spiritual and personal dreams you want to achieve, they are not your dreams, but God's dreams in you. Jeremiah 29:11 "*For I know the plans I have for you,...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*" When you abandon those dreams because of fear of failure you send a message back to the heavens saying: I tried and I failed, I can't do this anymore. Of course, you can't do this anymore if you try with your own strength, but when you place God at the front of your projects, plans, and dreams, then trying again and again, practicing a new skill is not that frustrating because you know that the one who began the good work in you will finish it.

Always remember this scripture in Psalms 92:12: "*The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon*". You can't possess the promised land with an Egyptian mind.

September Pastoral Birthdays

Pastor's

Jorge Garduno - 5th
Herb Atzbach - 11th
Raul Umanzor - 13th
DJ Kennealy - 20th
Fernando Renteria - 21st
William Mathews - 23rd
Daryl Clark - 25th

Pastor's Wives

Rosa Giron - 2nd
Earlene Griffin - 8th
Adriana Kennealy - 22nd
Amelia Chavez - 27th



September Prayer Focus
Wholistic Evangelism

Matthew 9:37-38

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

1. We pray together that the Holy Spirit will ignite in us a burden to see the lost come to Christ.
2. We pray together that we are sensitive to the lead of the Holy Spirit to seize opportunities to share the Gospel.
3. We pray together that we transition from an evangelism-ministry mindset to an evangelistic-church mindset.
4. We pray together that others can see the Gospel in us. That those around us would be impacted with the public testimony of our people, and the public testimony of our churches.
5. We pray together that the Lord of the Harvest would raise 4