

BEYOND

**NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE
ABUNDANTLY BEYOND ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK...**

EPHESIANS 3:20

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

FULL NAME

**CHURCH^{OF}
THE KING**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4
6
10
16
22
28
32
34
50
66
82
98

INTRODUCTION
BUILDING PROJECTS
ST. CHARLES CAMPUS
WEST ESPLANADE CAMPUS
LITTLE CREEK CAMPUS
GULF COAST CAMPUS
DAILY DEVOTIONAL
WEEK 01
WEEK 02
WEEK 03
WEEK 04
WEEK 05

INTRODUCTION

THE NEXT CHAPTER IN OUR CHURCH STORY

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21



DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

Jennifer and I are excited about the vision that God has placed before our church. Since the fall of 1999, Church of the King has grown from a small group of nineteen people to over 7,000 in weekend attendance across three campuses. Ever since our humble beginnings, our mission has always been to Reach People and Build Lives. However, we never envisioned the amazing journey God had for our church family. He has truly taken Church of the King far “Beyond” our wildest dreams.

Ephesians 3:20-21 declares “*Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.*” This tells us that God is in the business of exceeding our expectations.

The following pages of this book outline the next chapter of our growth as a church. God has challenged us as a family to undertake four exciting projects that will position us to reach more people across the Gulf Coast Region with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is our prayer that you will join us in moving “Beyond” where we are today and into the future. As you read through this book and engage in the daily devotions, we hope you will embrace the vision that God has given all of us to make an eternal difference in our region and beyond.

With our love,

Pastor Steve Jennifer

PASTOR STEVE AND JENNIFER ROBINSON

CREATING
SPACES
AND
PLACES
FOR
PEOPLE
TO

EXPER
IENCE
GOD

BUILDING PROJECTS



ST. CHARLES

ST. CHARLES CAMPUS

IMPACTING A CITY WITH THE GOSPEL

THE GOAL:

To open up a new church campus in the heart of New Orleans by the end of 2019.

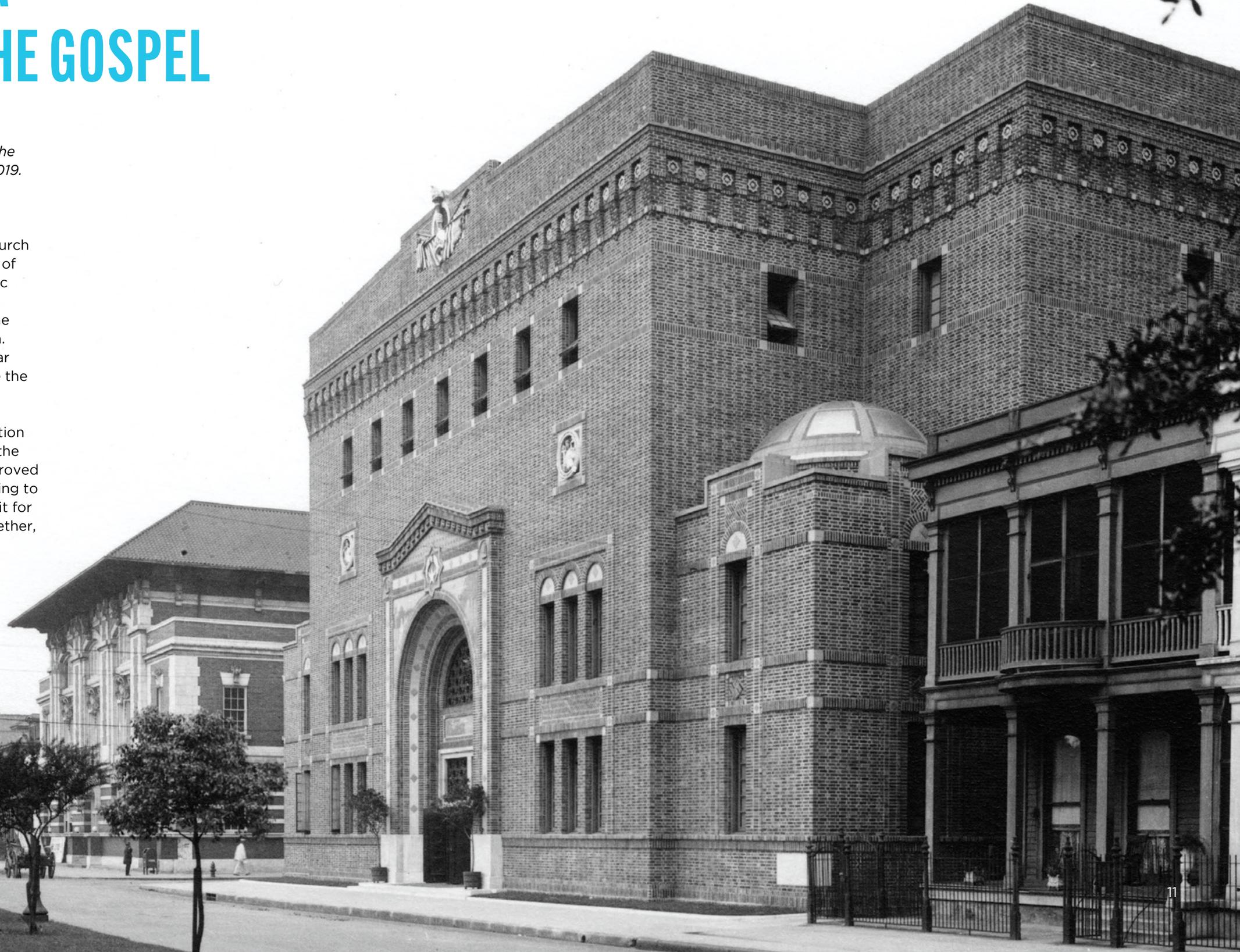
THE PROJECT:

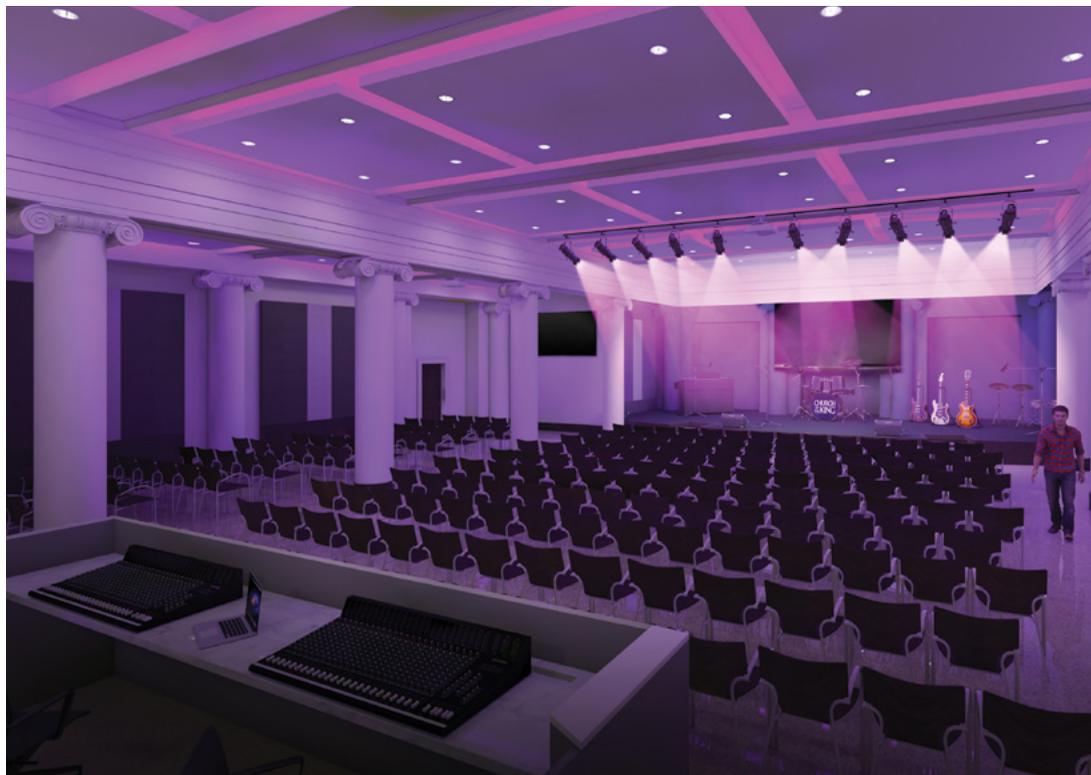
In 2006, God opened a door in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for Church of the King to invest in the rebuilding of New Orleans. We purchased the iconic Jerusalem Temple, located at 1137 St. Charles Avenue, with the dream of one day starting a campus in that location. Since then, we have conducted regular outreaches from the building to serve the needs of the local community.

The time to undertake the full renovation of this building is now upon us. Over the past year, we have developed an approved set of plans that will restore the building to its former glory, while also preparing it for fruitful use for decades to come. Together, let's complete the renovation of this building within twelve months.

THE NEED:

\$17.5 million





ST. CHARLES CAMPUS

THE REBIRTH OF AN ICONIC BUILDING

A PRIME LOCATION

The iconic Jerusalem temple is located in the heart of New Orleans, just a few blocks from the French Quarter, Central Business District, Uptown and more. The building itself is well-known and loved by long-time residents of the city and many are excited to see it restored to its former grandeur.

A NEW WORSHIP SPACE

The 1,200 seat state-of-the-art Worship Center will have top of the line technology. The new campus has approximately 54,000 total building square footage.

AN EXCELLENT, WELCOMING SPACE FOR OUR CHILDREN & COMMUNITY

We will have ample space for the next generation including in-class restrooms, added security, and age-appropriate teaching spaces. The spacious community lobby will provide warm and comfortable gathering spaces for friends and family. A world-class cafe will be available for our members, as well as the thriving community of college students and young adults. We have secured access to ample parking.

BUILDING PROJECTS



WEST ESPLANADE

WEST ESPLANADE CAMPUS

OUR NEW CHURCH HOME

THE GOAL:

To establish an additional campus in a permanent location in Kenner.

THE PROJECT:

In 2011, Church of the King launched the South Shore Campus with about one hundred people. Since then, the campus has multiplied, with nearly 1,000 in regular weekly attendance. We are well beyond our capacity in our current facilities. This hinders us in our mission to *Reach People* and *Build Lives*.

God has opened the door for us to purchase and renovate the former movie theater at the Esplanade Mall in Kenner. We are moving from renters to owners. This new church home allows us to provide impactful ministry to our community and beyond.

THE NEED:

\$3.0 million



WEST ESPLANADE CAMPUS

OUR NEW HOME PROVIDES:

A PRIME LOCATION

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create an attractive and convenient campus on West Esplanade in Kenner. Our new church home is centrally located and easily accessible from Interstate 10.

A NEW WORSHIP SPACE

The 40,000 square foot campus features an 900-seat state-of-the-art Worship Center, plus an additional 300-seat Overflow Auditorium.

AN EXCELLENT SPACE FOR OUR CHILDREN & COMMUNITY

Secure classrooms provide fun and functional environments for the next generation to be equipped. The spacious lobby offers warm and comfortable gathering spaces. Nine acres of land allow for more than enough parking and future campus expansion.



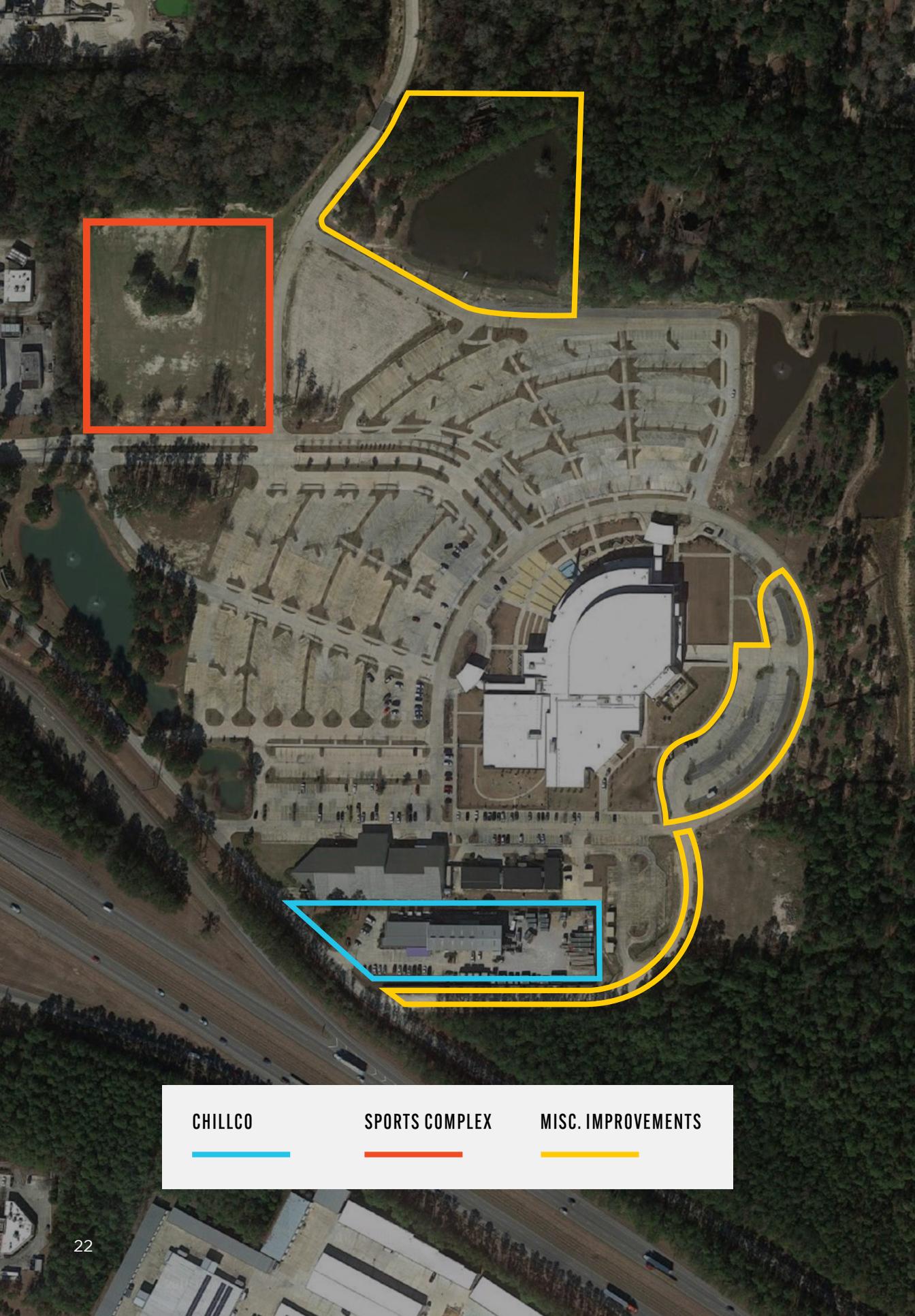
Architects Rendering of building facade



BUILDING PROJECTS



LITTLE CREEK



LITTLE CREEK CAMPUS

EXPANDING LITTLE CREEK CAMPUS

THE GOAL:

To purchase a facility for our new community outreach center and to improve various areas of our church campus by the end of 2020.

THE PROJECT:

Completing the main building at Little Creek in 2013 was a monumental financial effort. Now that we've settled into our new home, we are ready to continue the development of our campus master plan. The project at Little Creek Campus consists of three different initiatives:

1. Purchase the adjacent ChillCo property to serve as a new community outreach center as well as temporary office space for church staff.
2. Construct a multi-purpose sports complex with a baseball diamond, soccer field, volleyball courts, pavilion, and children's playground.
3. Undertake additional improvements to our campus property, including parking, landscaping, and drainage.

THE NEED:

\$4.0 million

\$1.5 MILLION

\$1.4 MILLION

\$1.1 MILLION

CHILLCO

SPORTS COMPLEX

MISC. IMPROVEMENTS



LITTLE CREEK CAMPUS

**THESE PROJECTS
ALLOW US TO:**

EXPAND OUR REACH AND CAPACITY

Purchasing the adjoining ChillCo property enables us to construct a world-class outreach center. This facility also provides temporary office space as the church staff continues to grow.

SERVE THE NEXT GENERATION

The brand-new sports complex provides additional space for our church community to enjoy year-round activities. It also facilitates physical education classes for Lead College.

BEAUTIFY OUR PROPERTY

Completing key improvements to the property enhances the welcoming environment for our guests while also ensuring that our facilities can be maintained properly for years to come.

BUILDING PROJECTS



GULF COAST

GULF COAST CAMPUS

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

THE GOAL:

To raise funds for the future expansion of our campus facility.

THE PROJECT:

Over the past decade, Church of the King's Gulf Coast Campus has steadily grown and now has over five hundred in average weekend service attendance. While we are incredibly blessed with our current facilities, we recognize that we must expand in anticipation of future growth.

Our current rate of growth means that we will exceed capacity at the Gulf Coast Campus in three years. We need to prepare now to increase the seating in our sanctuary from 300 to 550, while also improving our commons area and children's classroom spaces. Our plan is to conduct these renovations in 2020.

THE NEED:

\$1.0 million

MAKING ROOM FOR TOMORROW

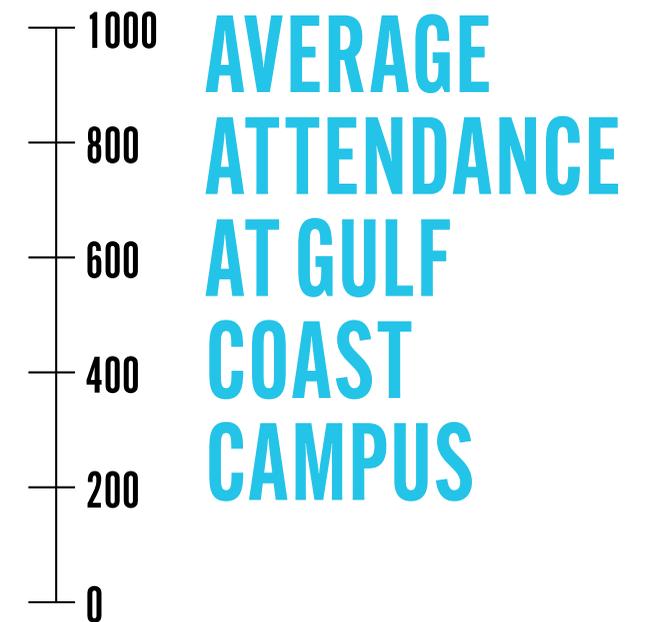
ANTICIPATING FUTURE GROWTH

Joining together in faith now positions us to grow more effectively in the future. By setting aside the funds for future expansion now, we can carefully plan for our campus expansion.

IMPROVED SPACE FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Our renovated space will include additional seating for worship services, improved classroom space for our children and youth, as well as an expanded commons area for meeting spaces and hospitality.

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019* 2020*



**Projected attendance*

THIS WORKSHEET SHOWS THE IMPACT YOUR GIFT CAN HAVE OVER 26 MONTHS

TOTAL GIFT	YEAR-END GIFTS*	MONTHLY	WEEKLY
\$1,000,000	\$333,333	\$38,462	\$8,929
\$750,000	\$250,000	\$28,846	\$6,696
\$500,000	\$166,667	\$19,231	\$4,464
\$250,000	\$83,333	\$9,615	\$2,232
\$100,000	\$33,333	\$3,846	\$893
\$75,000	\$25,000	\$2,885	\$670
\$50,000	\$16,667	\$1,923	\$446
\$25,000	\$8,333	\$962	\$223
\$10,000	\$3,333	\$385	\$89
\$5,000	\$1,667	\$192	\$45
\$2,500	\$833	\$96	\$22
\$1,000	\$333	\$38	\$9

*Three (3) total year-end gifts through December 2020
Monthly and Weekly rates based on 26 Months (112 Weeks)

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

The *Beyond* campaign is a 26 month journey designed to impact a region for Christ. We are taking a step of faith as a church family that will not just affect us, but will lead to many others finding Christ for the very first time. As you spend time in the communities of the Gulf Coast Region, the need for the Gospel is very evident. God is calling us to act now so that our family, friends, colleagues and neighbors can have an encounter with the saving power of Jesus.

We recognize this is a God-sized task far beyond the ability of any one person. Reaching our need of \$25.5 million will take sacrifices from all of us. What you are holding in your hand is a challenge to be prayerfully and financially involved in the vision of the *Beyond* campaign.

You have the opportunity to make a pledge commitment, over and above your regular tithes. Commitment cards are available to help you do so. To help you calculate your pledge amount, you can use the worksheet on the previous page.

You can give towards your pledge commitment at any time by using *Beyond* envelopes or by giving online at churchoftheking.com/giving. Pray and ask God how you can make a financial investment in the *Beyond* campaign.

As you begin to pray about how much God might want you to give, we encourage you to embrace this as a spiritual journey with God. The question we need to ask ourselves is not “how much do I think I can give?” but rather “how much does God want me to give?”

To help you in this process, we have put together a five week devotional series that corresponds with the *Beyond* message series that will be preached at all of our campuses in October & November. We encourage you to spend time each day reading God’s Word and in prayer. We believe that God is going to bless you above and beyond your wildest expectations even as you step out in faith with us into the next chapter of our history as a church.

IF YOU ABIDE
IN ME, AND
MY WORDS
ABIDE IN YOU,
YOU WILL ASK
WHAT YOU

DESIRE, AND
IT SHALL BE
DONE FOR
YOU.

JOHN 15:7

WEEK 01

Reference

HOW TO S.O.A.P.

You'll need three items (Bible, Pen & this book) to S.O.A.P. each day!

S – SCRIPTURE

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

O – OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you in this Scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

A – APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this Scripture can apply to you today.

P – PRAYER

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this Scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

Day 01

BEYOND

On this rock I will build my church, and death itself will not have any power over it.

MATTHEW 16:18 CEV*

The Roman Empire at one time was the greatest empire in the world in terms of size and influence, with borders that encompassed most of the known world. Their elaborate governing system was in full operation and tax money was coming in at a higher rate than ever. Truly the Roman Empire was glorying in its finest hour.

If the leader of this vast empire, Tiberius Caesar, had looked from his palace in Rome all the way to a distant remote mountain in Galilee, he would have seen twelve men gathered around their humble leader. And had he heard what this leader was saying to these twelve men, he would have laughed out loud. "On this rock I will build my church, and death itself will not have any power over it," declared Jesus to His small band of followers.

Furthermore, if Caesar had looked 350 years into the future, he would have been aghast to see his successor, Constantine, naming Christianity as the official state religion. It took less than 400 years for Christianity and the church of Jesus Christ to conquer the great Roman Empire. It is significant to note how a church of only twelve impacted the entire known world in such a short time.

Jesus embraced His church in a very personal way. He said, "I will build My church." As we embrace the cause of the local church and personalize it the way Jesus did, we have the ability to impact the world the same way the disciples did 2,000 years ago. Because the power of Christ dwells in us today, we can confidently build His church with Him.

As we look "beyond" to building His church with Him, what role do you see yourself playing?

PRAYER

Father, I want to passionately embrace the cause of Christ so I can make a difference in the world around me. As we embark on the Beyond journey, help me begin to understand in a greater way the role I'm to play in my church. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

MONDAY**MATTHEW 16:18 CEV****S – SCRIPTURE****O – OBSERVATION****A – APPLICATION****P – PRAYER**

Day 02

SEEING GOD'S VISION

Where there is no vision, the people perish...

PROVERBS 29:18

Nearly anywhere you go in the world, people have heard the name "Disney." The theme parks, movies, and signature characters are recognized and loved. This entertainment dynasty is the result of a lifelong dream from the creative genius of visionary, Walt Disney. A few years after building the revolutionary theme park Disneyland in Anaheim, California, Walt Disney envisioned another and even larger Disney theme park. He laid the groundwork, but died in 1966, almost five years before the opening of Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. On the day the new park opened, a visitor commented to Mike Vance, Creative Director of Walt Disney Studios, "Isn't it too bad Walt Disney didn't live to see this?"

"Oh, but he did see it," Vance replied. "That's why it's here."

The vision of Walt Disney to create what he called "the happiest place on earth" became the driving force for thousands of people who, even to this day, continue

to work diligently to build upon the foundation that he laid.

Vision is a powerful motivator, as we see in both today's passage from Proverbs and the life of Walt Disney. When we receive and embrace God's vision for our lives, we become supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit and work toward that vision. If a natural, "man-made" vision like Disney's can result in such an enormous legacy, just imagine what can happen if we tap into God's vision for our lives, our families, and this region.

God's vision is fueled by His omnipotent power, provided through His limitless resources, and crafted by His wisdom and knowledge. God's vision leaves a lasting impact which is felt throughout the generations.

What do you think God's vision for your life looks like? How do you think that vision will impact others beyond your life and even your generation?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I want to commit afresh to discovering and living in Your vision for my life. I want to live for Your purposes so that the impact of my life will be felt for generations. I pray for my church family at Church of the King today. My prayer is Your vision will ring clearly in the hearts and minds of Your children. I pray we would live for that vision with unity and courage. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

TUESDAY

PROVERBS 29:18

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 03

EMBRACING GOD'S VISION

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

JEREMIAH 29:11

In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered a stirring, passionate speech which later became the “manifesto” of the civil rights movement. Words of reconciliation, equality, and liberty rang out from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial:

Let freedom ring. And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: “Free at last!”

In describing his dream of a world free from the bonds of prejudice and discrimination, Dr. King described a powerful, positive image of the future. The vision he cast that day was more than inspiration; it contained

principles that could be embraced and lived out to advance the cause of ethnic equality and justice around the world.

In the same way, for Christians, it is not enough to see the vision that God has for our future. We must embrace it and begin to allow our lives to be molded around it. God's vision is powerful and transcendent. It gives purpose, direction, and passion for those with the courage to run with it. God's vision cannot be altered and tailored to fit our desires, but when embraced, it meets every need, and fills every heart with joy and expectancy! By embracing God's vision for our church through the *Beyond* journey, we will create a “future and a hope” for the generations to come.

In what ways has God's vision for Church of the King inspired purpose and direction for your life?

PRAYER

Lord, I trust in the vision that you have for me. I know that it comes from Your heart of love for me. Give me the courage to embrace it and run with it. I lift up my brothers and sisters at Church of the King today. I pray for boldness and determination to see Your kingdom come, and Your will be done in our lives and in our community. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

WEDNESDAY

JEREMIAH 29:11

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

WHAT A DREAM LOOKS LIKE

So he said to them, “please hear this dream which I have dreamed...”

GENESIS 37:6

In 1989, a movie called “Field of Dreams” was released. Kevin Costner played Ray Kincella, a 27-year-old man who heard a voice one day that said, “If you build it, he will come.” You see, Ray had a stormy relationship with his dad. As a rebellious child of the 60’s, he scorned his dad who loved baseball, refusing even to play catch with him. His father died before he could make things right. When he plowed his cornfield over and made a baseball field, everyone said he was crazy for following his dream, but through the magic of the movie, he was reunited with his father as a young man. The theology is certainly not correct, and the plot is nowhere near reality, but it remains a wonderful movie.

In the movie, people came from miles and miles around to get a glimpse at the old timers playing ball on the field of dreams. The point in the movie is well made, and it is certain, people will come to a place where their dreams can be fulfilled. God’s “field of dreams” is not in Iowa, but rather is played out in the hearts of His people.

PRAYER

Father, allow me to be sensitive to Your voice today. I want to do Your will. Give me the courage to move forward at Your promptings in my life. Lord, I pray Church of the King will be a true “Field of Dreams” where people can find and fulfill their dreams. Lord, I pray my church will be united in the Beyond journey for Your glory. Amen!

THURSDAY

GENESIS 37:6

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Throughout the centuries, we have seen instances of how God sets the hearts of men and women and young people aflame with a dream—the dream to impact the world and make a difference. Look at the life of Mother Theresa. Her mission continues on after her death, giving hope to the hopeless in Calcutta, India.

Maybe there’s a stir in your soul today. A spiritual knot in your stomach that gnarls you and it won’t go away. It could be the beginning of a great dream that God is nudging you toward. A God-given dream may look like this: it stirs your passion, it’s humanly impossible to accomplish on your own, and it makes an impression on you for a lifetime. You can’t shake it. It may have been a place of pain for you in your past. The place of your pain sometimes becomes the place of your life missions.

Take time today and reflect on your own “field of dreams.” What unusual things may be stirring that could prompt you to build your own field—your field of mission?

Day 05

DON'T STOP SHORT OF YOUR DREAM

The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered.

GENESIS 39:2

In 1930, two young brothers named Dick and Maurice McDonald moved from New Hampshire to California to pursue the American dream of becoming successful. After a few failed ventures, they struck gold when they opened a small drive-in restaurant. By the mid-1950's, their annual revenue hit \$350,000, and the brothers split \$100,000 in profits.

You may be surprised to know the rest of the story. In 1954, a man by the name of Ray Kroc came into the picture. Ray Kroc saw the potential that the brothers did not see. In 1961, Kroc bought the exclusive rights to McDonald's for the sum of 2.7 million dollars. Now with more than 30,000 local restaurants serving nearly 50 million people in more than 119 countries each day, the rest of the story is history.

Many Christians often look to Joseph as the role model for dreaming big, but his dreams really came from God. God was the source of the dreams that eventually caused him to be shunned by his brothers and sold to

Prayer

Lord, thank You. You know my life and its path. You have put dreams in my heart and I will trust in You they will come to pass in Your perfect timing. I pray for my church, as we pursue our God-given dream to the fullest potential by making a difference in our community, this region, and the world. Amen!

Weekday

FRIDAY

Reference

GENESIS 39:2

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

slave traders bound for Egypt. After a brief stint as the house steward of a wealthy man, he was falsely accused of violating the man's wife and ended up in prison. While in prison, Joseph interpreted the dreams of two former palace officials of Pharaoh. By accurately interpreting their dreams, Joseph was called upon to interpret a dream of Pharaoh and thus became second in command of all of Egypt! The dream of God for his life had come to pass, but it took a different path than what he thought.

If the truth be known, many of us stop short of the dream of God for our life because we give up too early. We go through a tough time, we become impatient, or we may question if we really heard from God.

If this is you, be encouraged, God is with you. Remember, He is the dream giver for our lives. He will not forget you.

*What is the dream of God for your life?
What obstacles have you had to overcome?*

Day 06

LIVING GOD'S WAY

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

ROMANS 12:1

Early American mission organizations did not allow single women to serve overseas. But in 1823, Betsy Stockton knew she was called to follow God's way at all costs. After gaining freedom from slavery, Stockton was taught theology by her former master, the Reverend Ashbel Green. With a strong sense of God's call on her life, she applied to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. To her amazement, a post was available. Betsy agreed to her assignment as a lowly domestic servant to a missionary couple.

Serving in the independent nation of Hawaii, Betsy became the first single female Protestant missionary to travel overseas. Because of her education, her work expanded from household duties to conducting a school and providing teaching and training to the local people. Eventually, she traveled back to America, opening a school for Native Americans and planting a church for African Americans that continues

to flourish today. Betsy, a woman, a former slave, menial laborer, pioneered a new path for the Gospel because she was willing to look beyond the world's ways and live God's way.

The Apostle Paul calls each of us to the same commitment in today's passage from the twelfth chapter of Romans. He exhorts all believers "...present your bodies a living sacrifice..." in an act of worship to God. When we recognize all we are and every part of our life belongs to Him, we begin living God's way. Our part is to understand that we are stewards of all He has entrusted to us. Every dream, every spiritual, emotional, and material resource, must be presented to Him as a daily act of surrender and worship.

As you consider your part in the Beyond journey, allow God to show you how He would have you commit these resources.

PRAYER

Father, I come into Your presence today acknowledging that it's all Yours. Everything I have, everything I am or ever hope to be, belongs to You. I joyfully surrender my life to You today and ask You to use me for Your glory. I pray today for my Church of the King family, that as a church our only desire would be to live a life of faithfulness in this region. In Your name, Amen!

Weekday

Reference

SATURDAY

ROMANS 12:1

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 07

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S CALL

For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

PSALM 139:13, 15-16

One of golf's immortal moments came when a nervous Scotsman demonstrated the new game to President Ulysses Grant. Carefully placing the ball on the tee, he took a mighty swing. The club hit the turf and scattered dirt all over the President's beard and surrounding vicinity, while the ball placidly waited on the tee. Again the Scotsman swung, and again he missed. The President waited patiently through six tries and then quietly stated, "There seems to be a fair amount of exercise in the game, but I fail to see the purpose of the ball."

Great effort and discipline can seem pointless when disconnected from clear purpose. Even the most ardent spiritual regimens can leave us feeling frustrated and unfulfilled apart from being linked to what God intends for our lives.

In the passage above, David passionately describes the way God fashions us in the womb, weaving in the ingredients for

PRAYER

God, I thank you. You've made me for a specific purpose. My life is not an accident. Open my eyes to see my purpose and recognize Your hand leading me each step of the way. Help me see how my purpose is designed to serve Your vision for our church. Lead us as a church body into fulfilling your divine purpose for us. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

SUNDAY

PSALM 139:13, 15-16

S — SCRIPTURE

O — OBSERVATION

A — APPLICATION

P — PRAYER

greatness and purpose-filled living. Every moment of each day of our lives was seen and recorded before time began. God wants to guide our every step in the direction of His divine blueprint for our lives: *"For this is God, our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to death"* (Psalm 48:14)

In order to effectively obey God's call in our lives and as a church, we must clearly recognize what the call is. God's call on the people of Church of the King is to *Reach People* and *Build Lives*. Practically speaking, God has a role for each of us to play in the fulfillment of this vision. Through the *Beyond* journey, we will continue our quest in this vision and financially commit to seeing our campus plans become a reality.

What do you believe is your purpose in fulfilling God's vision for Church of the King?

WEEK 02

Reference

HOW TO S.O.A.P.

You'll need three items (Bible, Pen & this book) to S.O.A.P. each day!

S – SCRIPTURE

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

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P – PRAYER

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Day 08

THE BENEFITS OF SOWING & REAPING

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him.

GENESIS 26:12

The little girl had a nice, little piggy bank. Her father wanted to teach her about saving, so he talked to her about putting her money into a savings account at their bank. He carefully explained to her when she put money into her account that the bank would pay her interest on her money and her money would increase.

The big day came and together they went to the bank. She gave her piggy bank to the woman opening her account. Then she just stood there staring at the woman. "Is there something else I can do for you?" the woman asked. The little girl smiled and replied, "No, I'm just waiting on my interest!"

The story behind today's Scripture is there was a famine in the land of Israel and water was scarce. Food was in short supply. The land was destitute. Isaac was undeterred and sowed the land and continued to dig water wells, "and the Lord blessed him." Digging water wells was not the popular thing to do at the time, but Isaac kept digging.

PRAYER

Lord, I thank you that investing in Your kingdom enterprises yields the highest returns. I pray each of us at Church of the King sees the importance of investing into the spiritual future of our region, and commits to making a difference by giving.

Weekday

Reference

MONDAY

GENESIS 26:12

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Repeatedly, throughout the Bible we see the principle of sowing and reaping. It is a practice that can work for us, or against us, depending on how we approach it. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:6, *He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

Here's a big point: God is not trying to get something FROM you—He wants to get something TO you. Jesus said it this way in Luke 6:38 (NLT), *Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full — pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you will give will determine the amount you get back.*

Luke is not just referring to money. When you give in any area of life, it puts God in a position to bless you for your act of obedience. Every time you sow, you will reap. It is a benefit God gave us in His word. Be prepared to see the benefits from God! Like the little girl, keep your expectation and faith level high, interest is coming your way!

Day 09

IT'S ALL HIS

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

PSALM 24:1

Depression-era businessman R.G. LeTourneau understood the importance of stewarding one's work and influence for the advancement of God's kingdom. He recognized God owns everything; we are just stewards. His commitment to being a good steward led him to become a millionaire while giving to God 90% of his income. Yes, you read it correctly. He gave 90% and lived on 10% and still had more than he could spend.

The father of modern earth-moving equipment, LeTourneau was among the few men who amassed a fortune during the Great Depression. He did this in spite of his unconventional (some would say ridiculous) business practices, including giving away company profits and giving workers Sundays off, while production lagged behind schedule. His entire professional life was molded by a deeply committed and rewarding partnership with the Lord Jesus Christ, the true owner of his company. This kind of life and testimony is only possible when we live with the

revelation God owns it all. Because He is good and merciful and generous, He has entrusted each of us with a temporary stewardship of certain possessions and resources. God designs each of us with a unique purpose in mind, and we are given a corresponding stewardship consisting of everything we need to accomplish His divine plan for our lives.

His divine power has given to us all things pertaining to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue. (2 Peter 1:3)

At Church of the King, we recognize our stewardship of God's dream for this community and this region. We don't take it lightly. The *Beyond* journey represents this stewardship as we lay the foundation for God's work to be continued in this region for generations to come.

How does recognizing that we are stewards benefit God's kingdom?

PRAYER

Father, I'm beginning to realize my life is much more intricately designed than I had first anticipated. I am so thankful for Your providence, and that You have trusted me as a steward. Help me to be a faithful and righteous steward of the relationships, truths, and resources with which I have been entrusted. Lead my church family into the destiny You have determined for us. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

TUESDAY

PSALM 24:1

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 10

EXTRAVAGANT GIVING

And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head.

MARK 14:3

A story was circulated some time ago about Arnold Palmer's visit with a certain king. This king was impressed with Arnold Palmer's golf record and as they talked, the king wanted to give Mr. Palmer a gift. He tried refusing at first, but the king insisted and asked what gift Mr. Palmer might enjoy. Finally, Mr. Palmer suggested he might give him a golf club. The king seemed happy with that answer. Two days later Arnold Palmer received in the mail from the king the deed to a 200-acre golf club.

Most of us can't imagine having the ability to give away an entire golf course. The king demonstrated his heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Palmer and was willing to give an extravagant gift.

The story from today's passage gives us a breathtaking perspective of not only extravagant appreciation but extravagant giving. The woman from Scripture was so grateful about what Jesus had done for her, she willingly poured precious ointment on

PRAYER

God, create in me a heart of extravagant gratitude for all that You've done in my life. Teach me to trust You with everything I have. Help me understand I will never be able to out give You. I pray each of us at Church of the King will have a heart of understanding of what it means to give extravagantly. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

WEDNESDAY

MARK 14:3

S — SCRIPTURE

O — OBSERVATION

A — APPLICATION

P — PRAYER

CONTRIBUTION OR SACRIFICE?

Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites...

MARK 12:41-42

A chicken and a pig were walking together one day. They came upon a beggar who appeared nearly starved to death. Upon inquiring of his predicament, they learned he had not eaten in several days, so they decided to help him. The chicken said, "I have an idea. Why don't we fix him a nice breakfast, bacon and eggs, perhaps?" The pig considered the chicken's proposal for a moment, and said, "I don't like that idea at all. It only requires you to make a contribution, but for me, it's a complete sacrifice!"

Throughout our lives, God will allow us to encounter various needs and, like our friends the chicken and the pig, our ability to give will vary according to our individual situation. What is clear from this illustration and from today's passage, however, is that while everyone cannot contribute equally, every Christian should willingly live at an equal level of sacrifice. The apostle Paul described that level when he said that you should *Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (Romans 12:1b)*

PRAYER

Father, I thank You for your generous love for me. All that I have is Yours, and I want to faithfully steward and give in a way that honors You. Our church family wants to live with the same heart towards others You've shown toward us. Amen!

THURSDAY

MARK 12:41-42

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

This passage teaches us complete surrender and complete sacrifice is the reasonable response to God's goodness. We can only come into a relationship with Christ by willfully surrendering our lives to Him. In other words, we must acknowledge all aspects of our lives, including our relationships, dreams, lifestyles, money, and material possessions. All are submitted to His control.

In God's divine providence you have been placed in Church of the King and are part of the *Beyond* journey. Ask Him today to reveal His plan for stewarding your resources. Be confident in knowing His blessing and miraculous provision will follow your obedience to His will.

What plans or priorities in your life may need to be adjusted in order for you to completely surrender and completely sacrifice to God's will?

FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it... And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

GENESIS 28:16

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound...” So begins one of the most beloved songs of all times—Amazing Grace. The author of the words was John Newton, the self-proclaimed wretch who once was lost but then was found, saved by amazing grace. Newton, born in London on July 1725, the son of a merchant ship commander, began sailing the Mediterranean with his father when he was eleven years old. Over the years he ultimately became the captain of a ship that plied the slave trade.

On one particular homeward voyage, while attempting to steer the ship through a violent storm, he experienced what he referred to later as his “great deliverance.” He recorded in his journal that when all seemed lost and the ship would surely sink, he exclaimed, “Lord, have mercy upon us.” Later, in his cabin, he reflected on what he had said and penned his now-famous song. Newton eventually became an ordained minister and worked with the great parliamentarian, William Wilberforce,

for over twenty years to successfully see the abolition of the slave trade throughout the United Kingdom. God’s amazing grace allowed Newton to live long enough to see the Abolition of the Slave-Trade Act pass in parliament in 1807. He died later that year.

Today’s passage finds Jacob running from the consequences of his actions and falling asleep at a place called Bethel. Jacob was sort of the black sheep of the patriarchs. His resume was filled with many questionable incidents. Jacob was running away from his family. His scheming and trickery brought him nothing but failure and rejection. While he was sleeping, God revealed His grace, and Jacob’s heart was changed. It was the turning point in his life.

Jacob was forever changed at Bethel. He immediately vowed to give God a tenth of everything. This personal encounter with God changed Jacob from a taker in life to a giver.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for Your amazing grace! I’m not what I want to be, but because of your grace, I’m not what I used to be. I pray everyone touched by our church will experience a personal relationship with You. Amen!

FRIDAY

GENESIS 28:16

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 13

THE POWER OF LOVE

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 PETER 4:8

A woman named Beth was driving her husband's pride and joy, a little green MG sports car. Jim had labored over his car for hours every Saturday for four years. He had wanted a car like this for almost all of his life. As Beth was driving, she saw a boy on a bicycle and swerved to avoid him. She heard the little car being crunched, scraped, and the glass breaking. Another driver stopped to help her out of the car. She was dazed but not hurt when the police officer approached her and asked for her insurance papers.

She did not so much fear the wrath of her husband, for he was gentle and nice, but she feared the disappointment he would have. She dreaded the hurt and anguish she would see on his face.

Beth reached into the glove compartment to get the insurance papers and she found them in a plastic package. To her surprise on top of all the documents was a white envelope with her name on it. She opened it and began reading: "Dear Beth, if you are reading this, you have probably been

in an accident. Don't worry. I pray that you are all right, and just remember it is you I love. Jim."

The best of us have wrecked our lives at times. We have made a mess. We have loved darkness rather than light. God is a God of love and the cross Jesus bore on His own body is God's statement to us that no matter how much we have wrecked our lives and disappointed Him, He says, "Remember, it is you I love."

Our world is in need of love. Throughout history, famous people have penned tragedies, comedies, songs, and poems about it. The people we see every day around us are in desperate need of someone showing them the true love of Christ. Ask God to show you how you can extend a hand of God's love to someone today. Remember the world is a huge stage for you to express your love.

Can you think of someone in your world who needs to be shown the true love of Christ?

PRAYER

Lord, I thank You for Your love and that You love me. I know I only have the capacity to love others, because You first loved me. Help me never to shrink back and restrict Your love through me to others, and help me be a channel of Your love to someone today. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

SATURDAY

1 PETER 4:8

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 14

OBEYING GOD'S CALL

*Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it,"
Whenever you turn to the right hand, Or whenever you turn to the left.*

ISAIAH 30:21

Roger Staubach, who led the Dallas Cowboys to the World Championship in 1971, admitted that his position as a quarterback who didn't call his own signals was a source of trial for him. Coach Tom Landry sent in every play. He told Roger when to pass, when to run, and only in emergency situations could he change the play (and he had better be right!). Even though Staubach considered Coach Landry to have a "genius mind" when it came to football strategy, his pride said that he should be able to run his own team.

Roger later said, "I faced up to the issue of obedience. Once I learned to obey there was harmony, fulfillment, and victory."

One of the greatest joys of the Christian life is that our faith is more than a list of rules we try to live up to. As God's children, we have the incredible privilege of participating in the "family business." The mission statement of His business can

be summarized in a couple of passages. Jesus' words in the following passages reveal God's heart as it relates to this world and those who live in it: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16)* and, *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (John 10:10b)*

Every one of us plays a specific part in accomplishing this mission. When we come to Christ by surrendering our lives to His will, we are, in effect, signing up to obey His call to reach out to those around us as expressions of God's love in human form. Commit yourself afresh today to discover and obey God's direction for your life and role in the *Beyond* journey!

Why is it sometimes necessary to just step out in faith and obey?

PRAYER

Father God, You are my Lord and my life belongs to You. I choose to obey You in every area of my life. I pray each member of our church family will trust and obey You. I pray each of us will experience the blessings of obedience, and through our obedience, many will come to know Your love for them. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

SUNDAY

ISAIAH 30:21

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

WEEK 03

Reference

HOW TO S.O.A.P.

You'll need three items (Bible, Pen & this book) to S.O.A.P. each day!

S – SCRIPTURE

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

O – OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you in this Scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

A – APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this Scripture can apply to you today.

P – PRAYER

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this Scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

LISTENING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

ROMANS 8:11, 14-16

Former U.S. President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, often endured long receiving lines at the White House. He complained that no one really paid any attention to what he said. One day during a reception, he decided to try an experiment. To each person who passed down the line and shook his hand, he murmured, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." The guests responded with phrases like, "Marvelous! Keep up the good work. We are proud of you. God bless you, sir." It was not till the end of the line, while greeting the ambassador from Bolivia, that his words were actually heard. Without so much as a hesitation, the ambassador leaned over and whispered, "I'm sure she had it coming."

Even as Christians, we can become so preoccupied with the cares of this life, like President Roosevelt's guests, we get

distracted and lose our ability to focus on what God is saying to us. When a person enters into a relationship with God through faith in Christ, the Bible says that God Himself, in the person of the Holy Spirit, comes to live inside of them (Ephesians 1:13-14). It is as if God installs a direct connection between Himself and the believer.

Over time, if we aren't careful, things like unconfessed sin, distractions, and other priorities cause the signal to become distorted and unclear. In order to maintain an open line of communication, spend time daily in God's presence through prayer, meditation, and worship. Keep a "short list" of unconfessed sin, and make a regular habit of submitting every area of your life to God's will.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, I confess my need to be led by You in every step of my life. Show me where I tend to pull away from You and do my own thing. I pray for my family at Church of the King that we would be Spirit-led in every endeavor. Make us into a people who follow Your lead to Reach People and Build Lives in our community, our region, and around the world! Amen.

MONDAY

ROMANS 8:11, 14-16

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 16

DISCERNING GOD'S VOICE

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way.

PSALM 37:23

One day a lone hiker was navigating one of the more difficult segments of the famed Appalachian Trail. He strayed from the path, lost his footing, and found himself hanging precariously from a cliff, hundreds of feet above the ground below. He clung to a root growing from the massive sheer face and began to cry out, "Help! Is anyone up there?" After a few minutes of calling into the air with no results, a voice rang out from the sky above, saying, "It's the Lord. If you trust Me, let go of the root." A few more minutes went by and the hiker called out a little more timidly, "Is anyone else up there?"

Like the hiker, we often find ourselves desperately in need of God's guidance and direction, but unsure about what we are hearing is really the voice of God. So, how can we discern what God is really saying amidst all of the other voices?

There are many tests we can apply to the voices we may be hearing. One test is the test of His Word. God will never lead us in a direction contrary to what the Bible

PRAYER

God, I thank You. You are faithful to lead me. Help me grow in the knowledge of Your Word and provide people from whom I can receive wise counsel. Give me a teachable heart. I pray You will direct our church family and each member will find the vital relationships that will lead us into our destiny as individuals and as a body. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

TUESDAY

PSALM 37:23

S — SCRIPTURE

O — OBSERVATION

A — APPLICATION

P — PRAYER

teaches. Another test is to seek out wise, godly counsel. Find someone who you trust AND who has a proven record of a spiritually fruitful life—evidence that they live in obedience to God and His Word. *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise. (Proverbs 12:15)*

One other test for discerning God's voice is the test of peace. This is the test of the internal guiding presence of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul says in Philippians 4:6-7: *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

The distinguishing thing about the peace that God produces by His Spirit is that you may not be able to describe it, but you always know when you don't have it!

What do you do when you need to hear God's voice about something you're facing?

Day 17

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

Pray without ceasing.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

During the first World War, a British soldier was caught one night while creeping back to his tent from a nearby wooded area. He was immediately hauled before his commanding officer and charged with holding communications with the enemy. The man pleaded he had gone into the woods to pray. That was his only defense. "Have you been in the habit of spending hours in private prayer?" his officer asked roughly. "Yes, sir."

"Then get down on your knees and pray now like you've never prayed before!" the commander ordered. Facing the possibility of execution for treason, the young soldier knelt and poured out his soul in a powerful prayer that could have only been inspired by the Holy Spirit. "You may go," the officer said in hushed tones after the soldier finished praying. "I believe your story. If you hadn't drilled often, you couldn't have done so well at review."

PRAYER

Father, thank You, for the privilege of coming to you in prayer. Help me to be consistent in my prayer life. Help me to silence the other voices in my life, including my own, in order to hear from You today. I pray You make my family at Church of the King a people of prayer. Throughout the Beyond journey, let us be a people who listen and respond to Your voice. Lord, help me to quiet my heart now to listen. (Spend 2-5 minutes in silence, allowing God to speak to you. Consider doing this every day at the end of your prayer time). Amen!

Weekday

Reference

WEDNESDAY

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

The young man faced a crisis in his life. It was a life or death situation. Because he had a habit of prayer, he had a breakthrough. He had learned to commune with God regularly and intimately. A healthy, consistent prayer life is vital to every believer who wants to know and walk with God.

Prayer, simply put, is a conversation with God. Just as with any other normal conversation, the communication must be allowed to go both ways. Often we place our energy and focus in prayer on the speaking part where we *make our requests known to God* (Philippians 4:6), with little, if any, time and energy allotted to listening to Him. God wants to speak to you today in prayer, so be sure to make time to shut out all the other voices and focus on what He is saying.

What time each day do you spend in prayer? How can it improve?

YOU MAKE THE CALL

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

Baseball umpire Durwood Miller tells of his rookie year of umpiring in the major leagues. On the mound was the famous pitcher, Nolan Ryan. The second pitch of the game was so fast, Miller never saw it. He froze, unable to make the call. Finally, he yelled somewhat tentatively, "Strike!" The batter backed out of the box and said, "Ump, don't feel so bad, I didn't see it either!"

This story is a good illustration of what is happening in our world today. Change is occurring so fast none of us can see it clearly. A new set of glasses won't help, either. Yet we have to make vital calls and daily decisions about very important things, all the time wondering if we are making the right ones—we're hoping we don't strike out!

We desperately need a clear standard. A fixed point, a true north. We need an unchanging standard on which we can base our decisions. The exciting news is

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the Bible. Thank you that it feeds my soul. Thank you that it builds me up and makes me strong in You to face the difficult challenges surrounding my life each day. Help me to read Your word and meditate on it so I can have success in my life and the rapidly changing world around me. Let everyone in my church become people of the Word. Amen!

THURSDAY

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

S — SCRIPTURE

O — OBSERVATION

that God has given us such a standard. It is His Word, the Bible. It contains the rock-solid, never changing, relevant truth. It is absolute truth about life. The truth on how to live every day

When we base our lives on the principles and promises of Scripture, we stand rock solid at the plate of life, regardless of how fast the pitcher throws the ball at us from the "mound" of the world.

Let the scoffers and naysayers from the stands say the Bible is irrelevant and outdated. True followers of Christ know that "the Word of God is living and active." It feeds and nourishes your souls, giving spiritual strength to your life. Today, you make the call from the playbook of life—the Word of God—and live confident in your decision.

What Scriptures speak truth to you in this current season?

A — APPLICATION

P — PRAYER

PRICELESS

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

GALATIANS 2:20

In his classic, *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis discusses the importance of daily surrendering our will to His. He writes:

“That is why the real problem of the Christian life comes where people do not usually look for it. It comes the very moment you wake up each morning. All your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists simply in shoveling them all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in. And so on, all day.”

The benefit of living in the blessing and significance that God has designed for our lives has a price tag attached to it. That price is the daily surrender of our own dreams, hopes, and agendas to the Lord with the confidence that His design for us is so much better in every way than whatever plan we may have created for ourselves. By comparison, it would be like finding a

priceless antique or piece of art at a yard sale with a price sticker of \$1.00 on it.

However great or small we may find the price to be, the fact remains that we must be willing to pay it. Every day as we approach His throne of grace, we must come with our hands opened before Him, willing for Him to take out of, or place into, our hands anything He wishes. Success in God’s economy is measured by our willingness to live with open hands and teachable hearts, to grip or release whatever He asks, and to be characterized by the kind of love, compassion, humility, and determination that only He can produce.

When we fully surrender to Him, He can work through our lives in generous proportion! Our lives become a conduit of His blessings to others.

What is the Holy Spirit asking you to surrender to Him?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I’m willing... and wherever I’m not able, change me. I only want what you desire for me. Shape us as a people at Church of the King, with hearts of willingness and humility to be used of You. Our world desperately needs us to be only what You’ve designed us to be. In Your precious name, Amen!

FRIDAY

GALATIANS 2:20

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 20

TUNED IN

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

JOHN 10:27

Warning! Warning! Information overload! Noise pollution! In this world there sometimes seems to be innumerable voices clamoring for our attention. A recent study showed that the average American is exposed to a new piece of information every thirteen seconds. Even right now as you are reading this devotional, the air around you is filled with electronic signals that, with the right equipment, you can tune in to hear and understand whatever is being transmitted.

With so many voices competing for our attention, it is important as Christians to have our spiritual ears tuned to God's "channel." Every Christian has the right equipment to tune in to what the Lord is saying to us. Jesus said when the Holy Spirit comes to live in us, He acts as the "receiver" for God on the inside of us.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. (John 14:26)

PRAYER

Father, I want my life to be like a receiver that is tuned in to Your frequencies. Please help me to see the static-producing areas which make Your signal unclear. Lead us as a church family to stay tuned in to Your "radio station" — WGOD! Amen!

Weekday

Reference

SATURDAY

JOHN 10:27

S — SCRIPTURE

O — OBSERVATION

A — APPLICATION

P — PRAYER

THE LIVING WORD

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

HEBREWS 4:12

Several decades ago, in Communist Russia, actor Comrade Alexander Rostovzev was converted in a Moscow theater while playing the role of Jesus in a sacrilegious play entitled, *Christ in a Tuxedo*. He was supposed to read two verses from the Sermon on the Mount, remove his gown, and cry out, "Give me my tuxedo and top hat!" But as he read the words, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted," he began to tremble. Instead of following the script, he kept reading from Matthew 5, ignoring the coughs, calls, and foot-stamping of his fellow actors. Finally, recalling a verse he had learned in his childhood in a Russian Orthodox church, he cried, "*Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom!*" (Luke 23:42). Before the curtain was lowered, Rostovzev trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I thank You today for Your Word. It is life to me, and I commit myself to it and its precepts. Help me to live not simply by natural sustenance, but by the words that come from You. Help us at Church of the King to be wholly committed as a people of the Word—teaching, preaching, and living by Your truth. In Your Name I pray, Amen!

SUNDAY

HEBREWS 4:12

S — SCRIPTURE

O — OBSERVATION

A — APPLICATION

P — PRAYER

WEEK 04

Reference

HOW TO S.O.A.P.

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S – SCRIPTURE

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O – OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you in this Scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

A – APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this Scripture can apply to you today.

P – PRAYER

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this Scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

Day 22

DID YOU SAY “MIRACLE?”

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know.

ACTS 2:22

An American scientist once visited the offices of the great Nobel prize winning physicist, Niels Bohr, in Copenhagen. He was amazed to find that over Bohr's desk was a horseshoe securely nailed to the wall with the open end up in the approved manner (so it would catch the good luck and not let it spill out). The American said with a nervous laugh, “Surely you don't believe the horseshoe will bring you good luck, do you, Professor Bohr? After all, as a scientist...” Bohr chuckled, “I believe no such thing, my good friend. Not at all. I am scarcely likely to believe in such foolish nonsense. However, I am told that a horseshoe will bring you good luck whether you believe in it or not.”

We may find this story humorous, but there is an amazing phenomenon taking place in our culture. There is a growing hunger to believe in something and cling to a hope beyond ourselves. We are witnessing an openness to spirituality, but that spirituality is accompanied by a deep skepticism towards the miraculous. We may like the internal feelings of spirituality, but are

PRAYER

God, I thank you! You still work miracles today! I want to be a conduit through which You can work miracles in the lives around me. As a church, make us instruments of Your power in our community and all over the world! Amen!

Weekday

Reference

MONDAY

ACTS 2:22

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

doubtful (or fearful) those feelings could ever manifest in the physical. In other words, as long as our experience is internal, we can control the outcome.

We can rest assured regardless of what the skeptics may think, the God of the Bible is alive and well and is working miracles today just as He always has. Hebrews 13:8 says, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.* He desires that His children become the conduits of His miracle-working power, as a testimony of His love to a lost and broken world.

Ask yourself today, “Do I see God as a benevolent source of help and possible good fortune?” or “Do I serve Him with joyful expectancy believing that He will perform the miraculous today, and it might be through me?”

God performs miracles yet He chooses to work through people. Why do you think God chooses to partner with us to bring about His miracles?

Day 23

PREPARING FOR A MIRACLE

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

JAMES 2:17-18

Two neighboring farmers sat reading the Farmer’s Almanac on a cold winter morning, planning for the coming spring. When they read the rainfall prediction for growing season, much to their alarm, they discovered that the almanac was calling for the driest year in recorded history. After a few minutes of discussing different possibilities, both being church-going men, they agreed the best thing to do was to pray and ask God to send the rain needed for a successful yield of crops. After a few moments of prayer, they parted ways, each committing to continue praying for the much-needed rain.

A few months went by, and just as the almanac had predicted, virtually no rain had fallen. One day, as one of the farmers was headed into town, he passed the fields of the other farmer and saw him cultivating the dry, dusty fields, preparing to plant seed. Surprised by this seemingly futile activity, he stopped to inquire of his friend why, with the hopeless state of the soil, he

was plowing and planting. The faithful old farmer replied, “Well, we’ve been praying for rain, so I’m getting ready for it!”

Often, even though we know God delights in working miracles for His children, we fall into the trap of unbelief. With our mouths, we may say we believe, but our actions betray us. One farmer’s passivity and lack of preparation revealed his unbelief, while the other acted consistently with what he had asked God to do. As we stand in prayer and faith for God to work the miraculous in our lives, there must be corresponding activity consistent with our belief. How are you preparing today to receive a harvest tomorrow? What step of faith is God asking you to take related to the *Beyond* journey?

Do something today that demonstrates your faith in God’s promises. A kind word, an act of generosity, or a seed of hope is all it takes to begin preparing your fields for the coming rain!

PRAYER

God, I commit myself to be a person of action and not just faith alone. Open my eyes to opportunities surrounding me to act in accordance with my faith. Guide us as a church in the way of faith as we reach out in practical ways to our community and to our world! Amen!

Weekday

Reference

TUESDAY

JAMES 2:17-18

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 24

BELIEVING FOR A MIRACLE

Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”

JOHN 11:40

A little boy had come home from Sunday School and his mother asked him what he had learned that morning. “Well, Mother, we learned Moses went behind the enemy lines and freed the Israelites. Then he took the army engineers and built a pontoon bridge across the Red Sea. Then when the Egyptian tank division started to cross over the bridge he called in the dive bombers and blew them to bits.” His mother was outraged and said, “IS THAT WHAT YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER IS TEACHING YOU?!” The little boy looked down for a moment and finally said, “Well, no Mom, but if I told you what she taught us this morning there’s no way you would believe it!”

Sometimes it can be difficult to get around our own logical thoughts and make room for God to be God. Jesus faced the same type of skepticism in His ministry. We find His response to such doubt in Mark’s gospel: *But Jesus looked at them and said, With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible (Mark 10:27).*

PRAYER

Lord, I admit sometimes I make You too small and try to fit You into my mind. Forgive me for limiting You by my own thoughts. I need You to be big in my life. As a church family, we need You to be big in our homes, in our church, in our community, in our world. Give us world-changing faith to believe for a miracle! Amen!

Weekday

Reference

WEDNESDAY

JOHN 11:40

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

To experience God’s supernatural power in our lives, we must remove any limitations we have placed on God’s ability, even those based on logic and reason.

In all of our knowledge, we must make room for what is beyond our comprehension. The God who created everything exists and holds it all together, and He desires nothing more than to show up in your world in miraculous, unexplainable ways! That’s what the *Beyond* journey is all about! It is God’s ability to impact our community in supernatural ways, and He wants to do it through our lives!

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us... (Ephesians 3:20)

What miracle are you believing God for in your life? In your family? In your community?

Day 25

OBEDIENCE AND MIRACLES

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

LUKE 17:12-14

A young son of a missionary couple in Zaire was playing in the yard. Suddenly the voice of the boy's father rang out from the porch, "Phillip, obey me instantly! Drop to your stomach!" Immediately the youngster did as his father commanded. "Now crawl toward me as fast as you can!" The boy obeyed. "Stand up and run to me!" Phillip responded unquestioningly and ran to his father's arms. The youngster turned to look at the tree near where he had been playing and saw a large deadly snake hanging from one of the branches! At the first command of his father, Phillip could have hesitated and asked, "Why do you want me to do that?" Or he could have casually replied, "In a minute." His instant obedience without questioning saved his life!

Like this boy, the lepers from our passage today were healed as a result of their

obedience. Notice a key phrase at the end of verse 14, as they went, they were cleansed. Jesus had given them clear instructions to be followed in order to receive their request, and as they obeyed Him, the Bible says they were healed!

When we seek God for His miraculous intervention in our lives, whether it be in our circumstances, finances, relationships, or other needs, there may be some act of obedience that God has required of us. We can be confident that as we are quick to respond in obedience, just as the little boy was, we will experience God's protection, provision, and miraculous intervention in our lives.

Think of a time when you obeyed God's voice and saw God intervene on your behalf?

PRAYER

Lord, search my heart and show me if there is some response of obedience that You require of me. I don't want to allow anything to hinder Your work in and through my life. Help us as a church family to be a people determined to live in the miraculous blessing of obedience. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

THURSDAY

LUKE 17:12-14

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

GENEROSITY AND MIRACLES

There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many. Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.

JOHN 6:9-11

During a church meeting, a wealthy man rose to tell the rest of those present about his Christian faith. "I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I remember the turning point in my faith. I had just earned my first dollar and I went to a church meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who told about his work. I knew I only had a dollar bill and either had to give it all to God's work or nothing at all. At that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. I believe God blessed my decision, and this is why I am a rich man today." He finished and there was an awed silence at his testimony as he moved toward his seat. He sat down and a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over and said to him, "I dare you to do it again."

PRAYER

Father, give me an undivided heart. Reveal anything in my life more important to me than You, whether it be people, status, or money. Lord, I want to serve only You. Let us, at Church of the King, strive diligently to put You first in every area of our lives. Let us live an "above and beyond" life in our financial giving. Lead us into Your dream for us. Help us in the Beyond journey to leave a lasting impact of faithfulness and absolute surrender. In Your name, Amen!

FRIDAY

JOHN 6:9-11

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

Funny as it may seem, our friend's dilemma is one we all face. Whether our gift is small or large, sacrificial giving, above and beyond our tithe, is the mark of a heart completely surrendered to God's purpose.

The few pieces of bread and fish from today's passage seemed scarcely enough to make a difference. The boy's sacrificial gift, when given in faith, was met by supernatural multiplication. When we stand in faith for God's miraculous intervention in our lives, the test of stewardship shows where our heart truly is. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Luke 12:34)*

What areas can you better steward today, whether time, finances, family, talents, etc.?

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 27

BE AN IMPACT PLAYER

For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep...

ACTS 13:36A

Our culture is filled with icons and heroes, men and women who in some way have impacted our worlds: from baseball legend Babe Ruth, to the basketball star Michael Jordan, to corporate giants Henry Ford and Steve Jobs, and heroes of faith, like Billy Graham and Lottie Moon, the famous missionary to China. These people left their mark in this world.

Often, we are so mesmerized by these larger than life figures, the thought of our lives having the same lasting impact is more than we can imagine. But, do you know that is exactly what God wants to do with your life? Just like David, who we read about in the passage above, God has an unimaginable, supernatural purpose for our lives!

From the example of David's life, we discover God specializes in taking ordinary people from not so impressive

surroundings and doing extraordinary things through their lives. All it requires is a willing heart yielding our own dreams and agendas to God's perfect plan for us. When we submit our plans and aspirations to our heavenly Father, we will always be delightfully surprised to discover His dreams for us are always greater and more significant than our own.

Becoming an impact player in life begins when we realize God has created within each of us the potential for greatness. When we walk with Him and surrender to His purposes, this potential becomes molded into the kind of character and ability God uses to make a difference in our world. Come on, swing for the fence! You may just hit a home run!

What gifts has God given you that you can use by serving others in the church community?

PRAYER

Father, I believe You have created me with greatness and significance in mind. Help me today to recognize areas of my life where I have been limited by my own unbelief. I submit my life to You—every part. Make it what You want it to be. I pray for my church family and the leadership at Church of the King. Help us to be a church that impacts our community for Christ. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

SATURDAY

ACTS 13:36A

S — SCRIPTURE

O — OBSERVATION

A — APPLICATION

P — PRAYER

PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get Justice for me from my adversary.’ And he would not for a while; but afterward, he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’”

LUKE 18:1-5

George Mueller, known for his life of faith in operating orphanages in Bristol, England, began praying for five friends. After many months, one of them came to the Lord. Ten years later, two others were converted. It took 25 years before the fourth man was saved. Mueller persevered in prayer for 52 years, and even up until his death, never gave up praying that the fifth friend would accept Christ. His faith was rewarded, for soon after Mueller’s Funeral, the last one was saved.

We live in an “instant” world. We don’t want to wait one minute for the pop-tart to toast, so we pop it in the microwave for ten seconds. Even as Christians we often view our relationship with God as something similar to a cosmic vending machine. We forget God’s timing and divine providence are always perfect. A major part of obeying

PRAYER

Holy Father, give me the kind of tenacity and boldness these women had. Forgive me for growing weary and giving up in my own life when I have failed to press into You. Give me the tireless determination to impact my world for Your kingdom’s sake. Amen!

SUNDAY

LUKE 18:1-5

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

WEEK 05

Reference

HOW TO S.O.A.P.

You'll need three items (Bible, Pen & this book) to S.O.A.P. each day!

S – SCRIPTURE

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

O – OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you in this Scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

A – APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this Scripture can apply to you today.

P – PRAYER

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this Scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

LIVING BEYOND

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.

EPHESIANS 1:11

Since his famous “Heimlich maneuver” was introduced, Dr. Henry Heimlich has been credited with saving the lives of over 50,000 choking victims. To this day, Heimlich marvels at having become a household word.

“When my name went into the dictionary, that was a big deal,” he remembers, “I immediately looked over at the entry for Abraham Lincoln. He had just an inch. I had two inches because there was a drawing showing how to do the maneuver. Just imagine: I was bigger than Abraham Lincoln!” Dr. Heimlich has a “living legacy” through his monumental contribution to the world of medical first aid. His “living legacy” allows him to enjoy the accomplishment and legacy of his contribution to society while still alive.

What do you think of when you think about leaving a legacy? Some of us may think of leaving a great business empire or other organization, others may think of

material wealth, some position or sphere of influence, and still others a lifestyle that characterizes a family or group of people. Beyond all of these thoughts, the concept of legacy is much more. It comes from the idea of something of substance being intentionally and purposefully bequeathed or “willed” for the benefit of the heir.

Spiritually speaking, a legacy is more than simply inheriting property, position, or character traits. A legacy bears within it the weightiness of design, purpose, and intention. Today’s passage from Ephesians ties the idea of our inheritance to God’s purpose and will. The *Beyond* journey is a very practical expression of this concept because it paves the way for spiritual change in people’s lives for generations to come. Only as we begin to understand and live in God’s purpose for our lives can we leave a legacy of righteousness and the purpose of God for our children and others who come after us!

PRAYER

Father, I know Your purpose for my life doesn’t end with me. Help me to live with an understanding of purpose that transcends my own life. Lead us as a church family to prepare for the generations to come through the Beyond journey, and that each one will take part in leaving a legacy for the generations to come. Amen!

MONDAY

EPHESIANS 1:11

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 30

RIGHT CHOICES

But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

JOSHUA 24:15

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both...
...Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

This excerpt from the famous poem, *The Road Not Taken*, written by Robert Frost in 1916 pointedly brings to light that life is full of choices, and our tomorrows are based on our choices of today.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, “One’s philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes. In the long run, we shape our lives and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.”

Why is it that right decisions are more difficult to make than wrong ones?

Someone has accurately observed that the path of least resistance is what makes people and rivers crooked. Most of the decisions we make in life are not earth-shattering. History will see little difference in the cereal you chose to eat for breakfast, but there are choices in life that are important, even life-altering. These are choices made by every human being. And we have to live with the consequences.

Over the last weeks, we have looked at the many facets of God’s call on every Christian to make a difference in this world. We have talked about sacrifice, obedience, and surrender. We have seen the rewards of taking roads less traveled by, and have seen the difference it makes in the lives of so many.

How can the Beyond journey be a defining moment for you?

PRAYER

Lord, I pray that as we come together to commit to the Beyond journey, each of us will sacrificially give toward seeing Your kingdom come in this region. Thank You for the courage to make the right choice. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

TUESDAY

JOSHUA 24:15

S — SCRIPTURE

O — OBSERVATION

A — APPLICATION

P — PRAYER

UNSHAKEN

Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

LUKE 6:47-48

We have all heard the phrase, “It’s better to ask for forgiveness than permission.” Sometimes it truly is harmless, but often a truer interpretation would be, “I’ve already decided what I want to do, and I’m not really open to suggestions or to find out why it’s not a good idea.” Maybe we are hesitant to readily obey God because we lack confidence in Him, or others. Sometimes we hold on to negative images of past authority figures who, at least from our perspective, we’re just out to spoil our fun.

As prevalent as this attitude is, even among Christians, nothing could be further from the truth. God’s desire for humanity is for us to walk in the blessing and security of His abundant protection and provision. God created the world and the laws that govern it as a means of ensuring our security and sustenance. Isaiah 1:19 says, “*If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.*” In other words, it’s all available

PRAYER

God, I choose to build my life on the rock of obedience to Your Word. Thank You for giving me everything pertaining to life and godliness as I trust and follow Your commands. Have Your way in and through my life. Have Your way in my church. Thank You for Your provision of everything we financially need in the Beyond Journey. We are willing! Amen!

WEDNESDAY

LUKE 6:47-48

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

to us as we are willing to live within the guidelines that God has designed for this life. The Apostle Peter spoke of the blessing of the Christ-centered life when he wrote:

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:2-4)

It’s encouraging knowing God has provided everything we need to fulfill our role in the journey of life. We are unshaken when we embrace His life as our own.

Are there any insecure areas in your life that you have not surrendered to Jesus?

Day 32

THE POWER OF UNITY

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

PSALM 133:1

Have you ever seen The Avengers movie series? It's based on Marvel's comic superheroes who each have a diverse range of powers, personalities, and backgrounds. These superheroes also have their own focus and drive which usually results in disagreements and conflict. However, when the world is under attack from evil forces, these superheroes set aside their differences and operate in incredible unity to defeat their foe.

Look around our society today and there are plenty of hurting, wounded people in need of people who are operating as a part of a spiritual Avengers team. Who are those people? Don't look around. It's you! It's us! It's all of us who make up the body of Christ. As believers, each of us plays an important role in helping hurting humanity. We cannot afford to spend all of our times

arguing and splitting hairs over things that will not matter in the light of eternity. We must bring our differences together and allow the Lord to merge them in unity of the Spirit so we can be the healing hands of Jesus.

God said it is a good and pleasant thing when we all dwell in unity together. You may have heard the phrase "teamwork makes the dream work." Unity is a beautiful thing. We can accomplish more together than we can on our own. When we all work together to make a difference in our world, our efforts are expanded exponentially.

How can you be the catalyst for unity in a broken relationship? Identify one step you can take to begin the journey toward togetherness.

PRAYER

Lord, I want to be part of a spiritual team of my church that unifies together in making a difference in the lives of those in my neighborhood and community. Forgive me for holding on to something that doesn't matter from an eternal perspective. Lord, show me specific ways I can contribute toward the unity of Church of the King. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

THURSDAY

PSALM 133:1

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 33

YOU ARE A WINNER

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

ROMANS 8:37

Abraham Lincoln is widely recognized as one of the most revered presidents in American history. As a leader, he stood tall and strong in a crucial and decisive time in our history. We certainly would regard him as a successful man, but he experienced many failures throughout his life. When Abraham Lincoln went off to the Black Hawk War, he was a captain. Through no fault of his own, he returned a private, bringing an end to his military career. As a lawyer in Springfield, Illinois, he was too impractical, too unpolished, and too temperamental to be successful.

Turning to politics, he was defeated in his campaign for the legislature. He was defeated in his first nomination for Congress and rejected in his application as Commissioner of the General Land Office. He was defeated in the 1854 Senatorial election and in his aspirations for the Vice Presidency in 1856. Finally, he was elected President of the United States and fulfilled his destiny and changed the course of our nation. Although maybe not as dramatic,

Lincoln's experience is the experience of many of God's people. The enemy of our soul comes to us after repeated defeats and whispers in our ears, "You're a failure!" He tells us we will never win, we are trapped forever where we are and will never fulfill our God-given destiny.

In Romans 8:37, we read as believers in Christ that we are victorious. It says that we are *more* than conquerors. What a vivid word picture. We are not just conquerors, but more than conquerors.

Abraham Lincoln was more than a conqueror. He didn't allow his failures in life deter him from ever running for office again. Each failure propelled him to try again. He was a winner in heart and attitude. Once he was in office he influenced a nation. Your failures are stepping stones to your future. Without failure, there is no success. Galatians 6:9 says, "*And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we all reap if we do not lose heart.*"

PRAYER

Father God, I thank You I am a winner in You. Help me see my failures, weaknesses, and faults as You expose the areas of my life You want me to grow in. Help me influence others by sharing my own testimony of how You have helped me be more than a conqueror in You. Amen!

Weekday

FRIDAY

Reference

ROMANS 8:37

S — SCRIPTURE

O — OBSERVATION

A — APPLICATION

P — PRAYER

LIVING BEYOND YOURSELF

And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

GENESIS 17:7

The renowned theologian, Jonathan Edwards, was an American preacher, evangelist, and revivalist. Edwards played a critical role in the “First Great Awakening.” It has been said he was the greatest of all American theologians and philosophers. He was married to a godly young woman, Sarah Pierpont. In an investigation of their 1,394 known descendants, it was discovered that 13 became college presidents, 65 college professors, 3 United States senators, 30 judges, 100 lawyers, 60 physicians, 75 army and navy officers, 100 preachers and missionaries, 60 authors of prominence, 1 vice-president of the United States, 80 public officials in other capacities, and 295 college graduates, of whom were governors of states and ministers to foreign countries.

Jonathan Edwards’ legacy displays God’s intent to establish His kingdom and His righteousness throughout the generations of those who are committed

to Him and His purposes. The life God has called us to is one of spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical abundance (John 10:10), but that doesn’t just apply to our immediate situation. God’s desire is for His kingdom plan to be played out through families and generations built on His principles and promises.

The principle of God’s plan passing from one generation to the next applies not only to our natural children but also to our “spiritual children.” God’s desire is for each of us to invest in others in such a way that they become our spiritual children. In the same way we leave a tangible inheritance to our children, investing in God’s vision for our church through the *Beyond* journey ensures we leave a spiritual inheritance for those to come.

What is most important to you in preparing the way for those who come after you?

PRAYER

Lord, I want nothing more than to be used by You, not only in my lifetime but by living beyond myself and leaving a legacy of generational righteousness and blessing. Let my life impact the generation to come after me. Give our church family wisdom to build in such a way that the next generation will be set up for success. Show us how to lay a foundation of righteousness for future generations to build upon! Amen!

SATURDAY

GENESIS 17:7

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Day 35

DON'T LET THE FIRE GO OUT!

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

2 TIMOTHY 1:6 NIV

When the Olympics came to America in 1996, part of the experience was to see the Olympic flame. Preceding each Olympic games, a flame is lit from the eternal Olympic flame in Greece and then carried to wherever the Olympic Games are being held. The flame made its way to Atlanta for the opening ceremonies by traveling all over America first.

Volunteers and heroes from all over America carried torches holding the flame from place to place. As the flame was passing through Jackson, Mississippi, Harley Sheffield had the honor of carrying it on his bicycle. As he crossed the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, the expansion gate caused the tire on his bike to blow. The torch popped out of its holder, fell onto the bridge, and broke into pieces. The Olympic flame was extinguished.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I thank You that You are the flame giver and the restorer of my soul when I fall and stumble in life. Help me continue to fan into flame the precious spiritual life You have given me through faith in You. Help me use Your life in me to bring life to others around me. I pray for my church and the Beyond journey that each of us will find and fulfill our role in making it successful for Your glory. Amen!

Weekday

Reference

SUNDAY

2 TIMOTHY 1:6 NIV

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

Sheffield was horrified. “They would have to go all the way back to Greece and start over again!” he thought to himself. He would go down in history as the man who allowed the flame to go out! His panic was unnecessary because a “mother flame,” along with a replacement torch, was present in the trailing van. He resumed his duty and the Olympic flame traveled onward.

This story provides an excellent illustration of our walk with God. Sometimes the bicycle tires of our life blow out, we stumble, and our spiritual flame falls to the ground and goes out. If your flame has been doused or snuffed out, there is a “Father flame” who stands ready to light your torch today, and He will keep it lit.

Which God-given gifts have you allowed the Lord to reignite in your life?



**REACHING
PEOPLE
BUILDING
LIVES**

CHURCH^{OF}THE KING