

TIDINGS

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WEST TEXAS DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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Upward In Worship, Inward in Discipleship, Outward in Evangelism



From the Heart of the District Superintendent

You Were Made For More! 2 Kings 13:14-19 & 25



*Glenn & Betty Beaver
Superintendent*

Has there ever been an occasion in your life when you gave up on something? You just quit, threw in the towel, and said, "I'm done!" Too often we give up before we see the complete victory which the Lord has in store for us! There is a story of an event in the life of Joash, King of Israel during the end of the life of Elisha, the prophet of God. "Now when Elisha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash king of Israel went down to him and wept before him, crying, 'My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' And Elisha said to him, 'Take a bow and arrows.' So he took a bow and arrows. Then he said to the king of Israel, 'Draw the bow,' and he drew it. And Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands. And he said, 'Open the window eastward,' and he opened it. Then Elisha said, 'Shoot,' and he shot. And he said, 'The Lord's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Syria! For you shall fight the Syrians in Aphek until you have made an end of them.' And he said, 'Take the arrows,' and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, 'Strike the ground with them.' And he struck three times and stopped. Then the man of God was angry with him and said, 'You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Syria until you had made an end of it, but now you will strike down Syria only three times.' Then Joash the son of Jehoahaz took again from Ben-

hadad the son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from Jehoahaz his father in war. Three times Joash defeated him and recovered the cities of Israel." After Joash stroke the arrows on the ground three times he stopped.

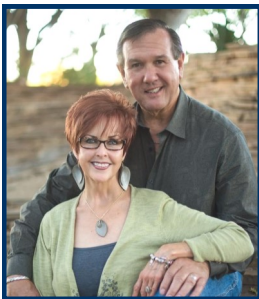
As we drill down in this passage, we can see what the Spirit is saying to us. First, **AVOID THE PAUSES IN OUR LIVES.** Verse 18 records Elisha's instructions and Joash's actions, "And Elisha said, 'Take the arrows,' and Joash took them. And he said to the king of Israel, 'Strike the ground with them.' And he struck three times and stopped." The disciples found themselves ready to PAUSE from their fishing, when Jesus had something more in mind. John 21 records the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, "Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, do you have any fish? They answered him, 'No,' He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish." Jonah is another person who hit PAUSE rather than obey God and preach to the city of Nineveh. As a result he found himself in the belly of a fishy situation! It will always be difficult when we go against God! How are you doing at avoiding the PAUSES in your life?

Second, **DON'T HIT PAUSE WHEN GOD SAYS DO MORE.** Verse 19, "Then the man of God was angry with him and said, 'You should have struck five or six times.'" The writer of Hebrews 12:1 penned it this way, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." As one Bible scholar wrote, "We must be willing to smite and smite, and smite, and smite again until every wicked passion, every evil appetite, every besetting sin is smitten to death in our hearts and Jesus is crowned Lord over all. Joash failed for the lack of persistence." Three times was not enough. Elisha said, "You should have struck five or six or a dozen times!" Jesus is coming friends and there is no time for slackers!!! There is an old song which we used to sing, **Jesus be the Lord of All:** "In my heart are kingdoms of a world that's all my own, kingdoms that are only seen by myself and God alone; In the past when I tried to rule my world, it just seemed to fall apart; so please Jesus be the Lord of all the kingdoms of my heart; I guess I only fool myself or I said I have yielded all; but in a secret corner of my heart was a kingdom that didn't fall. I surrender now, make my heart your throne, rule it's kingdoms, great and small; Jesus be the lord of all, the kingdoms of my heart, for if you're not Lord of everything, then you're not Lord at all!" Our purpose must be to do more.

Third, **THE PAUSE KEEPS US FROM THE FULL BLESSING.** Verse 16, "And Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands." God's hands on ours is the only guarantee of success. God's hand must be on our hand if the arrow is to find its mark and have the desired effect. Paul said, "We are laborers together with God" I Cor. 3:9. The hand of God was even on Jesus, Acts 10:38, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him!" If the hand of God was on Jesus, who do we think we are that we don't need God's hand on us? If we are to DO MORE we must have God's hand on us! When God's hand is on us we will AVOID THE PAUSE and walk in THE FULLNESS OF HIS BLESSINGS! When we let God's hands to be on our hands, that means we are involved in what God is blessing rather than asking God to bless what we are doing!

Fourth, **LET FAITH ARISE IN YOU AND BE MORE THAN A CONQUEROR.** Verse 15, "Then Joash the son of Jehoahaz took again from Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from Jehoahaz his father in war. Three times Joash defeated him and recovered the cities of Israel." Joash defeated the enemy three times when it could have been five or six or a dozen! Paul wrote in Romans 8:35 & 37, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Paul wrote this in his second letter to the church in Corinth 10:4-5, "For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ." All our spiritual enemies are to be conquered, and each wandering thought brought, "into captivity to the obedience of Christ." As faith arises in your heart you become the hand of God extended to a world that is in need of the love, the light and the grace of God! What will you do with your quiver of arrows? Will you keep them neat and clean? Or will you take them out and keep shooting them five or six or a dozen times, until every enemy of the gospel is vanquished and every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord? There is coming a day when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! And it won't be long!!! **YOU WERE MADE FOR MORE!**

District Secretary/Treasurer



Billy & Bettye
Nickell

Make It To The Other Side, Mark 14: 35-41

Few American Christians face the opposition fellow-believers around the world contend with on a daily basis, yet one of the great needs of the modern day church is for encouragement. Though our circumstances do not deserve to be compared with those where persecution is rampant, we too need to be reminded that we will make it to the other side if we persevere in faith. The Bible is replete with promises and stories that let us know God's plan has always been for His people to achieve what He has destined us to enjoy. Paul reminded the bishops and deacons at the church in Philippi, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6 KJV). The book of Jude, consisting of only 25 verses, concludes by telling of God's plan for every Christian to make it to the other side, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever Amen" (Jude 24-25 KJV). Isaiah 43:1-3 and Romans 8:37-39 are equally emphatic assuring the people of God of making it to the other side!

The ministry of Jesus had grown in popularity requiring a larger platform. On this occasion Mark says, "and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land" (Mark 4:1 KJV). Other translations and paraphrases say, "a very large crowd," or "a very great crowd." The attendance was of such that it necessitated Jesus to teach from a boat as His listeners eagerly assembled on the shore. Later that day the Savior and the disciples left the multitude and headed to the other side of Lake Galilee. Though it is not stated, Jesus needed rest and possibly wanted to relocate to share His ministry with others, as seen in Mark 5. This excursion was a nights journey and would normally not have taken long had they not encountered a fierce and unexpected storm. On board that night were experienced fishermen/sailors who were familiar with contrary winds and adverse circumstances, however, the setting on this occasion was more than the usual squall. The literal rendering says the waves "kept spilling over into" the boat until it was filling with water. The Amplified states, "And a furious storm of wind [of hurricane proportions] arose," while the American Standard Translation says, "a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the boat." Commentators point out an interesting and ironic truth taken from verse 36 where Mark reports, "they took him even as he was in the ship." This shows the voyage was taken in the same ship Jesus ministered in earlier that day. What was calm and serene earlier became the setting of fear and ultimate failure that night. As Jesus slept on a pillow in the rear of the boat the disciples battled the onslaught of nature in hopes of making it to the other side. Finally, their situation became so dire that they believed death was imminent. This is revealed in their rebuke to the Master when they awakened Him from His rest, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" (NIV). "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?" (GNT). "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" (RSV).

This story is reminiscent of perplexing and devastating storms of life each of us have faced in one form or another. The day has been filled with gratifying productivity, only to be interrupted by what appears to be unspeakable tragedy. A call in the night of a son or a daughter clinging to life that was vibrant only hours earlier. What appeared to be a solid marriage is suddenly threatened with news of infidelity. An established career, marked with multiple promotions and benefits, is disrupted by an unexpected termination. A voyage, that appeared to be normal and accommodating, is turned into disaster without warning, bringing into question a safe arrival to the other side. How do we know we will make it through this trial by fire to the other side? How can we be certain of completing an assignment ordained of God when the opposition indicates all hope is gone? Mark's record provides readers with simple yet profound answers that are applicable to young and old, seasoned and inexperienced. Here's a few keys to **Making It To The Other Side**.

The Announcement: This expedition was not undertaken based on the whims of the disciples. While it is a command of only eight words in the NIV, it is very important to note what Jesus spoke to these men, recorded in verse 35, "let us go over to the other side." That statement is a declaration asserting the crossing will be completed! He says in essence, "We are going over to the other side!" There is no uncertainty or ambiguity in His words. One of the great anchors of long-term and effective ministry is knowing you've heard His announcement directing you to your present assignment. It goes without saying, just because He announced for us to go to the other side does not mean our journey will be without storms that beat against us and threaten our security! After Jesus was awakened and He calmed the storm with His spoken word, He gently rebuked His followers in the boat by asking, "why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" It is not an injustice to Scripture to believe that He was saying to them, "Men, didn't I tell you we were going to the other side? What greater assurance do you need? I gave you My word that we would get there yet now you are filled with fear and unbelief!" Take hope man/woman of God! You're not at your present place of ministry because you flipped a coin or got lucky. The winds of challenge may be blowing at full strength but remember you embarked on this journey at **His announcement!**

The Accompaniment: When Jesus announced, "Let us go over to the other side," He included himself and that speaks volumes! "I'm going to be on board with you all the way to the other side!" If the church would ever lay hold to this truth it would reform the way we do business! Knowing He is in my boat and I'm following His command gives me confidence the world cannot give nor take away! This theme is seen throughout the Holy Writ. The psalmist thunders powerful words of affirmation in Psalm, 36:1-5 (KJV), "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early." Friend, let the devil bring on the armies of Egypt, his den of the lions, the inferno of Nebuchadnezzar's furnace, the hissing serpent of Eden, and the confused prophets of Baal! We have divine **Accompaniment** with His promise to never leave or forsake us! Our only offense and defense may be the rod of Moses, the sling of David, the jawbone of a donkey, the mantle of Elijah, an old rugged blood-stained cross, an empty tomb, a returning Christ, an upper room and a tear stained Bible that announces, "Upon this rock I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail," but that will be more than enough to take us to the other side!

The Affirmation: After being awakened by His disciples Jesus exercised authority and power over the tempest. "And He arose and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, Hush now! Be still (muzzled)! And the wind ceased (sank to rest as if exhausted by its beating) and there was [immediately] a great calm (a perfect peacefulness)" (Mark 4:39 Amplified). This should be the norm for the church of today as it was for the early believers. Mark concludes his gospel by reporting, "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen" (Mark 16:20 KJV). Be assured, friend, you're going to make it to the other side! You have **His Announcement, His Accompaniment, and His Affirmation!**

Director of Church Ministries



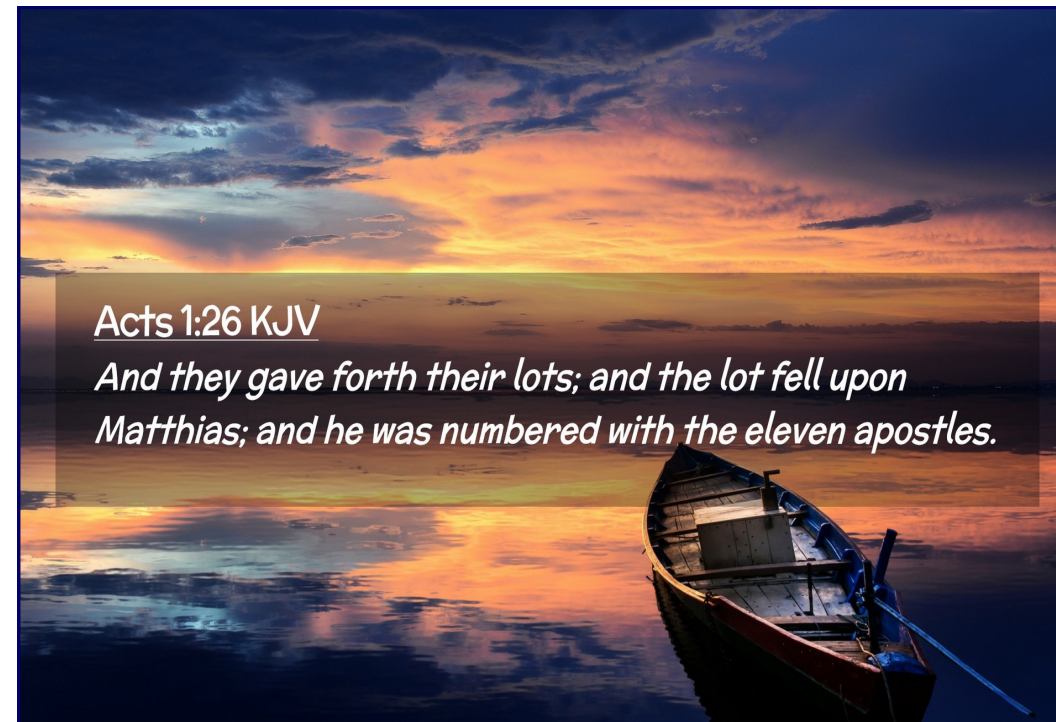
The Rewards of Faithfulness

"Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven" (Acts 1:26 NLT). After the Ascension of Jesus, the disciples went to the Upper Room to wait for the Promise of the Holy Spirit as had been promised. The disciples were still, no doubt, confused and hurting that one of their very own had betrayed Jesus. Peter stands up and addresses the 120 who had gathered together and he deals with Judas' betrayal in the light of Scripture sighting Psalm 41:9. It is good to remind ourselves that nothing happens outside of God's providence. Next, they set their attention to finding someone to replace Judas. "So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus—from the time He was baptized by John until the day He was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus' resurrection" (Acts 1:21-22 NLT). In the end, only two men met the criteria: Joseph, surnamed Justus, and Matthias. They then cast lots to see who the Lord would choose and the lot fell on Matthias. The idea of casting lots goes back to the Old Testament. They did not view the casting of lots as simply luck or happenstance, but believed God would overrule the laws of chance and reveal His will. Proverbs 16:33 conveys this idea, "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord." It is interesting to note that after the Day of Pentecost we never read where the church casts lots, but they relied on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Tracy & Cara Lynn
McWilliams

We really don't know much about Matthias as he is only mentioned a couple of times in Scripture. We never see him preaching a sermon or doing anything noteworthy. So, how did a virtual nobody become one of the 12 Apostles? He simply showed up and faithfully followed Jesus. He was there with his toes in the sand when Jesus was being baptized. He was there when Jesus fed the 5,000. He was there when Jesus exhaled His last breath and the sun grew dark. We never see Matthias seeking notoriety or fame. Matthias never sought for a position, but the position found him. Don't seek after a position, seek after His Presence and your calling will find you. Be willing to serve God even when you're not in the spotlight. I have often witnessed individuals worship and serve the Lord when they were on the stage or when they were seeking a certain position. But we should be just as enthusiastic in serving and worshipping God even when we are not front and center and think no one is looking. Sometimes we grow weary and discouraged because the work that we do seems to go unnoticed, but rest assured that God knows and sees all. Even the things that we do that others view as insignificant God takes note of. Jesus said, "And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded" (Matthew 10:42). Sometimes the most radical thing we can do is show up. Some people will go on to do great things for the Lord, but most of us will not. Some will have the privilege to pastor a large church, but most of us will not. Some will have the opportunity to preach a message to thousands of people around the world, most of us will not. Some will write a book that will top the best sellers list, but most of us will not. Some will write a song that will be played on the radio, but most of us will not. But we must come to the realization that God counts faithfulness to what He has called us to as success. Be encouraged today that what you do matters to God. Our rewards may not always come in this life, but there will be a payday. One day, you stand before God and hear these words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you rulers over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord" (Matthew 25:23 NKJV).



Acts 1:26 KJV

And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon
Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.



Around West Texas

Churches

West Texas Bible Institute

Ministers

Open Church List & Relaunch Opportunities

***Pampa, New Life Assembly of God**
***Sunray, Assembly of God**
Contact: Kevin Anderson, Presbyter
P.O. Box 511, Stratford, TX 79084
Phone: 806.922.2840

***Plains, First Assembly of God**
Contact: Danny Williams, Presbyter
1801 CR 151, Snyder, TX 79549
Phone: 325.575.2861

****Spur, First Assembly of God**
Contact: Raymond Mizelle, Presbyter
408 Broad Way, Roaring Springs,
TX 79256 Phone: 806.422.1092

***Imperial, Assembly of God**
Contact: Mike Hanks, Presbyter
100 West Wadley, Midland, TX 79705
Phone: 432.528.8592

***Fort Stockton, First Assembly of God**
Contact: Mike Hanks, Presbyter
100 West Wadley, Midland, TX 79705
Phone: 432.528.8592

***Whiteface, Living Water Fellowship**
Contact: Glenn R. Beaver
P.O. Box 64778, Lubbock, TX 79464
Phone: 806.792.5835

***District Affiliated Church**
****Relaunch Opportunity**

Prayer Requests: Nancy Buxton (mother of Ron Buxton) COPD, given days to live; **Rhonda Matheny**, complete healing from surgery; **Marsha McNeely** (husband David, US Missionaries), had a hysterectomy because of uterine cancer. She is doing great now but will be having 3 radiation treatments in August; **Becky Nenstiel**, cancer; **Mylinda Wood**, (sister of Tracy McWilliams), ALS; **Chuck & Judy Redger**, healing; **Rey Rodriguez**, Muscular Dystrophy; **Luther Foster**, health issues; **Annette Newberry**, Dementia; **George & Janice Mullen**, health issues and strength; **Regina Gonzalez**, autoimmune disease; **Brenda Van Hoose**, autoimmune disease; **Perry Shuffield**, health issues; **Patsy Anderson**, (mother of Kevin Anderson), heart issues; and **Sue Stevens**, (mother of Darla Anderson), Dementia.

September 9, 2023

Certified: Intro to Pentecostal Doctrine

Licensed: Revelation & Daniel

Ordained: Pastoral Ministry

October 14, 2023

Certified: Ministerial Ethics

Licensed: Theology of Missions

***Last day to register is September 22.**

Available for Ministry:

Gene Benningfield	806.456.2029
Larry Boyd	806.778.7677
Kelly Breckenridge	806.787.0355
Eric Brooks	940.473.1297
Danny Brown	806.577.3580
Brad Froese	806.928.2815
Edward Garner	240.419.4736
Margie Gonzales	806.282.0534
Mike Matheny	806.200.9959
J.C. Owen	432.254.8629
Jerry Pollard	806.330.0969
David Sasse	806.300.8717
Marcus Tanner	903.330.1560
Justin Unwin	806.220.3200



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of **Grace Wooten** and **Arthur Ross**. **Grace Wooten** stepped from this life and into the presence of the Lord on July 28, 2023. She was an Ordained minister with the West Texas District where she served for many years in pastoral ministry. She is the mother of **Judy Wooten** who is credentialed with the district. **Arthur Ross** passed from this life on August 13, 2023 just a few months after his precious wife, **Mary Beth**, received her eternal reward on May 4, 2023. Arthur and Mary Beth are the parents of **Tom Ross** (June), who is an Ordained minister with the West Texas District. Please be praying for the Holy Spirit to comfort these families during this difficult time.

Isaiah 53:5

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

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September 29-30, 2023
 DATE & TIME

Plainview First Assembly
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DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS SEPTEMBER 11TH



Register at tithe.ly/event-registration/#/5683394



Phil McGechie
 Men's Ministry Director



WEST TEXAS
MEN'S
 MINISTRIES
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Helping men be who God wants them to be in the home, church, and marketplace.

I'm excited about the opportunity for the men in our district to become devoted followers of Christ and become who God desires them to be...in the home, church, and marketplace. There are links on our website to excellent studies and resources that will help the men in your church become the leaders God wants them to be.



Discipleship Resources - These small group studies were created to allow men to grow in Christ through their Men's Groups at church or by personal study. Check it out!



Light For The Lost - Light For The Lost provides evangelistic resources for missionaries and missionary partners through five platforms: print, audio, video, internet, and technologies. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR LFTL!**

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Men's Ministry App - All of this info on your electronic devices...**AND IT'S FREE!**

ROARING SPRINGS CAMP
FOLLOW



**Nick, Alicia,
Nash, & Anna**

2023 CAMPS - DATA

- Campers, Monitors, Staff, and Volunteers: 966
- Campers: Accepted Jesus - 208
- Campers: Rededications - 213
- Campers: Called to Ministry - 170
- Campers: Filled with the Holy Spirit - 354

Thank you for praying with us over our 2023 Camp Season! We are amazed at what God did in the lives of our West Texas kids, youth, and adults this summer!

Need more info about our events?

WWW.WTXNEXT.COM

has everything you need!



**Join us at YTH CON
in November!**

More info coming soon...



**LIFE CHALLENGE'S
NEW STL VEHICLE!**

Thank you for helping us purchase a 7 passenger minivan for Life Challenge Amarillo! Pastor Daniel Spitler is excited to see the vehicle used for their ministry. This vehicle will provide transportation for small ministry teams, doctors visits, and various appointments for the students of Life Challenge!!

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2023 Annual Banquet**

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- ∞ *Live Music from True-Lite Christian Fellowship and the Teen Challenge Choir*
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**“Behold, I am making
all things new.”**

Revelation 21:5