

TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 2024

VOLUME LXXVIII NUMBER 2

WEST TEXAS DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

“
**LOVE THE LORD YOUR
GOD WITH ALL YOUR
HEART AND WITH ALL
YOUR SOUL AND WITH
ALL YOUR MIND.**”

MATTHEW 22:37

Upward In Worship, Inward in Discipleship, Outward in Evangelism

West Texas District Assemblies of God District Officer



GLENN R. BEAVER

Superintendent
grbeaver@sbcglobal.net

NELSON GONZALEZ

Assistant Superintendent
pastornelson@plainviewfirst.org

BILLY D. NICKELL

Secretary/Treasurer
fantastic1316@gmail.com

SECTIONAL PRESBYTERS

Kevin Anderson, North Plains
Danny Williams, South Plains
Raymond Mizelle, East Plains
Nick Hester, West Plains
Mike Hanks, Pecos
Bobby Garcia, El Paso

HONORARY PRESBYTER

Tom Lakey

TIDINGS EDITOR & DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MINISTRIES

Tracy McWilliams
tracy.mcwilliams@sbcglobal.net
Please notify editor of any change of email address.

Web site: westtexasag.org



From the Heart of the
District Superintendent



*Glenn & Betty Beaver
 Superintendent*

All Kinds of Prayers: Ephesians 6:18

“Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.”

Twice, in this verse, Paul instructs the Ephesian believers to use prayers of **supplication**. The word supplications means, “to make humble entreaty; to ask humbly and earnestly.” Rick Renner suggests, “When a believer effectively uses ‘prayers of supplication’ these kinds of prayer are like a lance which was part of the armor of the Roman soldier. These kinds of prayer are used to be thrust forth into the spirit realm against the malevolent works of the adversary.”

We must not assume that all prayer is of the same kind. For example, Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem as recorded Luke 19. This was a prayer of **intercession** for His people who failed to realize this was their day of visitation. We too must take up the prayer of intercession for our city, county, state, nation, and world. This prayer of Jesus

was vocalized with crying and weeping over the condition of His fellow Jews. John 11 records another occasion when Jesus wept. This was on the occasion of assuring Martha of His power to resurrect Lazarus from the dead. Scripture records how He wept, as one translation records John 11:35, “He burst into tears.” The unbelief of His followers caused Him to “groan in the spirit.” Today as we cry out to God to send revival in our land we too must use all manner of prayers. The Psalmist records his thoughts regarding our crying in prayer, “You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.” Jesus prayed three times, “Let this cup pass from me, not my will but thine be done” Matthew 26. God will send times of refreshing when His people intercede for our families and peoples of the world.

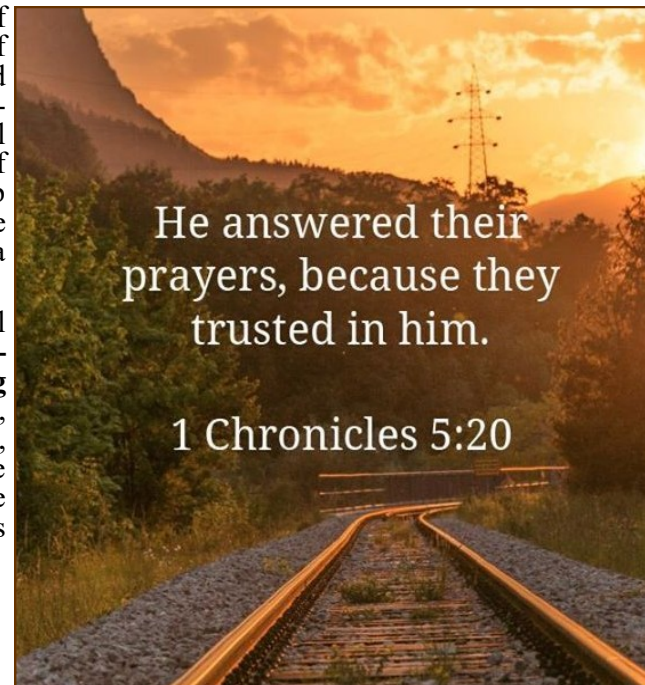
There are times for us to use the prayer of **agreement!** Matthew 18:19 records the words of Jesus, “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.” Amos 3:3 puts it this way, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Paul and Silas prayed the prayer of agreement during their imprisonment in the Macedonian city of Philippi. Acts 16:25 records, “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, [the prayer agreement] and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.” Not only did the other prisoners hear them, God heard them and delivered them.

Another kind of prayer is **united prayer**. Acts 12 records the story of Peter being delivered from prison in answer to the prayers of a body of believers. In our day, when the church prays in united prayer God will answer! Verse five shows the importance of united prayer, “Peter was held in prison, but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.” God heard the united prayers of the church and set about a great deliverance on behalf of Peter. When Peter’s deliverance came he had to prepare for the miracle which was occurring. The angel of the Lord told him, “get up, get dressed, put your sandals on, we are out of here.” Obedience to God’s Word always brings deliverance. Today the people of God must continue to pray to God without ceasing for revival.

Renner concludes his comments regarding these different kinds of prayer with these thoughts. “Paul instructs us to use every form of prayer that has been made available to us as it is needed. No one kind of prayer is better than the others; each serves a different and necessary purpose in the life of faith. Never forget that prayer is a vital piece of your spiritual weaponry. If you neglect this strategic piece of weaponry, you will find that the enemy keeps attacking your from up close. But as you learn to pray with authority, you will develop the ability to strike the enemy from a distance and therefore maintain a victorious position in your life.”

As we prepare for revival in the days ahead, let us continue to use all these kinds of prayer. Prayers of **supplication, intercession, agreement, and united prayer**. Myles Monroe in his book, **Understanding the Purpose and Power of Prayer**, quotes John Wesley who said, “God does nothing but in answer to prayer!” Monroe concludes, “Prayer is therefore not an option for mankind but a necessity. If we don’t pray, heaven cannot interfere in earth’s affairs. It is imperative that we take responsibility for the earth and determine what happens here by our prayer lives.”

LET US PRAY ALL KINDS OF PRAYER!!!

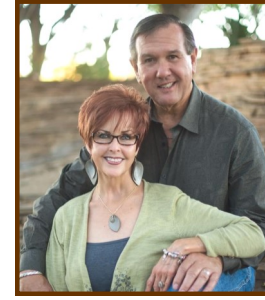


He answered their
 prayers, because they
 trusted in him.

1 Chronicles 5:20

District Secretary/Treasurer

Keep The Fire Burning: Part 2, Leviticus 6:8-13



*Billy & Bettye
 Nickell*

The word **fire** is found over five-hundred times in the Bible and in many of those instances it is associated with man and his worship of God, or God’s presence, in the form of a constructive or destructive force. While the word **fire** is not named in Genesis 15, the elements of fire are mentioned in this setting where God appeared to Abram in a vision and informed him that He was his shield and his exceeding great reward. The ensuing conversation is marked with a question from Abram, divine insight and directives, a sacrificial offering, and a deep sleep coming upon this man of faith, followed by a **smoking furnace, and a burning lamp** that passed between the sacrificial pieces. The first time **fire** is actually named is Genesis 19 where Sodom, Gomorrah, and the surrounding cities were destroyed as fire and burning sulfur rained upon them. Later, we read of **fire** being part of Abraham’s worship as he and Isaac journeyed to the prescribed location for Isaac to be sacrificed in the mountain range of Moriah. Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy are replete with mentions of **fire** in association with God, along with the book of Joshua. The text for part 1 and part 2 of this article repeatedly stress **the fire shall be kept burning on the altar**. Earlier, in the first teaching Leviticus 9:22-24 was referenced where Aaron presented the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offering. He then stepped down from the altar and he and Moses went into the Tabernacle. Upon returning they blessed the people again, “and the glory of the LORD appeared to the whole community. Fire blazed forth from the Lord’s presence and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When the people saw this, they shouted with joy and fell face down on the ground” (KJV). God’s edict to His people then and now requires diligence and exertion of time, sacrificial effort and generous resources to keep active that which was birthed supernaturally! **THIS FIRE IS DIVINE** and nothing can take the place of **GOD-FIRE!** This truth was central in Paul’s letter to the churches in the region of Galatia. “Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ’s death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? **After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? Have you experienced so much for nothing?** Surely it was not in vain, was it?” (Galatians 3:1-4 NLT).

The name, A. C. Bates, is well known and respected in Assemblies of God circles. Brother Albert Bates was ordained to ministry in 1918 when the General Council was only four-years old. He was a stalwart for Pentecost, often hitchhiking to his revivals. Many years ago at a **Prayer and Bible Conference**, Bro. Bates marched his 6’7” frame to the platform, took the pulpit and addressed the audience of A/G pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and parishioners. He commenced by telling of the early days of Pentecost in our fellowship and the sacrifices that were then the norm. He told how churches back then did not have the modern conveniences we enjoy today. It was not uncommon for congregations to have church in a brush arbor, a barn, open fields or an abandoned store front. Seldom was there a public address system, a piano, a climate controlled building, or padded pews. More than one itinerant preacher had to hitchhike or scape together enough change to buy a bus ticket to get to their next meeting. It was no surprise for a revival to be opposed by people of the town throwing rotten tomatoes and eggs at the preacher and the audience. He then said, “Even though we did not have the finer things we enjoy today . . . in spite of the hardships and challenges, we kept the anointing/fire of God in our lives and our services!” He then went on to conclude, “My challenge to you today is, ‘Will you be able to keep the fire burning **WITH** all the blessings and amenities that you now have at your disposal?’” **This Fire Is Divine.**

This Fire Discriminates: The Oxford University Press Dictionary defines **discriminate** as, “recognize a distinction, perceive or constitute the difference in or between.” I’m well aware such a statement is not politically correct in today’s all-inclusive world, however, Scripture substantiates this truth. The definition that comes to the mind of many when the word **discriminate** is heard is, “to make an unjust distinction in the treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, sex, or age.” Here is God’s definition in John 3:8, spoken by Jesus, “The wind blows wherever it wants.” The Holy Spirit didn’t fall on everyone in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, it fell on the 120 who had come together in obedience to the directive of the risen Savior. **God-fire** didn’t fall on both altars at Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18! It fell on the altar that had been prepared by the man of God, Elijah! One prophet of God representing the God of Israel against four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal! “Let the God that answers by fire be God.” From morning until noon Jezebel’s prophets cried out to Baal, the Sun-god, the god of fire, to prove himself and send fire from heaven and consume their sacrifice. In spite of their labor and sincerity the one missing ingredient was **God-fire** upon the altar. There are a number of striking similarities to the religious world of our day that are not lacking in activity, fervor, or attempts to obtain spiritual power. To the contrary, our church calendars are filled with services, retreats, conferences, programs, fellowships, and special meetings. We’re hard at work staying busy - making a lot of noise - hoping people will be convinced we have the goods. However, the age-old problem remains! If the Divine and the Discriminating Fire of God is absent, we’re spitting in the wind! After rebuilding the altar of God, digging a trench around the altar, drenching the place of sacrifice with twelve large barrels of water to erase all doubt of trickery, cutting up the sacrifice, and praying a 63 word prayer, God-fire came upon the altar, consuming the sacrifice, wood, stones, dust and water in the ditch surrounding the altar. Bible scholars believe something similar happened in Genesis 4 where Cain and Abel presented their offerings to the Lord. Take note of the **God-discrimination** that day, “And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect” (Genesis 4:4b-5a KJV). It is believed God’s **acceptance** of Abel’s offering was manifested when **God-fire** fell on Abel’s sacrifice! Make no mistake, God wants to send His fire once again to His house and His people but proper preparation must be made! **This Fire Is Divine! This Fire Discriminates!**

This Fire Devours: Scripture shows God-fire devours in both positive and negative ways. In a positive way it devours dross, deadness, discouragement and despondency. Psalm 104:4 says, “Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire” (KJV). The record tells in Luke 24 of the two men who were accompanied by Jesus while in route to Emmaus. After having their eyes opened later at dinner that evening they reported, “Did not our hearts burn within us as He talked with us on the road and explained Scriptures to us?” In a negative way, it **devoured** Aaron’s two sons, Nadab and Abihu, who **offered strange fire . . . fire not authorized by God!** It was this fire that burned the discouragement and the resignation from ministry from the heart of the Jeremiah who had every intention of leaving the ministry! Yet rather than **resigning**, the prophet **re-signed** by proclaiming, “Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name, but his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay” (Jeremiah 20:9 KJV). **God-fire** is still the answer for burnout, weariness, fatigue, depression, unforgiveness, a critical spirit, self-righteousness, inferiority, doubt, fear, apathy, and all the world, the flesh and the devil wants to fill us with! There’s something better than pills and alcohol to address our issues . . . **it’s God-fire! KEEP THE FIRE BURNING!**

Director of Church Ministries



One Thing God Speaks

“One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: ‘Power belongs to you, God, and with You, Lord, is unfailing love, and You reward everyone according to what they have done’” (Psalm 62:11-12, NIV). Many people wonder if God speaks and, if so, what is He saying? God does speak and He has a word for you. God is a speaking God. In fact, the Bible states that a god who cannot speak is no God at all (Psalm 135:15-17). The Bible reveals at least five ways that God speaks and reveals Himself to us.



Tracy & Cara Lynn McWilliams

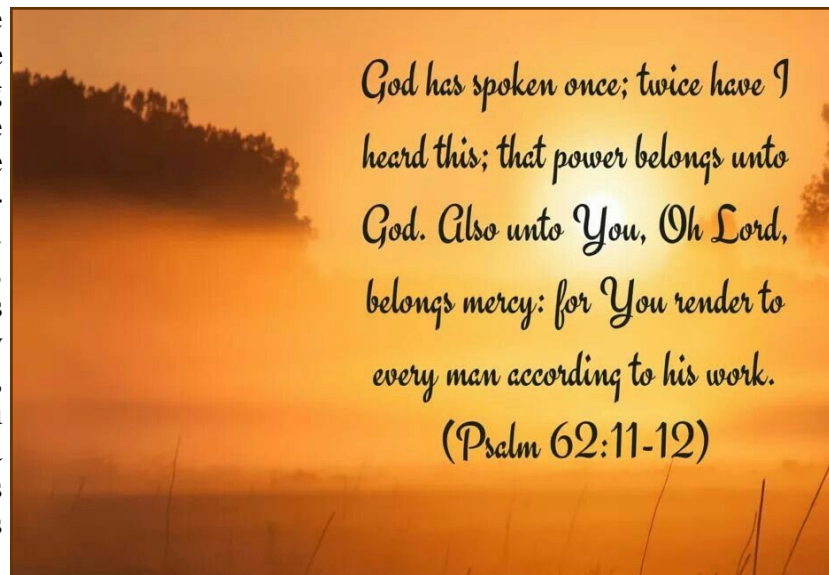
1. Creation – “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech; they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world” (Psalm 19:1-4a). God’s handprints are all over His creation. The design shouts that there must be a designer. When we look at the majesty of creation, we ought to be in awe of God and worship Him as Creator.

2. Conscience – “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse” (Romans 1:18-20, NIV). Our conscience gives us a sense of right and wrong. It is God’s warning light. Everyone has the capacity of knowing right from wrong. When we hear reports of mass shootings, we instinctively know that it’s wrong. The moment a person violates their conscience they are acknowledging their rebellion against God. Our conscience gives us a sense of God’s truth, but it is insufficient by itself because it can be unreliable. A person’s conscience may be good, bad, corrupted, weak or even seared.

3. Circumstances – God spoke to Jacob through dreams, to Abraham on Mount Moriah, to Moses in a burning bush, to Isaiah through visions, and to Job through family tragedies. God often speaks through finances, failures, tragedies, sickness, difficulties, and tests. C.S. Lewis wrote, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, but shouts in our pains.” When your health gets bad, you listen to the doctor. When life gets hard, listen to God!

4. Commandments – “And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:15-16, NIV). One of the primary ways God speaks to us is through His Word. As you read the Bible, you learn to hear God’s voice.

5. Christ – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 9, 14, NIV). Jesus is the Word who gives us logic and language, revelation, and reason. God has spoken through His Son. When Jesus was on the earth He was constantly saying, “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30, NLT). If you want to get to know the Father, then you must get to know the Son. In fact, you cannot have a relationship with the Father apart from His Son. God is always speaking, but are you listening to what God is saying?”



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

***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: Nick Hester
 2717 58th Street, Lubbock, TX 79413
 Phone: 832.275.1611

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

February 10, 2024
 Certified: New Testament Survey
 Licensed: Acts

Ordained: Prayer & Worship

March 16, 2024
 Certified: Intro to Theology
 Licensed: Evangelism

Ordained: The Corinthian Correspondence

***Last day to register is for the March class is February 23.**
 Contact Tracy McWilliams for more information.



Transferred In:
 Alvaro Cassio (L) North Texas

Available for Ministry:

Gene Benningfield	806.456.2029
Larry Boyd	806.778.7677
Kelly Breckenridge	806.787.0355
Danny Brown	806.577.3580
Donna Carnagey	806.632.4970
Brad Froese	806.928.2815
Edward Garner	240.419.4736
Margie Gonzales	806.282.0534
Mike Matheny	806.200.9959
Phil McGechie	918.541.8882
J.C. Owen	432.254.8629
Jerry Pollard	806.330.0969
David Sasse	806.300.8717
Marcus Tanner	903.330.1560

Save the Date

2024 Celebration/District Council

July 15—17

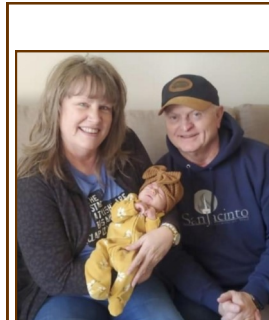
Christian Life Assembly of God

Lubbock, Texas

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of **Howard Richey** and **Jack Hargrave**. **Howard Richey**, (wife Carol Ann), stepped into his eternal reward on January 3, 2024. He is the father of **Melody Willis** whose husband **Eddie** is an Ordained minister with the West Texas District.

Jack Hargrave, (late wife Erma) entered the gates of heaven on January 11, 2024. Bro. Jack was an Ordained Minister with the West Texas District. He and Erma served as pastor and evangelist for over 70 years. Please be praying that the Holy Spirit will comfort these families during this difficult time.

Prayer Requests: **Cara Lynn McWilliams**, upcoming carpal tunnel surgery in two places in right arm; **Sherman Metcalf**, (father of Cara Lynn McWilliams), knee replacement; **Becky Nenstiel**, cancer; **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; **My linda Wood**, (sister of Tracy McWilliams), ALS; **Patsy Anderson**, (mother of Kevin Anderson), heart issues; and **Sue Stevens**, (mother of Darla Anderson), Dementia.



New Granddaughter:
Billy & Robin Snider
 (Lead Pastors, San Jacinto, Amarillo) are the proud Grandparents of **Maddilen Grace Elliott** who was born on January 19, 2024. Her proud parents are **Jerry & Amanda Elliott** and her aunt is **Megan Snider**.



New Great-grandson:
Glenn & Betty Beaver
 (West Texas District Superintendent) are the proud Great-grandparents of their 6th Great-grandchild **Layne Carter Bureson** who was born on January 10, 2024. His proud parents are **Camden & Kamrynn** and his uncle and aunt are **Manny & Patti Castro**, (Lead Pastors, Lamesa, Life Changers Church). He was also welcomed into the family by his Pops and Lolli, **Chad & Kristi (Beaver) Russell**, grandparents.



Christina Sattesahn
Women of Purpose
Director



CAPTIVATED

SPRING CONFERENCE

April 6, 2024

\$65



Embassy Suites Downtown Amarillo

REGISTER BY MARCH 15

download full details at www.wtwomen.com/events

HIGH ALTITUDE MEN'S RETREAT



FEBRUARY 22-24 2024



BILLY NICKELL

FRIDAY NIGHT



NELSON GONZALEZ

SATURDAY MORNING

REGISTER AT
WTMEN.COM



CHRIST MISSION COLLEGE
WORSHIP

**2 NIGHTS AND
ALL MEALS INCLUDED:**

EARLY BIRD RATE: \$160

***END FEB. 9TH**

REGULAR RATE: \$175

PRIVATE ROOM: \$100

BONITA PARK CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER
200 BONITA PARK RD
ANGUS, NM



FINE ARTS 2024

FINE ARTS REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW! Check out wtxnext.com for more information!



Nick, Alicia, Nash, & Anna

Need more info about our events?

WWW.WTXNEXT.COM

has everything you need!



KIDCON REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Register NOW on Brushfire!
<https://brushfire.com/wtxnext/kidcon-2024/568684>

ROARING SPRINGS CAMP UPDATES



Happy New Year from RSC!

- Due to the freezing temperatures, we had to reschedule PK retreat for January 26-28. We love our West TX PK's and enjoy spending time with them each year!
- Walk to Emmaus will be happening February 1-4. Please be in prayer with us that the men who participate will be able to experience the Lord's presence in a new way.



Camp Considerations

New Year Giving Projects

Be on the lookout over the next few months for some exciting new projects we will be working on this year and for ways to get involved, both big and small. We are excited for what the Lord has in store this year!

One of the privileges of living at camp year round is the ability to observe the seasonal changes of nature. The natural order that God created ebbs and flows with the changing of the weather before our eyes. One of my favorite examples of this happening is that, twice a year, (once when it warms up in the spring and once when it starts to cool down in the fall), we become almost overrun by bees. They are EVERYWHERE. But, just when we start to wonder if we're going to be surrounded by bees permanently, hundreds of barn swallows move back in to their little mud homes all over the camp. They begin to swarm around, feeding their hungry babies with the vast amount of bees. Within a week, almost all of the bees are gone. Just enough remain to fulfill the rest of their purpose.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 begins by saying "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." If the Lord is sovereign even in His timing of seasonal changes in nature, how much more can we take comfort in the fact that our lives are perfectly constructed within His hands? We can have peace knowing that the timing of His will for our lives fully rests in our All Powerful Creator. -Amy Castro

CALLLED

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE REGISTRATION LINK FOR EACH CAMP!**

**CAMP 2024
CAMP 2024**

**CAMP 2024
CAMP DATES:
KIDS CAMP 1: MAY 29-JUNE 1
YOUTH CAMP 1: JUNE 3-7
KIDS CAMP 2: JULY 10-13
YOUTH CAMP 2: JULY 22-26**



Mandy Pena



Pam Smith

West Texas Ladies in Ministry Summit

March 8-9, 2024

**Calvary Assembly of God
Midland, TX**



Ministers Retreat Cruise Registration in LIVE!

**Set sail with us for a relaxing and refreshing time! We are cruising from
November 11-16, 2024**

**on the Royal Caribbean Mariner of the Seas
with ministers from North Texas, South Texas, West Texas and Louisiana.**

For more information and to register go to:

<https://northtexas.ag/ministers-retreat/>

**We are praying and believing this will be an amazing time
of renewal and rejuvenation for you!**