

COGOP Texas Newsletter  
March 2023  
A publication of the  
Church of God of Prophecy  
Texas State Office



The Church of God of Prophecy

## TEXAS NEWSLETTER

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# PRAYER IS A CORE VALUE



Bishop Noel A. Vazquez

*“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” - Mathew 6:9-13*

“Pray without ceasing” (Thessalonians 5:17)! God established through prayer the means by which his spiritual children can communicate with Him, achieving through prayer a time of quality intimacy with Him.

We have in the Bible a perfect example of the value of prayer, Jesus, Jesus spent hours separated from people, in communion with his heavenly father, thus achieving a ministry with effective results. It is through prayer that our faith is strengthened, leading us to a pleasant obedience before God and through a prayer of faith we receive an answer through Jesus Christ, moving our father to work on our behalf, attending to our requests.

In prayer is the power of the believer, a believer who does not pray, is a believer who does not love, does not obey, and does not obey because he does not believe, and if he does not believe, he does not have communion with God.

During Jesus' ministry here on earth his disciples asked him to teach them how to pray, and Jesus taught them how to pray in Luke 11:1-4. He told them when you pray say "Our Father" this is like a son conversing with his father, teaching them, Jesus the value of God's fatherhood in prayer.



PRAYER



THE HARVEST



LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT



BIBLICAL  
STEWARDSHIP



SERVICE

*“To desire revival... and at the same time to neglect (personal) prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another.” – A.W. Tozer*





TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY  
**2023 CONVENTION**



*igniting*  
**KINGDOM HEARTS**

**JULY 28 - 30**

**SOUTHWESTERN  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD UNIVERSITY**

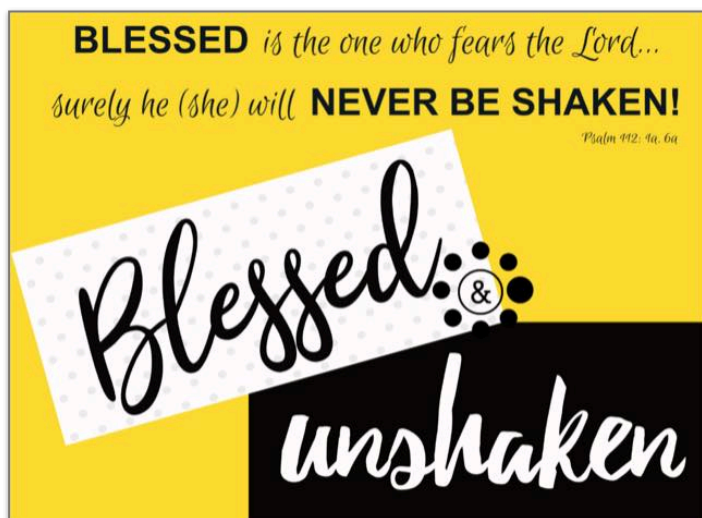
1200 SYCAMORE ST WAXAHACHIE, TX 75165



# LADIES RETREAT



Spanish Ladies Retreat is coming up, April 21-23, 2023. The theme is "Behind the Veil-Leah". Don't miss this special time of fellowship, praise, worship, classes and the word of God. The cost is \$160, after April 1 it is \$165. Join us at the Lakeview Methodist Conference Center, located at 400 Private Road 6036 Palestine, TX 75801. For more information contact Nohemy Ramírez 903-391-0085 or Yolanda Cerrato 832-387-1133.



The countdown for the English Ladies Retreat is on! It is scheduled for Apr. 28 - 30, at the Courtyard by Marriott Tyler, TX. You can now register online by going to [www.texascogopladies.org](http://www.texascogopladies.org). For more information please reach out to Loretta Swan at (903) 372-5693 or [swanloretta@gmail.com](mailto:swanloretta@gmail.com).

# TRIBE 2023

## Winter Camp

To God be the Glory for what He did during TRIBE weekend!! Won't He do it!? To see the youth of Texas come together for an amazing time of fellowship and a preparation for His Kingdom, is to know that we are ready to serve together from "Babylon!" Daily we are surprised by the miracles, signs, and wonders of God, and Tribe weekend was no different. We set a goal of 50 campers and the Lord surprised us with 75, giving us a total of 120 including staff! Only God!

Every outcome we have in our lives has a beginning, and as our TRIBE speaker, Omar Gonzalez, pointed out at our first night (by the fire pit and with sticky s'more fingers) "God is the one who has chosen us to be part of His family, as sons and daughters, He is not looking for a 'fan club' because in a 'fan club' you have to pay for an admission and with it comes an expiration day." When we follow God and become part of His TRIBE, we don't get an expiration day, all we really need to do is trust Him and His plans for your lives. The admission has already been paid for by our Lord Jesus, our TRIBE leader!

We experienced a glimpse of God's plans for us here in Texas, and we look forward for what is to come!

We want to thank all of the AMAZING staff who said yes to serving together with us on TRIBE weekend! Thank you for letting yourselves be guided by God according to your calling!

Pastors Yony & Rachel Felipe  
TRIBE DIRECTORS



# PREPARING FOR THE PROMISE



**Maeghan Spainhower**  
Regional Youth Director  
Hill Country

"God, what is taking you so long? Do you even hear my prayers?" This is a question I've asked many of times. As I'm sure everyone at some point on their Christian walk have asked God. There are times that God will put a dream or desire in our hearts and then turn around and give it to us instantly. Other times, (more times than not) he gives us these desires, and then.... Radio silence. He makes us WAIT. Which, if you're like me, you HATE doing! But I read something recently that really made me change my thought process for when I'm in the "waiting period". What I read said, "During our times of waiting, God is preparing us for his promise." In 1 Samuel the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter, God came to Samuel (the prophet at the time) and told him, "How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons."

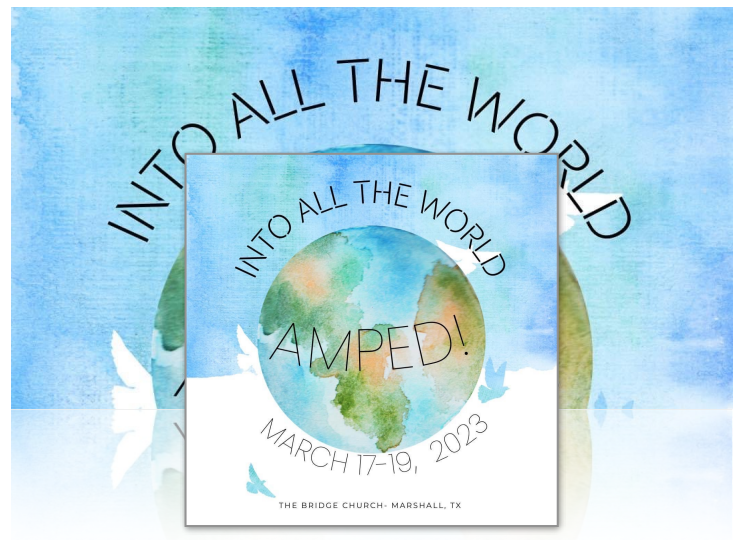
Samuel didn't really want to go because he was worried about being killed if Saul found out. But Samuel went and did what God told him to do anyways, and we all

know how the rest of the story went. Samuel looked at all of Jesse's sons until God told him which one would be anointed as the future King. You would think that at that moment David would have been anointed then and there and placed on the throne that same day. That's not how it went, David actually just went back to tending to his sheep. But why? Because God was preparing him. God wanted to take David through a process, and the anointing was a reminder of the promise that would come from the process. God knew that some things needed to happen in David's life BEFORE he could be king. Just like our lives, there are things the Lord needs to take us through BEFORE we can step into what he has called us and promised us to. God wants us to be the very best that we can be, and sometimes that takes going through a process. It takes waiting, and the word no one likes to hear... PATIENCE. So let your hearts be comforted, that God is preparing you right now. He is preparing you for the promises he has given you and the ALL the desires he has placed within your hearts!



*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15*

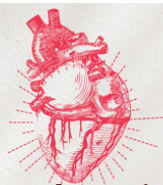
Our church family has lost a mighty woman of God! Sister Brenda Riggs Mathews received her call to be with our Heavenly Father on February 21. Our hearts are saddened as we must endure her absence, nevertheless, heavens rejoice as it receives a champion of love, kindness, servanthood, compassion, and faith. We will continue to pray for Pastor William Mathews, their entire family and church.



Join The Bridge Church as they host their annual youth event **AMPED: Into All the World**. This event will take place from March 17-19 in Marshall, TX. For more information, please contact Andrea Taylor or send an email to [bridgeyouthteam@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeyouthteam@gmail.com). Doors open Friday at 6PM!



# HEART CHECK



By Pastor Kenneth Benjamin

New Creation

Church of God of Prophecy

Texas City, TX

The notable American poet Emily Dickinson penned, "The heart wants what it wants- or else it does not care." Wow, that is a serious statement and a cause for pause. We

should know that Ms. Dickinson was not referring to the physical organ that is the source of the life blood within our human bodies. The heart referenced here is figurative language referring to "the inner person" where the feelings, emotions, and thinking occurs. Tragically, in our fallen state, although it is a dangerously selfish mindset, it is where most settle in life. The heart wants what it wants!

Thus, when Jeremiah penned these words many years ago, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?"* Jer. 17:9 (NKJV), he pointed to the driver of the true intentions of mankind, "the heart!" Dickinson and Jeremiah pointed out that there is something menacing about the heart and we are not to trust it.

Our Lord Jesus said, "for from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, <sup>22</sup> thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man." (Mark 7:21,22 NKJV) These things have no place in the body of Christ nor the Kingdom of our God!

What should we as believers do to avoid becoming overtaken by the evil or fleshly desires of the heart? The Psalmist David said it best, "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4 ESV) Jesus further confirmed this sure protection against the fleshly desires of the heart in the gospel of Matthew. When asked which was the greatest commandment of the law, his answer was this, And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment." (Matthew 22:37-38 ESV) Thus, we see that it is "the heart," the inner self, emotions, and thinking that is completely surrendered to God through Christ in the Holy Spirit that will remain steadfast and faithful to the Kingdom of God!

## GLOBAL MISSIONS MINISTRIES CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY MARCH MISSION DRIVE

Historically in our fellowship, the months of March and and October serve as two annual concentrated opportunities to spotlight, celebrate, and intentionally support the work of the Gospel among our missions' network.

Paul encourages in Colossians the fourth chapter, that we "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving; and pray for us also, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison, that I may make it clear, as I ought to speak." (Colossians 4:2-4 RSV)

From this passage we quickly note two directives from the Apostle Paul. First, "continue steadfastly in prayer" – keep praying! Prayer is essential to our Christian life and progress in missions ministries. It speaks of our dependence upon God. Paul encourages from where he is positioned, God makes him aware of the needs around him, he is made aware of the hunger and longing of their souls to which the Lord has sent him. So, he asks for others to join him in the great ministry of prayer. And secondly, he encourages us to pray specifically for a door to be opened for the Word. That there will be open receptive hearts AND that he could make the mystery of the Gospel of Christ clear. In these challenges, it is persevering prayer – prayer that is steadfast and continuing that prepares for the open opportunity for the work of the Gospel.

### Find attached a March Mission Drive promotional bulletin insert

**Persevering Prayer: The Work of Missions**

March Mission Drive provides the opportunity to spotlight, celebrate, and intentionally support the work of the Gospel among our global network. As we pray for our global family throughout the month, may the Lord lead us in a place of prayer and conviction in the global task of sharing the Gospel to the whole world. Thank you in advance for prayer support and giving to Missions.

**Africa** - Gospel work continues in growth and an extensive move of the Holy Spirit throughout Africa.  
• Pray for greater, matured conversions and expansion of the Church.  
• Pray for God to raise leaders with integrity, fidelity to doctrine, and boldness in the field.  
• Pray for open doors of financial blessings to remove every limitation of the Gospel.

**Asia, Australia, & Oceania** - Missions in this region continue to grow and thrive.  
• Pray for revival in evangelistic outreach.  
• Pray for relief efforts in the rural villages, jungle areas, and urban centers.  
• Pray for ongoing leadership training and development.

**Caribbean & Atlantic Ocean Islands** - Reports reveal a real move of the Holy Spirit.  
• Pray for and celebrate a recent new spiritual work, celebration of baptisms, and a witness of significant revival among new members in the church.  
• Pray for a continued move of the Holy Spirit.

**Central America, Mexico, & Spanish-Speaking Caribbean** - The Lord has provided an innovative, inspired evangelism and discipleship project to produce digital testimonies for multiplying disciples.  
• Pray for the implementation and establishment of digital testimonies.  
• Pray for passionate, developing missionaries to create testimonies of faith.

**Europe, CIS, & the Middle East** - Reports indicate continued growth in many regions.  
• Pray that the Holy Spirit speaks to open our nations to the Gospel.  
• Pray awaiting for our leaders in the great time of harvest and in the coming results.  
• Pray for the increased presence and nationally trained ministers to reach not only our people but the farthest corners the Gospel and the good news in our Kingdom in Europe.

**North America** - During these past months, agents have been leading, serving, and walking by faith through the startling disruption of the COVID-19 Pandemic. They have not wavered.  
• Pray for pastors working on the front lines to serve the needs of congregations and communities in bringing renewed hope, encouragement, and strength by the established hand of God's Word.  
• New churches are still being planted. Pray that churches will continue to serve in their communities with significant impact.

**South America** - The love of Christ is rising to minister to thousands during this time of great need. The Holy Spirit is moving in the hearts of God's people.  
• Pray for continued forward movement fulfilling our responsibility of the Great Commission.  
• Pray for reinforcements in making the Gospel known - there is so much more to do.

GLOBAL



# GLOBAL

MISSIONS MINISTRIES  
CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

MARCH MISSION DRIVE



**Persevering Prayer**  
The Work of missions



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MISSIONS MINISTRIES  
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Pray for genuine, massive conversions and expansion of the Church

Pray that God will raise leaders with integrity, faithful to disciple, and released into the field

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**Central America, Mexico, & Spanish-Speaking Caribbean** – The Lord has provided an innovative, inspired evangelism and discipleship project to produce digital communities for multiplying disciples.

- Pray for the implementation and establishment of digital communities
- Pray for passionate, developing missionaries to create communities of faith

**Europe, CIS, & the Middle East** – Reports indicate continue growth in many regions.

- Pray that the Holy Spirit speaks to open our nations to the Gospel
- Pray anointing for our leaders in this great time of harvest and in the coming months.
- Pray for the internet presence and nationally streamed ministries to reach not only our churches but far beyond to share the Gospel and do good in his kingdom in Europe.

**North America** – During these past months, pastors have been leading, serving, and walking by faith through the unsettling disruption of the COVID Pandemic. They have led well.

- Pray for pastors working on the front lines to serve the needs of congregations and communities to bring renewed hope, encouragement, and strength by the outstretched hand of our Lord.
- New churches are still being planted. Pray that churches will continue to serve in their communities with significant impact.

**South America** – The love of Christ is rising to thousands during this time of great need. In the last two years in Venezuela alone, the Lord has added 2,000 new members.

- Pray for continued forward movement fulfilling our responsibility of the Great Commission
- Pray for resoluteness in making the Gospel known – there is so much more to do

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