



# **Covenant Partner News**

**Sunday, November 26, 2023**

**Volume 3**

**Issue 48**

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# Message From Evangelistic Outreach

*(Excerpt from Truth for Life Daily: Spurgeon Devotional October 8, 2023)*

## “Miraculous Catch of Fish”

Luke 5:4 “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

We learn from this narrative *the necessity of human activity*. The catch of fish was miraculous, but neither the fisherman nor his fishing tackle were ignored; they all were used to take the fish. So, in the saving of souls, God works by means; and while the present operation of grace shall stand, God will be pleased by the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe. When God works without instruments, He is glorified; but He has selected this plan of human involvement as being that by which He is most magnified in the earth.

*The means themselves can accomplish nothing.* “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!” What was the reason for this? Were they not experienced fisherman going about their business? They were not novices; they understood the work. Was the problem that they lacked skill? No. Were they lazy? No; they had worked. Did they lack perseverance? No; they had *worked all night*. Was there a lack of fish in the sea? Certainly not, for as soon as the Master came, they swam to the net in large numbers. What, then, is the reason? It is because there is no power in the means themselves apart from the presence of Jesus. Without Him we can do nothing. But with Christ we can do all things.

*Christ’s presence confers success.* Jesus sat in Peter’s boat, and His will, by a mysterious influence, drew the fish to the net. When Jesus is lifted up in His Church, His presence is the church’s power-the shout of a king is in the midst of her. “*I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.*” (John 12:32). Let us go out this morning on our work of soul-fishing, looking up in faith, and around us at the great opportunity. Let us work until night comes, and we will not labor in vain, for He who tells us to let down the net will fill it with fish.

### BETHESDA ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19, 2023

No Sunday School	No Prayer Meeting	No Bible Study
Men (0)	Tuesday (0)	Tuesday (0)
Women (0)	<b>PRAYER FOCUS: MISSIONS</b> <b>1)</b> Pray for Evans Yeguo, Love Works Ministries to receive funds to restart VBS. <b>2)</b> Pray for Joslyn Nedeau, Young Life to continued favor in the community with schools, social workers, and churches. <b>3)</b> Pray for Steven Nash, Stoddard Baptist Home Foundation that the staff will enhance and embrace a team spirit and genuine love for one another. <b>4)</b> Pray for Devadas Yarranguntia, Calvary Christian Fellowship that they reach more Tribal villages <b>5)</b> Pray for Alex Twum, Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) that 3,000,000 people will come to know Christ by the end of 2023. <b>6)</b> Pray for Tonga Peterson, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society to receive resources for the construction of the school in Bopolu. <b>7)</b> Pray for Lily Field, Ambassadors Fellowship, Inc., and the appointment of an Executive Assistant. <b>8)</b> Pray for Ramar Javier, Amazing Grace Baptist Church will receive an increase in their church building funds. <b>9)</b> Pray for the success of our food and clothing giveaways on Saturday, November 18. <b>10)</b> Pray for our sick & shut-in and those asking for prayers and other expressions of compassion and comfort. (Hebrews 4:16)	Thursday (0)
Phone (0)		
Children (0)		

# **On Prayer by James Banks**

*(A Pastor and Writer for the Daily Bread)*

Now sometimes we might mistakenly think that prayer has something to do with skill. Sometimes you hear someone who is very well meaning say “I don’t have the Spiritual gift of prayer.” But did you know that of all the spiritual gifts listed in Scripture, prayer is not among them? And there’s an excellent reason for that. Prayer is meant for all of us. “Why Pray?” “Because you prayed!” “Bend down, O LORD, and listen!” Isaiah 36 and 37. That doesn’t mean things will go our way every time we pray, but if we learn to pray proactively---making prayer our “first resort” and not “a last resort” ---we will or may see God do breathtaking things. He wants us to help us lift our eyes above our circumstances so that we can catch a glimpse of His goodness and love. He wants us to pray so that we will get to know Him---and that really is the best part about prayer. True prayer is about so much more than just request or answers---it’s about a relationship with the One who will love and sustain us even when the answers don’t seem to come.

**ODBU.org/SF120 is worth reading on prayer. Listen to his lecture on “Why Pray” by James Banks.**

- Why Pray
  - Why Not Ask?
  - When You Don’t know What to Say
  - Obstacles to Prayer
  - Praying for Others
  - Prayer and Fasting
  - What about “Unanswered” Prayer
  - Persevering in Prayer
  - Living a Prayer-Filled Life
- (Course Completion)

# RECURRING EVENTS

## **Hour of Power & Bible Study** *(Prayer Meeting or Bible Study; will resume on Tuesday, Nov. 28)*

Each Tuesday at 6:00pm followed by

Bible Study at 7:00pm via ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83096366206?pwd=J7wZ8bwAcBA1snP5SgRuYhW4E2DsU.1>

**Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206**

**Passcode: 199366**

To use your cell phone or land line, please dial: 1. 301. 715. 8592

**Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206#; Passcode: 199366#**

We encourage all members to submit prayer requests as the Holy Spirit leads by 12:00 Noon on Monday.

## **Men's Prayer Hour**

Each Wednesday at 10:00pm via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access 875378#

## **Women's Prayer Hour** *(Women's prayer resumes January 2024)*

Each 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 9:00am via conference call:

1.605.313.5143; Access code 654522#

## **Questions and Answers-** *(Q&A was held on November 19 instead of November 26)*

Held each 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 6:00pm via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

**Please submit your questions today by email to: [SoulCare@BethesdaWeb.org](mailto:SoulCare@BethesdaWeb.org) or in Q&A box located on the table outside of the church office.**

## **Bible Study** *(Bible Study will resume on Thursday, November 30)*

Each Thursday at 12:00 Noon via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

# THIS WEEK EVENTS

## **Monday, November 27**

**7:00am** Advent\* Season Devotions via conference call: *correction\**

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

## **Tuesday, November 28**

7:00am Advent Season Devotions via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

## **Wednesday, November 29**

**7:00am** Advent Season Devotions via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

## **Thursday, November 30**

**7:00am** Advent Season Devotions via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

## **Friday, December 1**

**8:00am** Advent Season Devotions via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

## **Saturday, December 2**

**7:00am** Advent Season Devotions via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

**9:00am** Flower Guild Holiday Decorating

# **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **NOTE OF THANKS**

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.  
Matthew 11:28*

Sister Shirley B. Mitchell and family sincerely thanks the Bethesda Baptist Church for your prayers, cards, stamps, monetary gifts, and comforting scriptures during the unexpected death of my beloved son, Darwin Branch. Your kindness and expressions of concern encouraged our hearts and lifted our spirits.

## **DECISION DAY**

Today is "Decision Day" at Bethesda Baptist Church. In keeping with this theme, we are encouraging each member of the church to be involved in at least one ministry. 1 Cor. 12:8-11 and Romans 12:3-8 teaches that all believers have received at least one spiritual gift. Some of us also have talents which can be used to the glory of God. The difference between talents and gifts is that a talent can be possessed by anyone, Christian or non-Christian, while spiritual gifts are only possessed by Christians. A talent is something you were born with or you were trained to do, while a spiritual gift is something you received at the time you received Jesus and were born again. The Lord wants you to use your gifts and talents to strengthen Bethesda Baptist Church. If you are not sure what your spiritual gift is or doubt that you have one, please pray that the Lord will reveal His will for your life. You are also welcome to talk to Pastor Thompson who is willing to personally pray for you and counsel you from the Word of God

## **2024 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Greetings Saints! Bethesda's 2024 Proposed Budget is ready for your review. You may pick up a copy of the 2024 Budget in room 120 following Sunday School. You may also pick up a copy of the budget from the church office on Mondays through Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please review the budget and submit your questions to Deaconess Sandra Copeland at [frcope@aol.com](mailto:frcope@aol.com) or place them in the Budget Committee mailbox in the lounge by Sunday, November 26, 2023.

## **DEVOTIONAL READING DURING ADVENT SEASON**

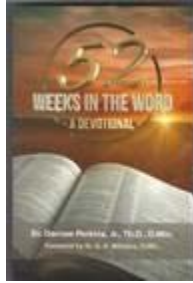
Starting Monday, November 27th, please join Pastor Thompson on the conference line each morning at 7:00 a.m. for Devotional Reading during Advent season from Monday, November 27 to Sunday, December 25 via conference call number: 1-717-908-1972, 875378#. Note: Friday readings (12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22) will begin at 8:00 a.m.

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Join the Sunday School as we take a journey through prophecy and the end times as we study the book of Revelations in the adult classes, beginning in December. Materials will be provided. Thank you!

### **52 WEEKS IN THE WORD - A DEVOTIONAL**



In 2024 we are encouraged to participate in a church wide daily devotion from 52 WEEKS IN THE WORD, "A DEVOTIONAL" by Dr. Darrow Perkins, Jr. This devotional is designed not only for your day but also for the week ahead of you.

As we meditate on God's word, we will often be praying through these passages of scriptures on Tuesday night during our Hour of Power.

### **DEADLINE EXTENSION**

The cost of this devotional is \$30. Please place your order by **Wednesday, December 13th**, so the book can arrive before January 1st. Please see Sister Bobbie Taylor in the church office when placing your order.

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God,  
a worker who does not need to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing the word of truth.  
2nd Timothy 2:15*

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY BOOK REVIEW 2024**

#### ***SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH READING AND SHARING***

The Bethesda Baptist Women's Ministry needs you! Have you read any inspirational spiritually enriching books lately? Can it be used for a Book Chat or Book Review? Let Sisters Terri Burrell or Jennie Sanders know the Book Title and Author by Sunday, January 7, 2024. The Ministry needs your input. May God continue to abundantly bless you.

### **2024 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes are ready for pick up today or during the church office hours 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday through Wednesday. Envelopes are on the table in front of the Church office.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE CORNER**

### **SUBMISSION DATE**

All ministry leaders are asked to submit the names of their 2024 officers as well as their 2024 calendar of events no later than Sunday, **December 3, 2023**. The listing of restricted dates will be sent out no later than Wednesday, October 18. *Thank you for your cooperation.*

### **ROOF REPLACEMENT FUND**

We have established a goal of raising \$62,000 over the next 12- months for replacement of the church's roof Section M. How will we do this? By God's grace, starting in July we are asking each member to give an extra \$62 per month or \$15.50 per week to the church's Building Maintenance Fund. If 100 members do this on a regular monthly basis over the course of 1-year, we will raise the \$62,000 necessary to finance the first phase of roof repairs. Please use the special "Roof Replacement" envelopes for this purpose. These envelopes are available on the table outside of the church office and Sanctuary vestibule. Please note, you can also give online via PayPal thru our secured website, <http://www.bethesdaweb.org>. Just click on "giving" then click the drop-down arrow to where it says, "building offering." As a reminder, this offering should be in addition and not in lieu of your regular tithes and offerings. Thank you in advance for your faithful giving, Bethesda!

*"With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."*  
*Mark 10:27*

### **IT SUPPORT MINISTRY**

Dear Ministry Leaders,

As we continue to promote our church events, we want to make sure that we are doing so in the most effective and efficient way possible. To help us achieve this, we are introducing a new form that will allow you to upload flyers for your events and have them posted on our social media platforms. Please use the following form to submit your promotional materials:

<https://form.jotform.com/bbcitsupport/ministry-submit-form>

Please ensure that you submit any promotional flyers at least one week in advance of your event to allow enough time for us to post them.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us spread the word about our events. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

*BBC IT Support Ministry*

## **ADMINISTRATIVE CORNER CONTINUED:**

### **MINISTRY LEADERS**

If you would like to hold your ministry meetings or events on Zoom, please contact Sister Bobbie Taylor at 202.635.2883 or submit your request by email: [btaylor@bethesda-web.org](mailto:btaylor@bethesda-web.org)

### **MINISTRY MAILBOX**

All ministry heads or secretaries, please remember to check your mailbox.