



Trey Van Camp

For eight months, members of Passion Creek Church prayed for the Johnson\* family. The Johnsons had visited the church for six weeks but then stopped coming. Trey Van Camp, who leads the church, said he felt led to continue praying for the family, not knowing they had begun attending a Latter-day Saints church in town. The family joined the LDS church, but they continued to watch Trey's church online.

"They eventually came back to the church and received Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and we were able to baptize the whole family." Said Trey, a Southern Baptist church planter. Try said his greatest joy comes from leading people through discipleship and spiritual transformation. "I absolutely love helping people identify the stage and season God has them in and ...steps they can take to become more like Jesus."

Trey said one of the hardest parts of ministry is seeing people leave the church for one reason or another, particularly young people who leave in search of entertainment and purpose. "They believe life would be better if they only had 'this or that,' and they run from one distraction to another," he said.

Pray God would provide a permanent home for Passion Creek Church. Pray, too, more people would come to faith in Jesus.

"More and more families are coming who have an agnostic, atheist, or Mormon background," Trey said. "Each one presents a unique opportunity to show the beauty of King Jesus."

*\*Names changed*

*\*Submitted on behalf of the WMU by Edna Stanley*

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FROM THE  
*Pastor's Desk*

#### TJ's Take

In countless ways, this past year has been so difficult for so many people. It has often felt like a nightmare that we can't seem to escape, a mountain that we can't seem to summit.

This year has been filled with so much bad news. We've been faced with a potentially deadly virus, government restrictions and lockdowns, financial concerns, civil unrest, violent riots, a draining election cycle, conspiracy theories, and more. All the while, we are continually surrounded by the ever-present evils and difficulties in our world.

Everywhere you turn, there is so much despair. There is so much bad news. So much heartbreak as the waves of life come crashing down upon us over and over and over again with no sign of stopping.



At what point do we give up? At what point do we stop hoping? At what point does hopelessness and despair finally conquer our ability to get up in the morning? Where do we turn?

When difficulty presents itself in this life, those of us who are in Christ must return time and time again to the truth of what Scripture says. To the gospel of Jesus Christ. To the good, good news.

See, the gospel reminds us that since the days of Adam in the Garden of Eden, all of us—whether men or women, white or black, young or old—have sinned. We are born with hearts that are inclined toward evil. And our world is likewise devastated by the effects of this sin. The world is filled with sin and evil and death. In short, there is a lot of bad news.

Our sin is not just some violation we’ve committed against humanity. No, our sin is sin against a holy, majestic, righteous God. Because God cannot simply tolerate sin, our sin demands punishment—it demands death. We deserve to die for the sin we have committed. In fact, nothing short of death will do.

But in his great love for us, God sent his Son in the form of man to take that punishment—to take that death—for us. He died so that we don’t have to. And in his death, the righteousness of God has been given to those who repent, who turn from their sin and believe in him. This is the great exchange—Jesus suffers and dies in our stead, and we receive the righteousness from his perfect life on his behalf. The fragrance of that glorious grace is intoxicating.

That, fellow saints, is good news. That is why it is called the gospel. And that is where I put my hope.

I know that at some point today, more heartache and pain is going to come. And then again tomorrow. Despair seems to be all around us.

But I know that our God is bigger than all of it. Our God is sovereign. Our God is in control. Our God is seated on his throne in heaven, not at all surprised by what might happen today. We are not spinning around in orbit flailing about hopelessly. We are under his control. His counsel shall stand, and he will accomplish all his purpose (Isaiah 46:10).

Our God has a love that is intoxicating. A love that overwhelms. A love that went to the cross for the sins of his people. A love that expresses good news in a world seemingly without it.

And one day, God will ultimately put an end to all of the troubles of this world. There will be no more bad news. God is going to fix everything. Jesus will come again and death and evil will be defeated for good. There will be no more despair. There will be no more hopelessness.

And even though the tragedies of today are sometimes seemingly unbearable, remember that the sufferings of this world are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18). And the afflictions of today are preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison for tomorrow (2 Corinthians 4:17).

That is good, good news.

In Christ,  
Pastor TJ



## MICKEY’S MUSINGS

### Church Connect

Seemingly, we are finding new ways to utilize our member portal, Church Connect, in the weekly functions of the church. Here are a few of the things one can do at the member portal:

1. Online Giving: Upon clicking the link, one is directed to the online giving platform.
2. Family Check-in: Families can check-in their family members for Sunday School, worship, and so much more depending on the activities scheduled for that day. NOTE: Family Check-in does not replace the necessity to escort your child to said activity to receive a nametag and pickup slip.
3. Website Link will direct individuals to the church website: [centralbaptistparis.com](http://centralbaptistparis.com)
4. Event Registrations: One can register for Bible Studies, Membership Orientation, and more.
5. Guest Connect Card is a link for visitors to provide basic contact information.
6. Prayer Request Card is a form for sharing prayer concerns with the church office.
7. Contact Us Card is for sharing general information or making inquiries of the office and/or ministerial staff.

If you’ve not already done so, activate your access to Church Connect by visiting [www.centralbaptistparis.churchtrac.com](http://www.centralbaptistparis.churchtrac.com). Or scan the QR code below with your phone’s camera to be directed to the link.



### The Kingdom Woman

THE KINGDOM WOMAN is a 7-week study for women on the book written by Tony Evans and Chrystal Evans Hurst. Led by Sharon Berry and Kathy Kenimer, this study will be held at 6:30pm on Thursday nights beginning February 4 at the home of Sharon Berry--104 Augusta Way. To register, scan the QR Code above with your phone’s camera and complete the form.



### Easter Choir

As we continue to navigate the pandemic and seek ways to establish ministry opportunities while observing safe practice recommendations, we are looking to organize a team of vocalists – a choir, as it were – to lead and enhance the Easter morning worship experience while wearing masks. As such, we will begin rehearsing on Wednesday nights in March following Prayer Meeting to prepare for that role of ministry. There will be a registration card soon on Church Connect for you to indicate your willingness to serve on that day.

Blessings,  
Mickey Ballard



**Jonny's Corner**

Hello Church Family,

It is hard to believe that it is getting closer to a year since the pandemic started. Yes, it has been difficult, confusing, and downright frustrating. But God is good and we still moved forward with ministry here at Central. It is encouraging to see families back in the sanctuary at Sunday morning worship. It has been amazing to see the number of students participating on Sunday night student ministry and it is exciting that we are going to be starting back up some other ministries in the very near future.

One of these ministries is AWANA. Starting February 21 from 6:30-7:30 on Sunday evening, AWANA will be starting for our Kindergarten through 5th grade. Things will look a little different. Please notice that it will start at 6:30. There will not be a meal, but a snack will be served in the classroom. AWANA has also been moved to the third floor. Every parent will need to come and check their child

in at the registration table. Please do not simply drop your child off at the door. A parent must come inside to check their child in. The parent will receive a receipt with a code and that receipt will allow parents to pick their kids up at 7:30. Please understand that this is a new safety policy that we have put in place to add extra security for our children. Also remember that masks will be required at AWANA.

Along with AWANA, a family ministry event will take place on February 27<sup>TH</sup>. We will be heading to Perfect North slopes for some snow tubing. This is for all families. I have reserved 50 spots, and it is first come, first serve. The cost is \$23 per person. Since we are unable to take vans this year, parents will have to drive. We will meet at the church on Saturday morning. A waiver will have to be filled out for everyone tubing. Remember, this is tubing only! If you would like to ski, it is the parent's responsibility to purchase tickets. If you would like to go tubing, please contact me to sign-up or register on Church Connect. I will be getting out times as the event gets closer. Please remember that masks are required at Perfect North.

It is hard to express how excited I am about children ministry and family ministry starting to open up. I am looking forward to seeing the kids back at church on Sunday evenings. Understand we are still working through things, so please be patient. Things may look different, but we are getting things started back up. Please be in prayer for our staff and all the adult leaders that will be involved. Thank you for your patience and I am excited to see the kiddos again for AWANA.

God Bless,  
Jonny

### Average Giving Report through January 24<sup>th</sup>

Year to Date Budget Giving \$25,670.59

Year to Date Budget Required \$35,847.92

Budget Shortfall \$10,177.93



To My Church Family,  
Thank you so much for the meal you brought to the house. Thanks for the cards and prayers. I can never thank you enough for all you've done for me and my Mom. God Bless each and everyone of you. Special thanks to Brother TJ and Jonathan for doing James' funeral.

Pat Hyatt

Dear Central Baptist Church,  
We thank the Father for all of you and how you help and love the ministry to the Hispanic people in Paris.  
God Bless You, Fernando & Virgen Diaz

Central Baptist Church,  
Special thanks for the monetary gifts you gave us for Christmas. We are always appreciative of your generosity. We continue to be amazed at God's blessings on us. We look forward to serving along side you in 2021. Again, thank you!  
In Christ, Mickey, Sue Ellen & Jake

To Our Church Family,  
Thank you to everyone who has either prayed for Rickey, called, texted, sent cards, money or food. We appreciate your love and kindness towards us! Continue to keep him in your prayers, he still has a long way to go. Thanks again & God Bless! Hope to be back in church one day soon.  
Love, Rickey & Mavis "In Memory of Travis"

Dear Church Family,  
I want to thank everyone at Central Baptist Church for your many prayers for my brother, Garry Ward. Also, your kind words and cards during his illness and his passing.  
Yours in Christ, Reda Leasor

Dear Church Family,  
God bless you all, you have been a God Send. How we have appreciated each and every meal you have brought. For all the cards, phone calls, the prayers and every act of kindness has been so appreciated. We love all of you and look forward to the day we can be with you again.  
Ed and Ann Fitzpatrick

# February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9 AM Quilters	2 10 AM Staff Meeting	3 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	4	5	6 9 AM Deacons Meeting
7 8:00/10:45 AM Worship	8 9 AM Quilters	9 10 AM Staff Meeting	10 6:30 PM Business Meeting	11	12	13
6:00 PM Youth						
14 8:00/10:45 AM Worship	15 9 AM Quilters	16 10 AM Staff Meeting	17	18	19	20
6PM Youth			6:30 PM Prayer Meeting			
21 8:00/10:45 AM Worship 4PM Member-ship Orientation Class 6:30 AWANA	22 9 AM Quilters	23 10 AM Staff Meeting	24 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	25	26	27 Perfect North
28 8:00/10:45 AM Worship 6 PM Youth 6:30 PM Pastor's Bible Study & AWANA						

## Our Ministry Opportunities

**Sunday:**  
 8:00 AM – Worship Service  
 9:30 AM – Sunday School for ALL Ages  
 10:45 AM – Worship Service  
 6:00 PM – REV 3 Ministries (Youth)

**Wednesday:**  
 6:30 PM – Prayer Meeting  
 AWANA will resume back  
 February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM

**Monday:**  
 9:00 AM – Willing Hand Quilters

**Sunday Night Bible Studies** will resume back  
 February 28<sup>th</sup>