

Spring 2023



The BLAZE Bulletin

Youth Ministry (Grades 6–12)

HAPPENINGS: Engagement with Holy Spirit

We've seen humility and gratitude flood our hearts and team as we have engaged with Holy Spirit.

ter. We loved seeing the joy Jesus brought that night.

A Season of Outpour!

We continued our war against cynicism at our "I Speak Jesus" worship night. Dayna Dinan gave us the treasure of her time and her words, delivering a life-changing message from God about the power of speaking the name of Jesus over anxiety and depression. We got to witness so many of our kids receive breakthrough that night. What an honor.

Our "I Speak Jesus" night was the start of an exciting era in our worship expression. If you've been with us these past few years, you know that we've been slowly building our structure back up since COVID. God gave us so much

grace on that journey. We worshiped with lyric videos during that season and God met us every time. Because the mode of worship isn't as significant as the heart posture. That being said, we feel Him leading us into a season of acoustic worship. No mics or heavy equipment. Simply a keyboard, a cajon, and hearts ready to sing the praises of their King. It's different from familiarity, which puts us right in the right position for Holy Spirit to do His best work. We fully expect transformation, outpouring, and sustained revival in our family that will spill into our city and the rest of the world. Holy Spirit, come and do what only You can do!

Stay tuned for the latest info on [Color War](#) and [Youth Revival Camp 2023!](#)

Spirit-filled Fun!

During our speed dating night (Friendship Edition), we experienced supernatural joy and authentic relationships. Let's never take lightly our ability to laugh and have fun as believers. Jesus has given us the ability to rejoice as our greatest weapon in a cynical world.

Speaking of weapons, our **NERF NIGHT** was a success!! We had an awesome turnout and both leaders and kids had a blast. Not one kid was left on the sidelines. Everyone was out of breath and had stomachs aching from laugh-

YOUTH TESTIMONY: Zoe Armstrong

God has been really speaking to me in this season of my life about keeping faith. You know, it's really easy to think that we can do things worthy of Him and it's just not, so that's been something that He's been speaking. He tends to be very repetitive so I understand what He's trying to say and He's definitely been doing that. There have been



times when I hear the exact same message several times in a day and I just have to go, "Yeah, I get what you're trying to say to me." He has also helped me grow out of past

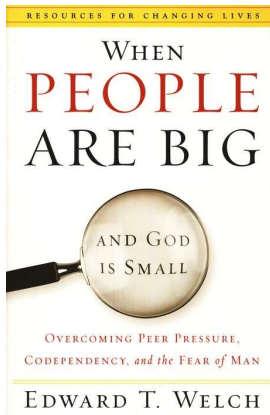
situations and relationships into new ones, which is not always enjoyable in the moment, but I've been able to look back and see where God has taken charge of a situation that I wouldn't have been able to take charge of. It's just nice knowing that the God of the universe is looking out for you and genuinely wants better for you.

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Have You Read



Have You Heard

“Oh the Cross”
Circuit Riders Music

“As You Find Me”
Hillsong

“Plead the Blood”
Cody Carnes and
Brandon Lake

PARENT’S CORNER: Worthy of Family Worship

On brand with our Church series “Famous at Home,” please enjoy this excerpt from an article by Don Whitney regarding the value of unified worship as a family in our homes!

Three Simple Steps

Every Christian family is able to show that God deserves to be worshiped daily in our homes. The essence of family worship is simple. It requires no preparation. It can take as little as ten minutes. It consists of three single syllables: read, pray, sing.

READ

The heart of family worship is hearing God’s word through reading the Bible. Focus on Bible stories if you have young children. Some use a good story Bible at this age. As children get older, move to the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament, with a goal of eventually reading all the Scriptures. Briefly explain terms your family may not understand. A study Bible can help here. You may want to ask questions during or after the reading to improve everyone’s understanding.

PRAY

The husband/father can pray, he can ask someone to pray,

or everyone can pray. To avoid saying basically the same things every time, I’d recommend the simple practice of praying about at least one thing you heard in the Bible.

For example, after reading John 3, you could ask, “Who is someone we could pray for to be born again like Nicodemus?” From John 4 the next night, “Who is a woman whom we could pray would meet Jesus like the woman at the well met Jesus?” Also, asking each person, “How would you like for us to pray for you?” not only personalizes the experience, but can be the means of discovering previously unspoken feelings and needs.

SING

I get more responses of “Seriously?” on this one than with any other element. But in the short list of activities the Bible tells us to do in worship, singing is prominent. Some of the activities the Bible requires of acceptable worship are congregational by nature, such as preaching and the practice of the ordinances. But three activities on that list can be done whether the worship is congregational, individual, or familial: Bible reading, prayer, and worshipful singing.

This can be as brief as the Doxology, or as long as an entire hymn or chorus. Although this is a great time to utilize family musicians or Internet helps, my observation is that most families sing without musical accompaniment. I’d suggest getting songbooks for each member of the family. Consult the pastor or worship leader at your church for other resources.”

Don Whitney, “Worthy of Family Worship: First Steps for Christian Homes,” *desiring God*, February 13, 2021, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/worthy-of-family-worship>.



LEADER FOCUS: Zachariah Martinez



The blessing of Zachariah Martinez is his tender and courageous heart for servant-hood.

Every Wednesday, Zach shows up with his heart filled with anointing and authentic discipleship. The fruit of his

walk with Jesus flows into the atmosphere for the team and every Blaze Saint that shows up on a Wednesday.

We’re honored to have him on our team. If you see him around, give him a big hug! He’s a hugger. ;)

PRAYER FOCUS BY PEDRO CASTAÑEDA

We believe in the power of intercessory prayer. What is it?

What Is Intercessory Prayer? by [CBN](#)

Intercession is prayer that pleads with God for your needs and the needs of others. But it is also much more than that. Intercession involves taking hold of God's will and refusing to let go until His will comes to pass.

Intercession is warfare—the key to God's battle plan for our lives. But the battleground

is not of this earth. The Bible says, "We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and spiritual powers in the heavens above." (Ephesians 6:12)

Intercessory prayer takes place in this spiritual world where the battles for our own lives, our families, our friends and our nation are won or lost.



So let's join together in intercessory prayer for the following prayer focuses:

- We pray for a unified and connected team of Blaze Leaders.
- We pray that our kids will bring Holy Spirit into their schools and classrooms.
- We pray that our kids will build lifelong relationships with fellow believers.
- We pray that our kids will know Him deeper each day and in every season.

BIBLE TRIVIA

- ✓ Women helped fund Jesus' ministry. Jesus had an incredible respect for women and even helped a woman who was about to be stoned to death. Not only did Jesus show us how to treat women, but women actually helped fund his ministry. Luke 8 talks about women who followed Jesus and his disciples and supported them through their own means.
- ✓ Jesus struggled when faced with death. We all know Jesus came to sacrifice his life for us, but we forget he was a human who struggled, just like you and me. Upon facing his death in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was anxious and prayed that God would take this suffering from him if possible.
- ✓ Jesus came to Earth for more than to die on the cross for our sins. He came to experience life as a human so that he can empathize with us. He experienced heartache, rejection, deception, loss, sickness, and death, just like us. God wanted his Son, Jesus, to experience all the heartache of this world, so when we pray, it's not just to the Creator but to the God who understands our pain firsthand. We pray to the God who really hears our prayers, sees our hearts, and feels our pain.

GIVING & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Providing food for our kiddos each service is one of our favorite practices at The Blaze. Providing food allows us to build trust and relationships with our kiddos. In Acts 2:42, we see the breaking of bread given the same significance as prayer and discipleship. The supernatural generosity of the Church as a whole gave them the means to provide.

Keeping this truth at the forefront of our hearts, we have

an opportunity for all of us to partner with Spirit-filled generosity. If only four parents committed to donating food once a month, we could provide food for our kiddos every Wednesday without measure.

We've gathered some examples of snacks we like to provide our kiddos that are affordable and easy to prepare! Please reach out to me via email if you feel led to volunteer!

SNACKS

- * Mac and Cheese
- * Pizza Rolls
- * Cereal (with Milk)
- * Mini Corn Dogs

BEVERAGES

- * Apple Juice
- * Soda
- * Sweet Tea
- * Capri Sun
- * Water

STUDENT FOCUS: Serinah Connaker

Serinah, we love your smile and your welcoming heart.

Holy Spirit inhabits your laughter!

Other people find freedom simply from you being who Jesus made you to be!

Next time you see Serinah, make sure to create a secret handshake with her!

We love you, girl!





CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we don't want to settle for "good principles" or the comfort of a religious routine. We don't want to put our faith in our church attendance or human strength. We're tired of "churchianity." Remind us of what it means to be a believer. Remind us of the simple

power of knowing and living every moment in Your presence. Help our hearts to remember the simple Gospel. We pray for reconciliation between parents and their kids. We pray for an acknowledgment of God-given identity and intimacy in our kids.

Most of all, we pray that You would open the eyes of our hearts to see the beauty of Your will and Your leadership; and delight in You above all else. In Jesus precious name, Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Keep These on Your Radar

Save the Dates

- ♦ May 17
- ♦ May 24
- ♦ July 14-17

May 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MAY 17 COLOR WAR

Color War is a night of intense fun and competition. Join us for a series of squad-style games where ONE TEAM will win the PRIZE.

We'll have burgers, music, and memories. You don't want to miss this!

When? **May 17th @ 7pm**

Where? **The Exchange Church (behind the building)**



May 24 SQUAD GAME CONCLUSION!

We will have our final game of Squad Game on May 24, 2023! We will be playing Mafia and enjoying pasta. After that the scores will be tallied to determine the winner of Blaze Blazers!

Remember, the best way to win points in Squad Game is to invite more friends! 10 points per friend you bring! You don't wanna miss this!!



JULY 14-17 YOUTH REVIVAL CAMP

Youth Revival Camp 2023 is a GO! We will be returning to camp along with several other local youth groups to encounter God's transforming presence. Youth Revival Camp 2023 will take place on July 14-17 and prices have increased this year to \$400; however, if you fill out your FREE registration form before May 31, 2023, the price will only be \$375!

When you register early, we can begin to plan fundraising opportunities early on!

Reach out to me via email to receive your Youth Revival Camp 2023 registration form.

pedro@theexchangechurch.org

No student was left behind due to finances last year and Jesus will do it again in 2023!



NEXT ISSUE!

An interview with youth pastor Pedro Castañeda!





BIBLE GUIDE

HOW TO READ THE WORD EVERY DAY

- ◆ Ask the Holy Spirit for help!
- ◆ Make time for it. Prioritize it.
- ◆ Read with friends!
- ◆ Consistency: Start with committing to one verse each day!

3 WAYS TO READ THE BIBLE

DAILY BREAD

- ◆ Breakfast for your spirit! Ask Jesus what He wants you to read each morning, afternoon, and before bed. Even one verse is enough!

DEEP STUDY

- ◆ Study the language, authors, and purpose of each book of the Bible. This will strengthen your ability to understand the Bible!

TEACHING

- ◆ Sunday sermons are the best way to start your journey in the Bible. Especially with friends! Go over Sunday's Bible passages with some friends.
- ◆ Also, listen to Bible podcasts/YouTube channels!

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- ◆ The Exchange Church
- ◆ The Belonging Co Podcast
- ◆ The Handlebar Podcast (UPPERROOM)
- ◆ The Porch Podcast
- ◆ WHOA That's a Good Podcast
- ◆ Southside Rabbi
- ◆ Thirty Minutes with The Perrys
- ◆ Let's Talk About It (Moral Revolution)

SHORT DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ◆ YouVersion Bible App
- ◆ Glorify App



Podcasts



The Blaze Merchandise



<https://www.bonfire.com/store/awakengreater/>



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Connect

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Who We Are

We exist to see young people transformed by the Presence of God, empowered as a carrier of revival, and infused in a healthy community of believers. All of this is a byproduct of our only goal: To become more like Jesus.

Weekly Services

We meet every Wednesday from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at The Exchange Church in the back the building!

Drop-off/Pick-up

Pull up to the stairs so we can ensure the safety of kids as they come & go.



YOUTH LEADERS

Core Team

Pedro Castañeda
Lizzy Childs
Caleb Breaux

Blaze Leaders

Mariely Salinas / Aliah Tait /
Jordan Rose / Ryan Castañeda /
David Dinan / Matthew Breaux /
Zachariah Martinez

Contact: pedro@theexchangechurch.org