

Fall 2023



The BLAZE Bulletin

Youth Ministry (Grades 6–12)

HAPPENINGS: Incredible Journeys



Spirit on a deeper level. Our goal was to demystify our relationship with Holy Spirit and step into a simple and accessible lifestyle with Him. We learned how praying in our own unique prayer language could deepen our connection with Him, transforming our spiritual journey into something more intimate and profound. We also learned how God continues to speak to us through the Holy Spirit! The best way we can recognize His voice is to know His voice through His Written Word. We pray that the eyes of our kids' hearts were open to begin recognizing His voice in their daily lives. This journey of faith and understanding has been nothing short of incredible, and it's inspiring to think about how these insights will continue to shape our faith

and our lives, moment by moment.



As we look ahead, our hearts burn with anticipation for what's to come. We eagerly await the guidance of the Spirit to provide continued revival and vision into the next season of our journey. Our focus remains on being "the light of the world," a call to action from Jesus that resonates deeply with us. It's not just a phrase; it's a mission, a journey, and a promise to continue nurturing the spiritual growth of our incredible youth. We are committed to forging even deeper connections, and shaping their spiritual journeys in a meaningful and personal way that reflects the love and teachings of Jesus in their lives. We're excited about the future and the possibilities it holds as we walk this path together.

Over the past couple of months, The Blaze Youth Ministry has been on an incredible journey filled with growth, deeper connections, and inspiring revelations. We wrapped up two amazing sermon series, "Who Tells Your Story" and "GHOSTED," and it's been a remarkable experience.

In "Who Tells Your Story," we didn't just explore Bible stories; we embarked on a profound voyage through the core narratives that have shaped our faith. It was heart-warming to witness the growth and breakthroughs these stories brought to our kids. The Bible isn't just a dusty old book; it's the living, breathing Word of God that continues to speak to us today.

Then came "GHOSTED," a series that allowed us to get to know the person of Holy

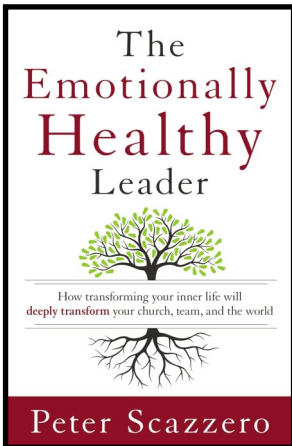
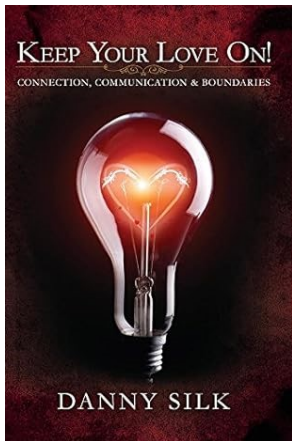


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Have You Read



Have You Heard

“Good Shepherd”
UPPERROOM

“Touch of Heaven”
Bethel Music

“Song for His Presence”
Hillsong Worship

PARENT’S CORNER: Hear God’s Voice

Please enjoy this excerpt from an article by Kris Vallotton called “8 Biblical Ways to Hear God’s Voice.”

God is always speaking! Did you know that Jesus died on the Cross not just to forgive your sins, but ultimately to bring you into a relationship with Himself? Communication is probably the single greatest vehicle of any relationship. Although some people have a problem believing that **God wants to talk to everybody**, most believers understand that true prayer is not just petitioning Heaven with a list of requests, but it is communicating with our Father in Heaven as a true friend.

Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice . . .” (John 10:27).

Prophecy, in its simplest form, is merely hearing from the Holy Spirit and repeating what He said. **Paul put it this way**, “For you can all prophesy one by one . . .” (1 Corinthians 14:31).

Knowledge is power and God doesn’t want the prideful to be the powerful; therefore, God hides His word so that only the hungry and the humble have access to His voice. In other words, God’s voice is hidden from the arrogant and the proud.

Luke 10:21 says, “At that very time He (Jesus) rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, ‘I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and

have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.”

The fact is, God is always speaking. The question is, are we in tune with His voice? Read the full article [HERE](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS: Keep These on Your Radar

DECEMBER 6 TALENT NIGHT

This has been extended to a church-wide event and will be hosted by the Blaze! This will simply be an open Mic night where students of all walks of life get to show the amazing talents that God placed within them (whether they know Jesus or not), SO invite your friends!! This will be a potluck (dinner and a show!) so make sure to bring some cool friends and even COOLER food. Stay tuned for a signup link coming soon!

DECEMBER 13 WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

We will be holding a white elephant gift exchange!! Invite your fiends and bring a gift with a \$10 limit. This night will give our students the opportunity to invite their friends and cultivate real friendship going into the Holiday Season!!

WHITE ELEPHANT RULES

1. Buy your gift at pre-agreed price.
2. Wrap your gift. Do not mark or label it!
3. Put your wrapped gift at the central location.
4. Pick a number from the pile.
5. Number 1 picks a gift and unwraps it.
6. Number 2 and subsequent players can choose to unwrap a new gift or steal from the previous players.
7. If someone steals from you, choose to unwrap a new gift or steal from anyone! (You are not allowed to steal from people who stole from you)
8. **All gifts can only be stolen for 3 times.**
9. After everyone’s turn, number 1 can choose to keep his gift or steal from anyone.
10. The game ends when number 1 decides to keep his gift or after all the stealing is complete.

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PRAYER FOCUS BY PEDRO CASTAÑEDA

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

“Intercession is prayer that captures the heartbeat of Heaven and declares that into our world; It’s true agreement with Heaven.”

—The Happy Intercessor by Beni Johnson

“Intercession is prayer that . . . involves taking hold of God’s will

and refusing to let go until His will comes to pass.

—“What is Intercessory Prayer?” by CBN

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

🙏 Our Blaze Saints to pursue intimacy with God in His Word, prayer, and community, developing a lifestyle of hear-

ing and obeying His Voice!

🙏 Women in the Church, of all ages and backgrounds, who are on fire for Jesus to join the Blaze Team!

🙏 For divine appointments and connections to be built between our youth group and surrounding schools in our community.

LEADER FOCUS: Zach/Pedro/Jaden

Zach Martinez, Pedro Castañeda, and Jaden Estrada (a few of our powerhouses) went with a group to volunteer at the Hendrickson High School FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)!



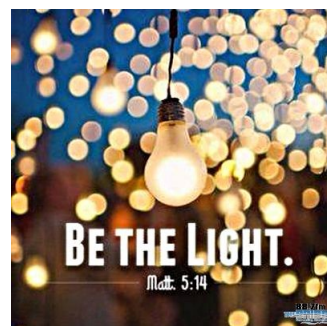
While we were there, we got to pray for the teacher and students who were leading the club, and the teacher was so blessed that she was moved to tears! Ever since then, Zach has been moving in prayer over our parking lot and hopes to have prayer walks for different areas in our city!



STUDENT FOCUS: Bella Lujan



Bella Lujan is back at it again! She volunteered to speak during our last series “Who Tells Your Story?” and she brought a word on the story of Ruth! It was a powerful word on redemption that will live in the hearts of our kids as they continue to know Jesus more deeply moment by moment. Thank you Jesus for the way you’re growing our Kiddos!! AMEN!!



BIBLE TRIVIA

✚ The Bible is made up of 66 different books that were written over 1,600 years (from approximately 1500 BC to AD 100) by more than 40 kings, prophets, leaders, and followers of Jesus. The Old Testament has 39 books (written from approximately 1500 to 400 BC). The New Testament has 27 books (written from approximately AD 45 to 100). The Hebrew Bible has the same text as the English Bible’s Old Testament, but divides and organizes it differently.

✚ The Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.

✚ The books of the Bible were collected and arranged and recognized as inspired sacred authority by councils of rabbis and councils of church leaders based on careful guidelines.

✚ There is much evidence that the Bible we have today is remarkably true to the original writings. Of the thousands of copies made by hand before AD 1500, more than 5,900 Greek manuscripts from the New Testament alone still exist today. The text of the Bible is better preserved than the writings of Caesar, Plato, or Aristotle.

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.***

2 Corinthians 9:7



¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV)

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.

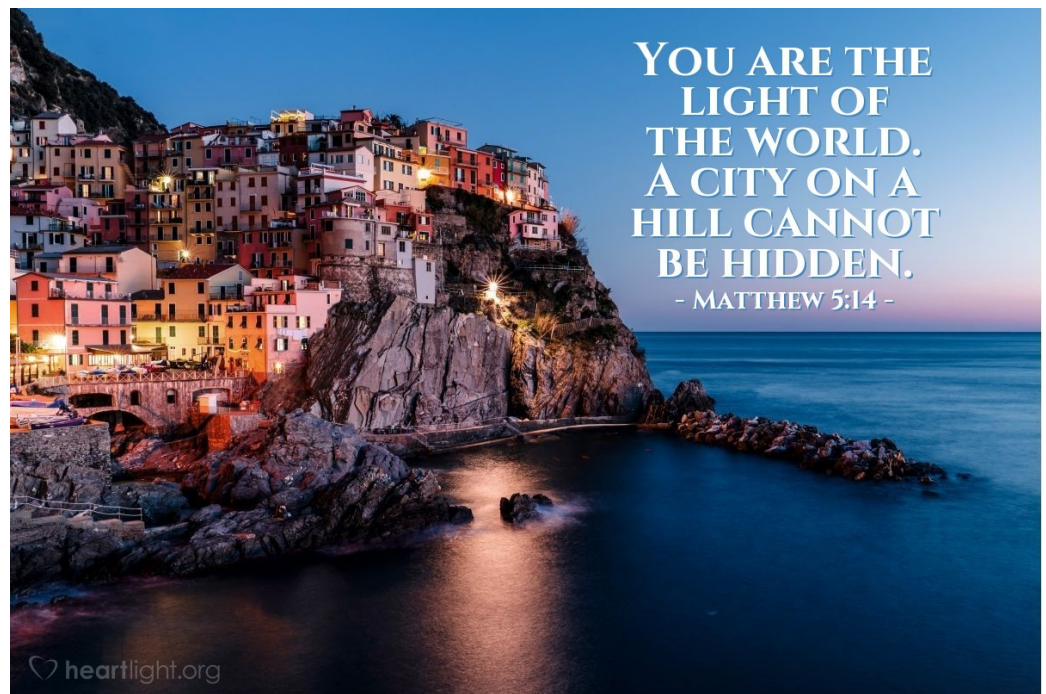
We've gathered some examples of snacks we like to provide our kiddos that are affordable and easy to prepare! Please reach out to me via email if you feel led to volunteer!

SNACKS

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

BEVERAGES

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



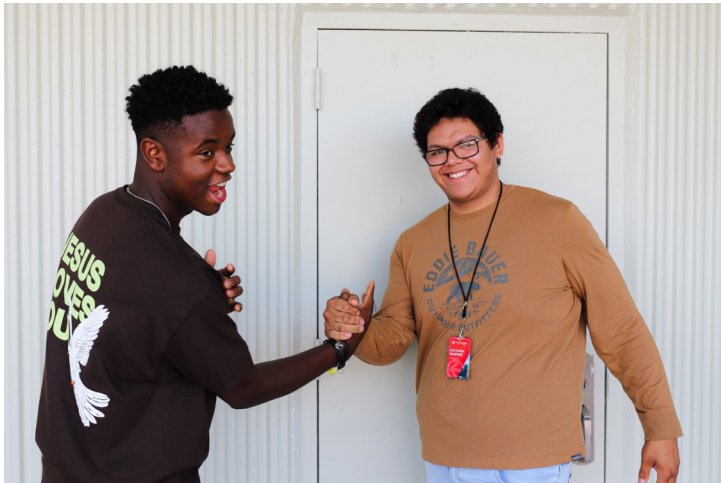
CLOSING PRAYER BY PEDRO CASTAÑEDA

Father, may the hearts of our leaders be open to your voice and bold to speak life into our young saints. May the eyes of the parents of this house be opened to the direction of your Holy Spirit to steward the work beyond Wednesdays,

and may the eyes of our hearts be opened as a Church to see you rightly, to live in the beautiful Fear of the lord. In Jesus's name. Amen!



Blaze Saints





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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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
Aliah Tait
Caleb Breaux

Blaze Leaders

Mariely Salinas / Mercedes Estrada /
Jordan Rose / Ryan Castañeda /
David Dinan / Matthew Breaux /
Zachariah Martinez/ Jaden Estrada /
Tristan Rose

Contact: pedro@theexchangechurch.org