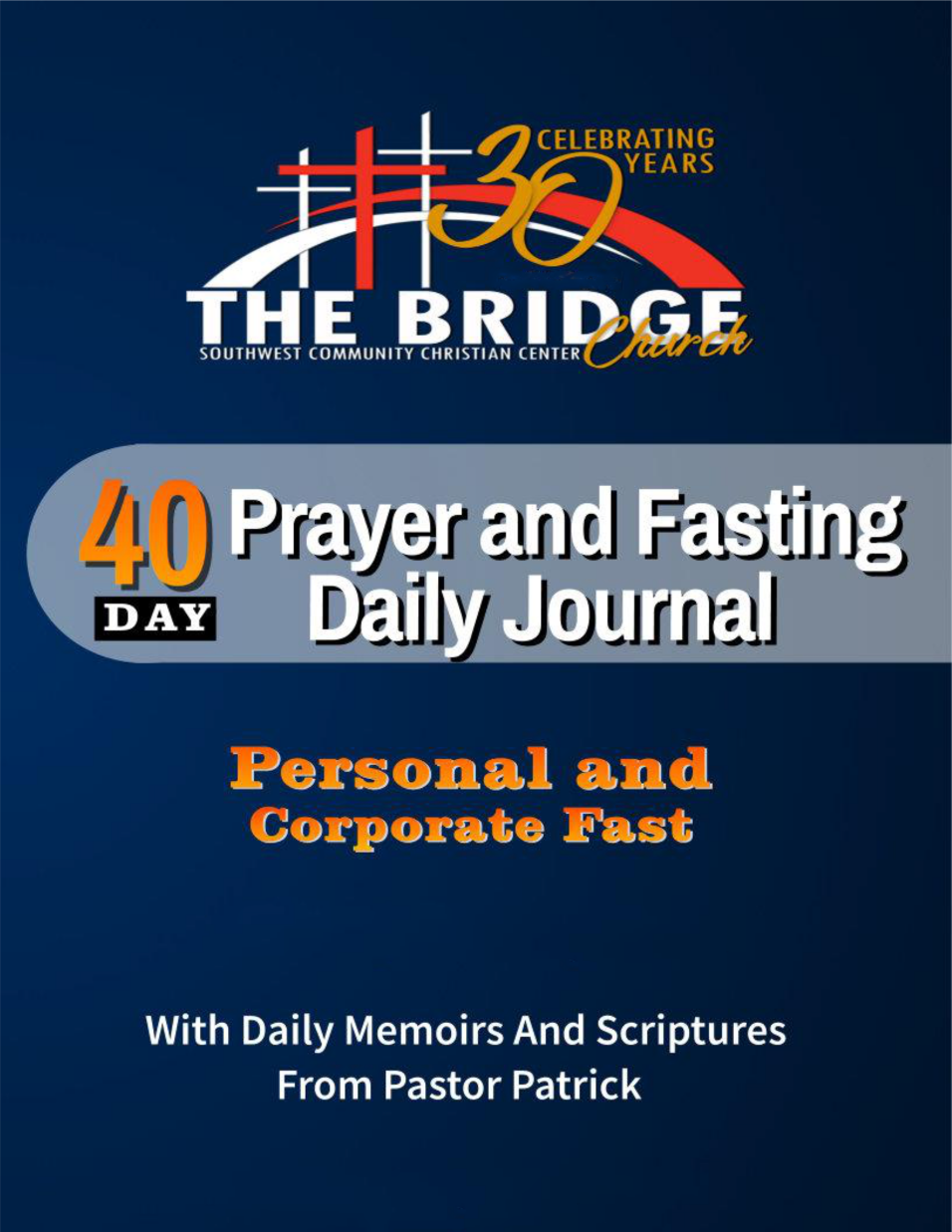
**OVER**



**1991-2024**

**FEBRUARY 14 th - MARCH 29th**

[www.bridgechurchhouston.com](http://www.bridgechurchhouston.com/)

Welcome to The Bridge 2024 40-Day Corporate fast! This is your personal fasting journal; designed to help you understand the importance of fasting, and aid in tracking your prayer requests, daily progress and personal victories!



You have chosen to be part of a powerful tool available for believers to change the course of their lives; their church and various areas of their world. As opposed to denying all types of food or drink during the 40-Day Fast, we are doing a weekly denial of certain foods, drinks and substances to gain more spiritual power, focus and clarity.

Fasting is a natural part of every believer’s prayer life. It should be practiced periodically to not only cleanse the mind, but to also empower our faith in standing against the wiles of the enemy; an enemy who is constantly battling to control and destroy our lives.

Fasting has a direct effect on our prayers, and can change not only power of the request, but also the divine connection of the Spirit of God within us. We become more focused and pliable to the will, direction and the presence of God.

As powerful as individual fasting can be, corporate or combined fasting between believers is an even more powerful tool of the faithful; in that we are joined against a common foe, and can help each other achieve our victorious goals.

Enter into this fast with confidence and keep your focus and purpose before you at all times. As you feel the pangs of physical hunger, the Spirit within you will initiate a special anointing to propel you into an offensive mode of attack. Each day, as you end your fast, you will feel the victor of your commitment, and see the results of your devotion and prayer.

Each fasting day, expect to receive a greater empowerment of faith; greater awareness and enhanced enthusiasm for your gifts and service. Also, be open to receive inspiration, insight, direction, guidance and vision through a special anointing of the Spirit or God.

Everyday 7:00 AM, join us for corporate prayer on social media, as we pray with the power this corporate fasting commitment will provide. Gradually, you will see a change in you, your church, your world and even those you encounter daily.

This is your time to shine for the Lord and get, while the getting is good! Pastor P.

The Bridge Church 40-Day Corporate Prayer & Fast Weekly Meal Fasting Plan

Begins: Ash Wednesday, February 14th\* Ends: Good Friday, March 29th

\*(All Sundays are exempt – eat what you will)

Week 1 – No Meats - No chicken, beef, pork or land animal; seafood is acceptable.

Week 2 – No Starches - Includes: rice, pastas, corn, potatoes, bread, tortilla, etc.

Week 3 – Daniel Fast – Fresh or frozen vegetables, beans, nuts, seeds, whole grain,

fresh fruits (watermelon, cantaloupe, mango, banana, etc.)

Week 4 – No Caffeine – No coffee, sodas or sports drinks, juices, etc.

Week 5 – No Fast Foods – Hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, wings, Chick-fil-A, etc.

Week 6 - No Sweets or Desserts – Cakes, pies, ice cream, candy,

Week 7 – No Breads (No yeast- leavened breads - nachos) until 3PM–Good Friday

Note: Join Pastor Patrick every Monday at 7:00 AM for the Word of the Week.

Fast Begins: Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Fast Ends: Friday, March 29, 2024 (at noon)

Fasting Times: Daily Morning Meditation and Prayer

7:00 AM on Social Media Feel the victory, power and the anointing! *(Medical needs, adjust schedules as needed)*

*Matthew 6:16-18 When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

How Close Do You Feel To God?

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:1-2

*I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God; which is your reasonable service.*

We should have a passion for God and the things of God. This passion causes an outward expression of our love, praise and devotion to Him and His cause. Sometimes, over a period of time, the burning passion we had can dissipate, and we find ourselves lacking and hardened to the energy, joy and freshness we once felt. As a result of this hardening, a distancing from the Spirit of God within us begins to occur. The next 40 days of fasting, will bring a rekindling of the excitement of knowing, worshiping and serving the Lord!

Personal Reflections:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts about The Bridge:

Pastor Patrick gave up 3 times before the owner of the center in China agreed allowing us to lease/purchase the center. The night Pastor signed the contract and walked out of the building, he was robbed at gunpoint by a young man. Pastor’s wallet was found the next day by a jogger, with his credit cards scattered, but all present. The young man who robbed him, eventually became a devoted member of The Bridge.

90% of shopping center was unfinished when we initially leased-purchased it in December 1990; with an open muddy ditch in the middle of most of the center. We completed the first sanctuary, which sat 600 people within 3 months after our initial service. (April 7, 1991) Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff preached the Grand Opening Service. The 10,000 square foot Southwest Community Christian Academy (SWCCA)was started April 8th, completed and opened on September 16, 1991.

*Thursday, February 15, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Forgiveness and restoration with God and man.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:14-15

*“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

A closeness to God can only be maintained as we cleanse the way to Him through forgiveness. Unforgiveness causes a barrier between us and the Lord; a constant check on the status of our relationships is therefore needful to keep us in a close relationship with God and man. Fasting gives us the power to not only forgive, but to also ask forgiveness.

Personal Reflections:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts about The Bridge:

The first deacons of our church were Deacon Jeff Sargent, Deacon Aaron Williams, and Deacon Emery Byrd. Our first Associate Ministers were Norris Pleasant, Norris Jackson and Matthew Lewis. Our gymnasium is named after Lela Bailey, our first member and organizer of our corporation. She passed at exactly 11AM on our first service, January 27, 1991.

*Friday, February 16, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Seeking God’s Guidance in difficult decisions

Scripture Reference: Psalm 25:4-5

*“Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.”*

This request by David for direction, hits the core of the believer’s need to know God’s will and direction for their immediate and future endeavors. Each of us has the longing for God’s approval to our plans and relationships; this Psalm is one that calls upon the Lord to reveal His confirmation. Proverb 3:3-5 is another such request, but is more in the form of a command to seek and trust God’s guidance.

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts about The Bridge:

Marion King, Gregory Daniels, The Cortez Kids, Alice Embers, Rosie Gilford, Myra Daniels and especially Ann Williams, helped us tremendously in the music department during the first months of our existence.

*Saturday, February 17, 2023*

Highlighted Objective:

Obedience to God’s Word, where we find His will and His commandments.

Scripture Reference: John 14:15-18

*“If you love Me, keep My commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever; the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*

The Bible of course has much to say about obedience. In the New Covenant (Testament) Christian obedience to God’s commands is essential to living a blessed and prosperous life. Jesus has provided us a Guide; a Comforter and a Protector in the person of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God indwells the believer and provides unique insight into God’s Kingdom and His wishes for us to adhere to its principles and precepts. It’s not just a duty to be obedient; we obey Him, because we love Him and trust in His promises. Trust Him!

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

As Pastor Patrick contemplated the vision of the new church, he consulted with a variety of pastors and friends. Mainly: Rev. James Dixon, Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff, Rev. Steve Crampton, Rev. Rivers Glover, Rev. Walter K. Berry, Rev. Kurvis Martin and Rev. Gusta Booker.

Day: 5

*Monday, February 19, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Understanding the power and joy of fasting!

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 17:37 (Read 1 Samuel 17:17-37)

*“And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”*

It’s time to embrace a new outlook on fasting. When practiced from the right perspective, fasting should be seen as an experience everyone should enjoy; especially corporate fasting, in that we all are obtaining a closer relationship with God and each other. Fasting is one of the most powerful Spiritual weapons the believers can use. Some Believers have misunderstood, and feel that fasting is an Old Testament practice and outdated; nothing could be further from the truth. In Matthew 6:16, Jesus himself said, “when you fast,” not “if you fast;” intimating a need to occasionally fast.

As you fast during these next 40 days with your Bridge Family and friends, don’t just look upon the fast as an obligation; look upon it as an opportunity to heal, fellowship, restore and encounter new directives; also to improve relationships lost or in need of repair. Fast often individually, whenever you desire; but don’t brag or become downcast as though you are suffering from your fast. To stay spiritually enriched, stay humble!

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

Pastor Patrick became a bit discouraged by many financial matters in August of 1991 as we completed SWCCA. He asked the Lord for just one sign to confirm the vision the Lord had given him. Almost immediately, as Pastor worked in the new play yard, a dragon fly flew up to his face and stared in his eyes; hundreds more surrounded Pastor Patrick, frightening the deacons and other workers. The dragonflies left within a couple of minutes, but left in the heart of Pastor Patrick an overwhelming confirmation of God’s presence and approval of our work and vision.

Day: 6

*Tuesday, February 20, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Understanding the power of fasting; for deliverance and protection

Individually and collectively, fasting can cleanse the way for God’s power to protect and preserve the believer from the onslaught of the enemy. Jehoshaphat called for a fast of all the people to beseech the Lord’s intervention against an unruly evil. God responded through His prophet Jahaziel, and encouraged the people not to fear, but go out and face the enemy, because the Lord had heard their prayers, and would be with them.

Fasting empowers us to go out daily, and face our opposition without fear, for as the prophet Jahaziel told them, “The battle is not yours, but God’s!” To this day, we go out to meet the enemy on his ground, but we realize it is a spiritual battle, and fasting strengthens the spiritual foothold we’ve established, and gives us victory.

Scripture Reference: II Chronicles 20:3-4

*“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah, they came to seek the Lord.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The First Bridge Prayer Breakfast was held at the Ramada Inn on Southwest Freeway in September of 1992 with 100 members and friends in attendance. Our speaker was the Rev. James Dixon of (the then) Northwest Community Baptist Church. We’ve had 26 powerful annual prayer breakfasts since the initial fellowship.

*Wednesday, February 21, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Health and Healing – Binding the Power of Sickness and Disease

Scripture Reference: Matthew 17:19-21

*“Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it [the demon of sickness] out?” So Jesus said to them, because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have the faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you! However, this kind [of demon] does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The” King Wing” of the new center, is dedicated to the late Dea. James King who was our first Chairman of the Deacon Board here at The Bridge. His was the largest Homegoing Celebrations ever held in our church. The gymnasium is named for Lela Baily, the first member of our church, who passed on the first day of our first service. The Chapel is named for the late Rhonda Cummings, dedicated woman of God, and the Director of our Usher's Ministry for over 12- Years of uninterrupted service.

*Thursday, February 22, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Self Control – Humbleness

We want to be filled however, God cannot fill and unyielded vessel. Yield to His way, His will and His Word.

Scripture Reference: I Kings 21:27-28

*“So it was when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning.*

*(28) And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite saying, “See now Ahab has humbled himself before Me; I will not bring the calamity in his days. In the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house.””*

Personal Reflections:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

In 1997, our friend, Pastor John P. Kee came to help us celebrate the grand opening of our new sanctuary. Two years later, Pastor Patrick received a vision of a new church, and he drew it on a napkin in a restaurant. Pastor had no idea what the vision was for, but kept it and took it home.

That same night, Pastor Kee called with an emergency need; he was traveling through Houston from another city on his way back to North Carolina; his bus had broken down on I-10 for lack of brake fluid. Pastor Patrick asked a friend open his store and brought the fluid downtown where the bus had stalled. While waiting on the bus to be repaired, Pastor Kee shared he wanted to build his own sanctuary on the corner of his old neighborhood, where he had sold crack when he was younger.

Pastor Patrick pulled out the napkin with the design of a new church he had received in the vision. Pastor Kee said this was perfect, and asked Pastor Patrick to help him with the design. The next day, Pastor Patrick got with member/architect Greg Portier, and designed the new church from the napkin. To this day, The New Life Church sits in Charlotte, N.C. as it was designed on the original napkin. God surely moves in mysterious ways!

*Friday, February 23, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Self-Control (Moderation) – Deliverance from the carnal mind, which will often allow self to claim the deliverance and blessings God has given. Living in integrity and control of the Holy Spirit is a powerful deterrent to the flesh. Fasting for a strong will to resist the being drawn into the wishes of the enemy; who uses jealousy, envy and retribution to retaliate against people you dislike.

Scripture Reference: Philippians 4:5

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Let you moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand!”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

After Pastor Patrick received the confirmed vision from the Lord, God inspired him to name the new church Southwest Community Baptist Church. In his capacity of Vice President of Ben Franklin Savings, and co-owner of Horne Properties Commercial Real Estate, Pastor Patrick had recently sold a 27acre property to Pastor James Dixon, of Northwest Community Baptist Church, and he asked Pastor Dixon to meet with him about starting the new church. The two met at JoJo’s restaurant every Monday for 6-weeks, working on ways to start the church without controversy or splitting any church affiliations. The two pastors forged a great bond of friendship; that exists to this day.

*Saturday, February 24, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Self-Control (Moderation) – Continuing to implement spiritual, mental, physical controls on the flesh

Scripture Reference: Philippians 4:6-7

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

In 1996, as the exterior of the new sanctuary was nearing completion, the church gained the interest of a White supremacist group called “The Skinheads.” They began writing graffiti in various places and began threatening phone calls. On the morning of July 17th, as the workers arrived, a large, unexploded pipe bomb was found on the front steps of the new church. Pastor Patrick was alerted immediately.

The church’s chief of security, Teddie Williamson was alerted and the Harris County Bomb squad came out to secure the bomb. The FBI found the original fuse to the bomb on the front step; the fuse had popped out upon impact after being thrown. The FBI agent said “the church was spared extensive destruction due to the fuse being detached.” Since that day, we’ve suffered more attacks, but have been under the constant surveillance and protection of the FBI.

*Monday, February 26, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Family And Personal Relationships – Restoration and Revitalization Healing marriages, families and interpersonal friendships

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 4:31-32

*“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The first Take It To The Bridge (TITTB) gospel celebration was January 2, 2000 at the Astrodome in Houston, Texas, where over 40,000 people of all backgrounds and ethnicities, gathered to praise God in music, Word and dance. Over 40 top gospel artist and speakers shared their gifts, talents, prophecies and spoken Word for 12 hours on live worldwide television. Hosts Vickie Wynans, Dr. Bobby Jones, Clifton Davis, and Jonathan Slocumb introduced and interviewed live and onstage Kirk Franklin, Creflo Dollar, Bishop TD Jakes, The Mighty Clouds of Joy, Juanita Bynum, Bishop Kenneth Ulmer, Donald Lawrence, Bobby Womack, Mary Mary, Hezekiah Walker and dozens more performed the same day. Four more TITTB celebrations were given; three in Houston and one in Dallas at The Potter’s House.

*Tuesday, February 27, 2024*

Highlighted Objective: Understanding The Power Of Prayer

You need deliverance from the hands of those who oppress you. There will be times you will feel like you are facing an evil situation or circumstance that seems impossible to overcome. Fasting will help you to not only endure to the end, but you will also overcome the enemy’s obstacle to your victory!

Scripture Reference: I Samuel 7:6-8

*“So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Samuel judged the Israelites at Mizpah. Now when the Philistines heard that the Israelites had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. So the children of Israel said to Samuel, Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us that He may save us from the hands of the Philistines.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

Six ministries were planned in 1990, a year prior to the opening of the church in 1991. They were:

Southwest Community Christian Academy Southwest Community Teen Center Southwest Health and Fitness Center

Southwest Soul Food Restaurant (Pass The Peas) Southwest Windows of Heaven Book Store Southwest Recording Studio

All were realized and opened, along with Crossover Records and Take It To The Bridge Productions.

Day 13

*Wednesday, February 28, 2024*

Highlighted Objective: Individual Self Control (Moderation). Tolerance and Enduring the weaknesses and shortcomings of others. We are fasting to increase our strength and ability to overcome temptation, to dedicate and consecrate ourselves to God. In His will, we can find meaning and purpose; better enjoying our service to others and the Lord.

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:9–13

*“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The Southwest Community Baptist Church was renamed The Bridge, after Pastor Patrick saw a vision of people of all colors crossing over a bridge, as he sat alone on the 63rd Street pier on the strand in Galveston in 1997.

*Thursday, February 29, 2024*

Highlighted Objective: Releasing The Power Of God’s Spirit In You!

Righteous Living and Boldness of Faith – Revealing and Releasing Your Personal Gifts and Power in the Spirit. Keep praying to the Lord for the gift you desire, or for God to reveal your gift; so you can practice the gift you’ve been given.

Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 4:14

*“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The first year of the existence of SWCCA, the school was flooded out when a storm came through Houston, and dumped 6 inches of water in one day, and the bayou drains failed to open. A volunteer fire truck and a dump truck from a member, helped evacuate all the children from the premises.

*Friday, March 1, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Releasing The Power Of God’s Spirit In You!

We must allow the gift we’ve be given to manifest itself in the presence of others; so it may be used boldly, with purpose and humility.

Scripture Reference: 2 Timothy 1:6-7

*“Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The Bridge Drill Team won 11 National 1st Place trophies. The Bridge basketball team, Invictus, travels throughout the country playing in and winning many tournaments under the leadership of Coach Willie Warren. Many of our youth football league went on to play professionally in the NFL. Three played on teams that won the Super Bowl; Russell Okong, Michael Bennett and Martellus Bennett. Steven Sims Jr. also went on the play for the Houston Texans.

*Saturday, March 2, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Strengthening and Understanding Stewardship of Our Finances – Tithing

Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

*“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

Praise Dance Ministry – The Bridge was one of the first churches in the nation to organize and develop a praise dance ministry. We are so thankful for the dedication and committed work of Sis. Felicia Lewis for over 20 years!

*Monday, March 4, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Righteous Living And Boldness Of Faith

Fasting allows you to even more boldly express your commitment, dedication and devotion to God. Do it unto God, not to impress others. When you fast individually, keep it to yourself, and God will reward your effort.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:16-18

*“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their face, that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret, will reward you openly.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The main sanctuary of the now church was built with 40 tons of air conditioning, which we discovered fairly quickly, was not enough. We raised funds for 30 tons more in 2001, and an additional 40 tons with a special offering in 2011.

*Tuesday, March 5, 2024*

Highlighted Objective: Righteous Living And Boldness Of Faith

It bears repeating a second day that fasting allows you to even more boldly express your commitment, dedication and devotion to God. We give another example of the righteousness of God poured upon the ones who devote themselves to fasting and prayer

Scripture Reference: Luke 2:36-37

*“Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity, and this woman was a widow of about 84 years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The colors of the main sanctuary were changed from mauve to blue in 2007, prompting a change in the colors of the pew chairs. Pastor Patrick and the leadership organized a fundraising effort to raise $40,000 for new chairs. This complete sum was raised in only 6 weeks, and the chairs were delivered in only 2 months; complete with printing on the chairbacks for the sponsoring families. In 2001 the church colors were changed to light and dark grey.

Day: 19

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Restoration Of Your Relationship With God

Correctly done, fasting can show God your state of repentance for things you may have done. Restoring a good and right standing with the Lord. God honors our fasting and complete prayer of repentance to Him, in Jesus Name!

Scripture Reference: Deuteronomy 8:17-18

*“You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your forefathers, as it is today.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

While at the Stellar Gospel Music Awards in 2005, Pastor Patrick received as inspiration to do a national gospel star search competition, to discover talented new gospel artist in the industry. With the help and consent of Don Jackson, CEO of the parent company, the Stellar Awards Star Search was established. Pastor Patrick and staff personally traveled to 14 different major hub cities, including Dallas, Chicago, Detroit, Seattle, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and many others; huge competitions were held in each city. Winners of the regional competitions were then brought to Houston for the final competition before gospel industry leaders like Mary Mary and Dr. Bobby Jones. Micah Stampley of Houston won the competition by only 1/10th of one percent and received a recording contract, and started his illustrious career.

*You’re at the halfway point! Take a moment to re-commit yourself to this fast. Reach out and call another person on the fast and pray with them today. Remember that we are in this fast together.*

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Releasing Of The Power Of God Through The Spirit In You

Spiritual and Mental renewal are necessary for cleansing and re-alignment of your relationship with God. Renewal shows God daily how much you love and rely upon Him for your sustenance and protection.

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:2

*“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

In 2008, Pastor Patrick, who had worked to bring many gospel artists and helped them, decided to do his own gospel project after much consultation with the Lord. Pastor Patrick met with some of the greatest gospel music songwriters and Tyler Perry musical producer, Elvin Ross, and developed the Pastor Patrick and The Bridge Project/Crossover CD. The CD featured many special guests like Gene Moore Jr., (the late) Alvaneeda Nelson, (the late) Roz McDuffie, (the late) Shawn McLemore and his wife Rhonda, Gene Moore, Perry Smith, Harvey Baker, among others. The CD debuted on Billboard at #27, and went to top 10, and yielded the award winning, #1 single, “I Am A Witness.” The CD was nominated for two Stellar Awards and won numerous state, local and national honors.

*Friday, March 8, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Church Growth and Vision – Collective Vision Fulfillment

God wants his people working together to bring about spiritual growth; in service, expansion and faith. If we are to fulfill our purpose here at The Bridge, we must continually seek each other in combined praise, worship, study and service.

Scripture Reference: Nehemiah 1:3-4 and 2:17-18

*“Then I said to them, “You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.” And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king’s words that he had spoken to me. So they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they set their hands to this good work.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The church ministry has spawned or accepted over 143 male and female ministers over the years. In 1994, Rev. Cathy Mason accepted her calling, and became a daughter of the ministry. From its’ inception, The Bridge Church has been a leader in allowing female ministers to fulfill their calling. As of 2024, there are 21 Associate Ministers, and 5 Assistant Pastors.

*Saturday, March 9, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Health and Healing – Binding the Power of Sickness and Disease

As you fast, your power to heal and cast out the demon of sickness will increase; If you can’t go to see the sick, call, write or text them, and speak healing over their sickness.

Scripture Reference: Mark 5:17-18

*“And these signs will follow those that believe: In My name, they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly; it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover!”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The Bridge has made it through many name storms and still managed to give community support to house and feed many of the homeless exposed to the hash elements; Hurricanes Harvey, Ike and Katrina, just to name a few. Pastor Patrick worked directly with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, TD Jakes and Oprah Winfrey to house many at the Astrodome during the catastrophic Hurricane Katrina disaster in New Orleans. We have also helped with numerous catastrophes in Haiti, The Bahamas, Oklahoma, New Orleans, St. Thomas and Houston. Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines has worked with us to deliver hundreds of tons of food and survival essentials to many devastated overseas destinations.

Day: 23

*Monday, March 11, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Righteous Living and Boldness of Faith

We must continue to be witnesses for the Lord, and guide people to His church, The Bridge. We have a wonderful, loving fellowship, and God desires us to “go out” and bring those who are not saved; and those who may be saved, but un- churched. (No place of worship). We should be willing to share with others we know and have yet to meet.

Scripture Reference: Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The Bridge has been blessed with many Ministers of Music over the years: Ann Williams (tremendous), Anna Boney Brown, Dorian Allen and others, but none more dedicated and committed than Rev. Jerald Washington; who came to us over 25 years ago as a musician with his best friend Rev. George “Buffy” Solomon, and serves as the Minister of Music and Performing Arts to this day. We are so thankful for our dedicated musicians, as well; like Robert Simpson, James Smith and Kevin Oliver, who are as steady as a spiritual heartbeat.

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Self-Control (Moderation) – Deliverance from Controlling and Manipulating Spirits of the world, and strength to combat them. It is not a sin to drink, but when we give over to a drunken spirit, we negate the power of the Spirit of God to help, guide and instruct us in the paths of righteousness and obedience

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 5:18 (Amp)

*“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is wickedness (corruption and stupidity), but be filled with the Holy Spirit, and constantly guided by Him.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

Pastor Patrick came to Houston to film a movie with Redd Foxx in October 1980, and saw a vision from the Lord. He followed the vision for 11 years until the actual start of The Bridge in 1991. Also, until 1999, Pastor Patrick and his family never lived more than one mile from the initial spot he saw the vision.

*Wednesday, March 13, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Family, Church and Personal Relationships

God wants us to continue to come together in recreation, fellowship, praise and worship. We should pray together, fast together and even sing together in a unified praise to God! Praise is a powerful tool to combat the enemy’s forces, and keep ourselves unified in fellowship and God’s good graces. Sing unto the Lord together. There is Power in Praise!

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 5:19

*“Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs; singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

Foreseeing a trend in non-traditional church attendance, Pastor Patrick began a television and social media ministry in 2018, depending upon the great talents and dedicated service of our Television and Sound ministries. This investment in lighting and audio-visual equipment has proven to be invaluable during the current pandemic and inability to attend normal, in person services. Special thanks to TV and sound directors, Cynthia Fannin (25 years) and Rev. Michael McKelvey (18 years). TV Producer/Director Dea. John Odom (19 years), and Bonnie Johnson (17 years) for their years of dedicated service to our broadcast.

Day: 26

*Thursday, March 14, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Strengthening Family, Church and Personal Relationships

God wants us to be a family; one body, with the same love care and concern for each other. If one suffers, we all suffer; if one is honored, we all are honored; if one mourns, we all mourn; if one rejoices, we all rejoice. (I Cor. 12:26) There are times when we must fast and prayer to support those of us who have lost loved ones. And in this season of plagues and hostilities, I believe we all have been touched in some way by loss through death. Jesus said, “Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.” God will bring them comfort, and so should we.

Scripture Reference: I Samuel 31:13

*“Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, all the valiant men arose and traveled all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall…and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted there seven days.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

For the first 4 years in the new sanctuary, there was no stain glass window; just curtains. In 1999 a new stain glass window was designed by Pastor Patrick and created depicting the Holy Spirit coming down in the form of a dove towards the cross, and a flow of blood streaming from the base of the cross. A few years later (2004), clouds and mountains were added to the beautiful aesthetics of the sanctuary.

Day: 27

*Friday, March 15, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Family, Church and Personal Relationships – Unity and Peace

Unity requires dedication and work to keep us *(the called-out saints)*, close and available to one another; especially when one is in need. This is because the enemy wants us to become divided; so we must fast and pray to maintain our Spiritual unity in the Lord. Where there is unity, there will be peace!

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 4:1-3

*“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, will all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

In 2011, after Sunday service, Pastor Patrick was in Cheddars in Katy, and saw a large double-sided fish aquarium as he walk in. It was so beautiful, he asked the manager who had done it. The manager said, “I have his card attached to the aquarium.” The manager gave Pastor the card and he called them and asked if he could come down. It was Sunday, but the owner at The Fish Gallery said to come and he would wait. Pastor Patrick went that same day and saw the work; and money was donated to install the two new aquariums within one month.

Day: 28

*Saturday, March 16, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Family and Closer Church Family Ties

For 30 years, after each and every service of any kind, we have touched hands and confessed our love and care for each other, before the Lord. There is no way we could have survived as a church without this bond of love and forgiveness. We now go into a new chapter of vision and destiny for our church, and God is showing us the way. Let us therefore fast and pray for clarity of vision for you and all of us!

Scripture Reference: John 13:34-35

*“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

*“For the vision is yet for an appointed time. But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come; It will not tarry” (Habakkuk. 2:3)*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

Youth sports and activities have always been a major part of the Southwest Outreach Program; for the church and the community. Most churches (new and old), use the gym in conjunction with the sanctuary, Pastor Patrick was adamant that the youth have their own gymnasium and restroom facilities. The exterior of Lela Baily gymnasium was built and hopefully the interior was going to be completed within 2 years. We were blessed to have completion of the gym within six months!

Day: 29

*Monday, March 18, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Righteous Living and Boldness of Faith – Revealing and Releasing Your Personal and collective power Gifts and Power in the Spirit

Fasting and Prayer for protection against all evil things; seen and unseen. The power of prayer combined with fasting provides protection for you and all who join you!

Scripture Reference: Ezra 8:21 & 23

*“Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. (23) So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The Bridge has been blessed with men and women who have taught their sports skills in a variety of different sports to our youth. Many of our community youth have been helped through our football, basketball, track and other intramural sports programs, and flourished. Some have gone on to careers in professional sports after going through the church programs or school. The Harrison Twins, (Andrew and Aaron), attended SWCCA and went on to the NBA after a championship year at Kentucky. Our own members, Michael and Martellus Bennett and Russell Okong, went through the SWCYO football program, and all three went to the NFL and earned Super Bowl Rings. Another member, Steve Sims Jr. went through the football program, went to college at Kansas, and plays for Washington in the NFL. He is currently working with Pastor Patrick to develop a new football program with our wonderful, long-time Sports Director, Frank Chalmers; who is also a lifetime Bridge member-alumnus. (Bridge Member Ross Blacklock was recruited by Texans in the 2019 NFL draft.) Member Steve Sims scored a touchdown with the Texans in a recent paly off game.

The youth sports department could use your support and participation to turn out more success stories, such as these.

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Self control – Dealing with the angry spirit

To maintain a Christian attitude and countenance of favor, we must handle one of the hardest emotions ever given to man and woman; Anger. There is no doubt, we will get angry for many reasons; the key is not letting the anger possess us, and cause us to veer from the path God has called us. Many relationships have become damaged and even destroyed because of the “angry spirit.” We must therefore remain prayerful and connected to each other in love, and “so fulfill the law of Christ. *(Gal. 6:2)*

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 4:26-27

*“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil,”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The employee and existing church parking lots were designed, developed and constructed years after the new sanctuary had been built.

*Wednesday, March 20, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Strengthening Our Relationship With God

Confession of sin is the surest way to place us back in a right relationship with the Lord. Fasting helps us to clearly see our sins that need to be confessed and cleansed by God. As believers, we have an unction (anointing) from the Lord, which keeps us aware and alerted to the entrapments of sin. This unction is even stronger as you fast!

Scripture Reference: I John 1:8-10

*“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The second chairman of the Deacon Board was Jeff Sargent, Jr. Dea. Jan Rainey was the first Administrator of SWCCA working with LaNessa Patrick.

*Thursday, March 21, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Family and Personal Relationships (Restoration and Revitalization)

Family life and family order must be maintained and promoted. This is done by constant evaluation of the biblical order established by the Word of God. Every family is different of course, but when we fast, we should examine our family ties, and make adjustments as the Spirit of God reveals possible areas that need strengthening; don’t put it off, lives are at stake!

Scripture Reference:

*“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.” (I Tim. 5:8)*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

Pastor Cathy Mason was a lead singer in the church choir when she joined the church in August, 1991. Prior to Pastor Patrick becoming a minister in 1983, he and Dea. Joseph Mason sang together for many years in the McGee Chapel Choirs.

*Friday, March 22, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Releasing The Power Of God’s Spirit Through You

One of the greatest deterrents to using the Spirit of God who lives in you, is the fear of failure, doubt and ridicule. We can’t allow the enemy to cause us to step back because we feel our faith isn’t adequate. This was a problem with the original disciples as well. But Jesus gave them the greatest example of faith with the “mustard seed” analogy, which they could easily apply and understand. No matter what your size of faith, you can move mountains. However, certain stronger tasks and spiritual endeavors, require fasting and prayer. Have confidence in the Lord and use your Spiritual gifts and authority during the fast and beyond!

Scripture Reference: II Timothy 1:6-7

*“Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands, For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

Prior to Pastor Patrick becoming a minister in 1983, he worked in Hollywood with many stars in the entertainment industry, with whom he forged lifetime relationships. Some have gone on to glory, but others still come and share their memories with us.

Day: 34

*Saturday, March 23, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Strengthening Our Relationship With God and Others

If we expect to grow in the Lord, there are some retardants to that growth, we may be holding on to. Emotions, attitudes and evil thoughts, constantly attack us from the past to distract us. As believers, we must not allow these deterrents to keep us in bondage or cause us reluctance to heal. We must therefore remove these unwanted emotions of the “old man,” which keep the “new man” from the benefits of the available spiritual growth the Spirit of God provides.

Scripture Reference: Colossians 3:8-10 (read all of chapter 3 of Colossians) *“But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in the knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

All but one of Pastor Patrick’s children was born in California. Paige was born in Houston; Patience, Kandice and Kristopher, were all born in L.A and Hollywood.

Day: 35

*Monday, March 25, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Strengthening Our Relationship With God and Others

We’ve just spoken about the need to remove certain attitudes and hindrances of the “old man” within us; what do we need to acquire for the “new man” to flourish and be increased in faith? We must realize who we are and to whom we belong; we are children of the Kingdom, and we have a responsibility to behave as children of obedience (the elect of God). During this fast, we must pray for strength to live who we are, and support others attempting to do the same. We are family; one family in Christ!

Scripture Reference: Colossians 3:9-10

*“Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

God’s Temple of Praise is the vision of The Bridge Church’s own son in the ministry, Pastor Melvin Johnson; we are proud of him. The Bridge has help to start 41 churches in the Houston area; contributing and paying their bills for one full year when they started. Can you name a few?

*Tuesday, March 26, 2024*

Highlighted Objective: Power Through The Spirit

*“Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” II Tim. 1:6-7*

Scripture Reference: *Luke 5:24*

*But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

The Silverlake Church founded by Pastor Reginald DeVaughn, began as a financially sponsored mission church of The Bridge.

*Wednesday, March 27, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Understanding The Power Of Fasting, Prayer and Unity

We must understand the power of God and His ability to bring anything into existence, we might think impossible. God has everything we want or need, but He works through our faith. We’ve spoken about the old man (the flesh); the new man (the new creature), and now let’s discuss the inner man (of faith). This is the greatness that God has poured into every man or woman of faith; the ability to prosper and excel in your life and inspire the same in others of the family. You are a unique piece in God’s puzzle of life; don’t allow the enemy to confuse you, and you’re found missing. God needs you to walk, talk and live in faith!

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 3:16-20 (Read all of Ephesians 3)

*“The He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooting and grounded in love may be able to comprehend with all the saints, what is the width and the length and depth and height…and fullness of God.*

*(20) Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we ask or thing, according to the power that words in us!*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

Pastor Patrick worked in retail and photography during college in the early 1970’s, after which he then began managing, promoting, and producing R & B groups and television stars. Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes (Teddy Pendergrass), Enchantment, The Dramatics, Eddie Kendricks, Kool and the Gang, Shalimar, Donny Hathaway, Joe Cocker, Redd Foxx, The Chi-Lites, The Pointer Sisters, The Isley Brothers, Frankie Beverly and Maze, The Four Tops and The Moments were just a few of the groups and personalities Pastor has worked with.

*Thursday, March 28, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Strengthening Our Relationship With God Through Giving

God wants to keep a good relationship with us; strong and blessed. That relationship becomes tainted and strained if we don’t follow his precepts (instructions) and commandments. God often tells us that we have stepped away from Him and reveals it to us in his word; through a sermon, bible study or in your personal readings. Nowhere is this better seen, than in the book of Malachi; in the third chapter, God tells His people they have left Him; they have robbed Him; and they should return to Him. The people said “When did we leave you? How did we rob you?” And God said, “In tithes and offerings!” The windows of heaven blessings are tied to the tithes and offerings we bring to the “Storehouse” of God; the church, that there might be “meat in my house.” Fast and let God reveal this contingency blessing to you, and reap the benefits of His prosperity, and protection from losing it!

Scripture Reference: Malachi 3:6-12 *(Read in you leisure time)*

*“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house; and prove me (right now) in this, says the Lord of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it!”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

Pastor Patrick has been on the Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN) 23 times and hosted the national broadcast 6 times. His long-time mentor was (the late) Paul Crouch, founder of TBN. In 1973, Pastor Patrick and his mother, were in Orange County when TBN opened and aired its’ first broadcast.

Day 39: 6 am Thru Noon Day

*Friday, March 29, 2024*

Highlighted Objective:

Releasing The Power Of God’s Spirit Through You

As we come to the end of the fast, we should be able to look into the depths of God’s love, and see our blessing(s) approaching. This requires we look through the eyes of faith, and see the unseen, as though it’s already manifested. Be encouraged to know that “God will supply all your needs, according to His riches in glory…!

”

Scripture Reference: II Corinthians 5:7

*“For we walk by faith, Not by sight!”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

Pastor Patrick’s long-time mentor and friend was the late Myles Munroe, who was tragically killed in a plane crash in November, 2014. Pastor Patrick’s father had passed just a month before on October 23rd. Pastor Patrick lost his father and both his mentors (Paul Crouch and Myles Munroe), in the space of one year.

Day: 40

Saturday, March 30, 2024

No Fast: Day of Consecration and Prayer

Highlighted Objective:

Righteous Living and Boldness of Faith

We’ve come to the last day of our fast together. As your Pastor, it’s been exciting for me to write these observations for you, and I hoped the encouragement and the experience during this fast, has enabled you to see more of what God has purposed for you. As we go forward as a church family, The Bridge is what we make it. Let’s make it a fellowship of love, care, kindness and acceptance; with an open mind, willing to let the Spirit of God reign and have preeminence. It’s been an incredible 33-year journey thus far, and I’m excited and full of anticipation for what God will do next in our lives. As pastors, leaders, members and partakers, let’s continue the great work God has given us. Let’s do it together!

Scripture Reference: I Thessalonians 5:16-22 (Please read all of chapter 5) *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast (to) what is good, and abstain from every form of evil.”*

Personal Reflection:

Precious Memories and Forgotten Facts:

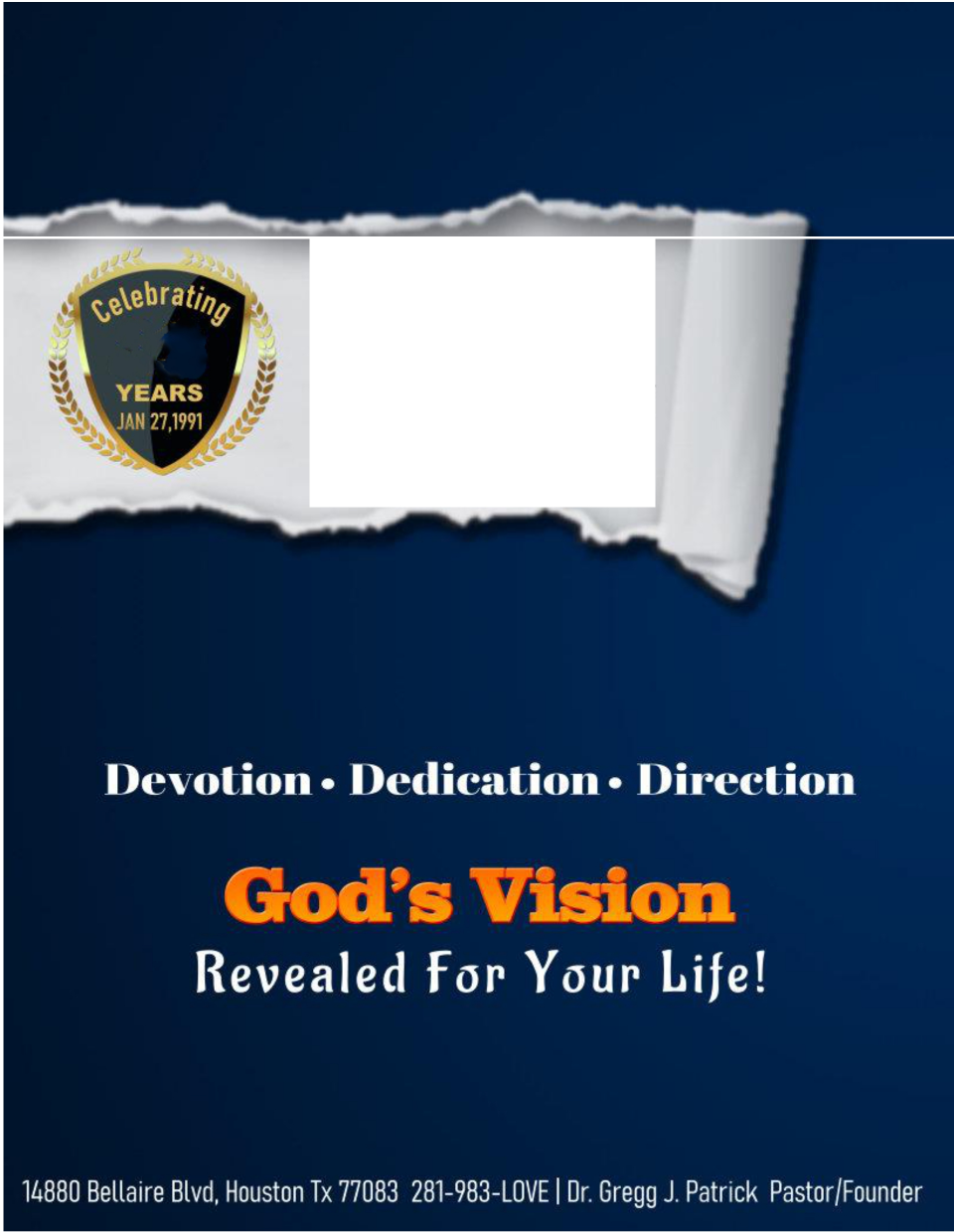
Pastor Patrick’s inspiration to enter the ministry was Rev. Billy Graham, who sent for Pastor to come to St. Louis in 2002. It was one of the most exciting days in the life of Pastor Patrick; and prayerfully, more to come. God has been so good.

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