

## **Charles Edward Francis, Founder Equipping Kingdom Men for Kingdom Business**

Mr. Charles Edward Francis is the visionary behind “Equipping Kingdom Men for Kingdom Business”. His vision for the ministry emerged out of a desire to help prepare men to take their rightful place as leaders within their churches, their families, and their communities. He believes men should be about seeking and following the will of God for their lives and that men should support one another in the pursuit of that objective. He organized the Kingdom Men ministry to inspire men to study God’s Word together, fellowship together, and serve together.

The Kingdom Men vision was first revealed to him approximately five years ago while serving at the LaGrange Baptist Association Bateman Center, a service organization comprised of 56 churches whose mission is to serve the community through “individual/family counseling, work projects, backyard Bible clubs, and other opportunities throughout the year”. Mr. Francis understood the need for church families to reach across cultural differences and traditional church boundaries to study together, fellowship together, and work together for the betterment of their communities. He believes that the catalyst for building a strong faith-based community starts with leadership from men to make that happen.

As a Christian man, Mr. Francis was baptized at an early age. He has served in ministries within a number of church families, including facility management, ushers, sanctuary choir, male chorus, men’s ministry instructor, and deacon. His commitment to the faith walk was strengthened approximately ten years ago when he moved to Giddings, Texas. He has developed his faith walk within the Concord Christian Church, under the pastoral leadership of Pastor Stanley P. Harris, where he currently serves as Elder within the church family.

Within his community, Mr. Francis began his service in high school, as student body president, member of Who’s Who in American high school students, and as a youth board member for the American Red Cross. After high school, he attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, majoring in social welfare, with a minor in sociology. As part of his studies, he served a one-year internship as a juvenile probation officer.

Following his graduation from college, Mr. Francis served in the United States Army. As an ROTC graduate, he entered the military as a commissioned Armor Officer. After his active duty service, he served for ten years in the U.S. Army Reserves. Mr. Francis spent his professional career within the U.S. Postal Service, serving a total of 42 years. At retirement, he had become a recognized expert in customer service and

logistics. His innovative strategies, still in place in the postal service, greatly improved work efficiencies and saved the organization millions of dollars.

Elder Francis is a dedicated servant leader within his community. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Giddings food pantry for eight years. He is a member of the Lion's Club International, Giddings Noon Club, serving as a member of the Board of Directors for more than eight years. He is a 2020 recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellow award for outstanding service. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Lee County Youth Center (LCYC), where he has served for nine years. One of his proudest accomplishments is his work toward helping the center become a highly effective, self-sustaining organization, serving approximately 85 students annually.

Elder Francis is a proud family man, within a loving and supportive family. His daughter and granddaughter are successful professionals who also serve their communities as well. He is a dedicated caregiver for his mother and moved to Giddings specifically to care for her. His lighter side embraces several hobbies, including fishing, coin collecting, stamp collecting, and enjoying a competitive game of dominoes with family and friends.

Despite a satisfying and highly successful past, Mr. Francis believes the best is yet to come. Since moving to Giddings, the larger calling on his life has become fully apparent, that of building a multi-denominational, cross-cultural men's ministry who will learn together, fellowship together, and serve their neighbors together, as leaders of church, family, and community.