



ANTIOCH CONNECTION



An Antioch FFX Publication

VOL. 3 | ISSUE 2

TAYLORED TALK

a message for His people

"Focus on Spiritual Gifts"

Dear Antioch Family,

As we embark on the new year, I'm thrilled about our church theme. Our focus at Antioch Baptist Church is clear: to prioritize salvations and discipleship, adding to the Lord's Church while growing those who have already accepted Jesus Christ. Together, we are called to make an impact for His Kingdom! It is essential to remember that our spiritual gifts are not just for us—they are meant to be used to expand the kingdom of God and serve one another and our communities.

Each of us has been uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit, and it's crucial that we understand and use our gifts. That is why we are excited to offer our **Spiritual Gifts Assessment** available on our website at <https://spiritualgiftstest.com>. This resource will help you to identify your unique gifts and provide insights on how you can use them to contribute to God's work. Once you discover your spiritual gifts, Your next step is to deploy your spiritual gifts.

Moreover, our spiritual gifts are essential in executing our spiritual assignments. What is God calling you to do in this season? Your assignment is your assignment and there is no substitute for you or your assignment. As we continue to pray and fast, ask God to show you your spiritual assignment. My prayer is that you will run to your assignment and not run away from it like Jonah.

As we set our eyes on 2025, Antioch FFX has some ambitious spiritual assignments: 50 souls saved, 50% of our membership actively engaged in ministry and outreach, and a vibrant Christian education and discipleship program with 200 members and 50 children and youth involved weekly.

Let's continue working together and using our spiritual gifts to make a difference in the lives of others. Let's commit and execute on our assignments, as we build God's kingdom and fulfill the call to love, serve, and disciple others for Christ.

I love you and there is absolutely nothing you can do about it!

Pastor T



2025 FOCUS: FULFILLING OUR PURPOSE!

Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Mark 8:25 ESV

Inside this edition:

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Join Us For Prayer & Bible Studies

Tuesday Morning Prayer: 7-7:30am | Dial (945) 218-0090, access code 1846260

Sunday School and C.A.R.E.S. Small Groups | 9:30am—10:15am

Wednesday 12Noon and Family Bible Study | 7:00pm

Thursday SonRise Bible Study | 6am

Friday Morning Bible Study | 9:30am





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BELIZE MISSION 2025: GOLDEN HAVEN REST HOME

**Antioch Goal #2: Be a tithing church via missions and community outreach:
50 locally; 35% nationally; and 15% globally**

Antioch, we are putting our goals into action! Pastor Taylor along with 10 Antioch members and 23 members of The Emmanuel Temple and Wesley AME Churches—Houston, TX, and several Kingdom Partners journeyed to Belize, January 14—17th to reach the World for Christ and serve others. The assignment was to paint the exterior and specific interior spaces of the Golden Haven Rest Home, situated in the village of Hattville in the Belize District. This residential care home for Belize seniors is operated by the Ministry of Human Development.

One might ask Why Belize? In prior years, Pastor John White of Wesley AME Church and Pastor Taylor, previously Senior Pastor of Springdale Baptist Church Memphis, TN, partnered together to serve the Golden Haven Rest Home—power washing, painting, and tidying up the facility. COVID made it impossible to return for several years. The journey in 2025 was a continuation of this labor of love and ties directly to our goal to provide missions and community outreach globally. In collaboration with Antioch's Associate Pastor for Missions and Outreach, Rev. Michael Coppedge, and our Chair of the Missions Advisory Committee, Deacon James McCall, Pastor Taylor, called for 10 Antioch volunteers to support this endeavor. What better way to show Antioch C.A.R.E.S. than to assist other people of color in need?



L to R: Annette Green, Tori Croslin, Tanya Easley, Marilyn Crouther, Robert Easley, Pastor Kevin B. Taylor, Todd Gholar, Maria Pernell, Rev. Everett McAllister, Michelle Edwards, and Darryl Davis.

The full missionary team understood the assignment and went to work. On day one, each person identified their strengths (rollers, edgers, brush cleaners, etc.). We were so productive that the exterior of the building, the pavilion, and the small companion building at front were nearly complete. A meeting with the Golden Haven Supervisor revealed that the monthly funds received primarily covered food and medicines. The residents needed additional support: toiletries, personal hygiene items, mattress covers, sheets, towels, clothing, shoes, etc. Once this need was communicated to the team, all of the missionaries on site made personal contributions and several team members reached out to friends back home. Collectively we raised over \$3,000 and provided all the residents with much-needed supplies and gifts. Through the generosity of our church and personal contributions, God provided exceedingly and abundantly more than the seniors of Golden Haven Rest Home could have asked or imagined. See pages 3 and 4 for more details.

About Belize

Belize is a nation on Central America's northeastern coast, with Caribbean Sea shorelines to the east and dense jungle to the west. Offshore, the Belize Barrier Reef is dotted with hundreds of low-lying islands, or cays, and hosts of marine life. Belize jungle areas are home to Mayan ruins like Caracol, renowned for its towering pyramids. Belize's capital is Belmopan.

Belize, which is 62% Christian, is a melting pot of cultures and languages. Although the colonial government encouraged racial segregation to keep the population divided, this small, diverse population (~400k) never accepted it and does not tolerate racism. It is the only Central American country with English as the official language; Spanish is the most widely spoken. More than half the population is multi-lingual.

Belize, a member of the Caribbean Community (CARI COM), is part of the Caribbean region and the historical British West Indies. It received its independence from Great Britain on September 21, 1981 and is known for September celebrations and Punta music.





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BELIZE MISSION 2025: GOLDEN HAVEN REST HOME

**Golden
Haven Rest
Home**

Before



**Golden Haven Rest Home
After the Antioch Mission
Team's Impact**



Teamwork truly makes the dream work. We accomplished our mission and so much more.



I know for certain,
"Blessed are those
who are generous,
because they feed
the poor."
Proverbs 22:9 NLT
— Dr. Michelle
Edwards



Jesus said the poor will always be with us and thus we are reminded that we are our brothers and sisters keepers. Although we were small in number, little is much when God is in it. I am thankful that God identified a need, provided a means, and touched the hearts of our group to be obedient to His call. God will make a way. We just need to learn to trust Him.—Rev. Everett McAllister



My heart is full. The Belize mission confirms what God can do through His people when we are like-minded in our goals, united in our work, and when every believer uses their talents. We can help meet the needs of those around us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I'm so grateful to play a small part in reaching the world for Christ. — Sis. Annette Green



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BELIZE MISSION 2025: GOLDEN HAVEN REST HOME



"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16 ESV
— Marilyn Crouther



A brush in His hand, is different than a brush in ours! — Pastor Taylor



Whenever groups get together — no matter how well the intention — there is usually dissension but in this case there was none of that (except jokingly). If anyone needed help completing a task, they just had to ask and several people came to help. The true meaning of teamwork—to God's glory! It was a pleasure working together to reach our mission goal and more! — Tori Croslin



As we painted, one of the Houston missionaries was humming. After a short while, a resident began singing the Lord's Prayer in full operatic voice with such poise and grace. It was an expression of her gratitude for the blessing bags received earlier that day. It was as if she was singing directly to Our Father. My heart was filled with joy. I was both surprised and mesmerized by this tiny woman's strong and powerful voice. I will forever remember her face, her voice, and her expression of gratitude. — Maria Pernell



The Belize Mission was a labor of love. We worked hard and created fun memories. One of the team members captured the special moments with superlative awards:

- Michelle - Most likely to delegate
- Rev. McAllister - Most likely to climb 40 feet just to touch up a spot
- Maria - Most likely to go bungee jumping against her kids' wishes
- Tanya - Most likely to raise \$10k in 10 minutes for a worthy cause
- Pastor - Most likely to take a photo of someone sleeping
- Todd - Most likely to give his last shirt to a person in need



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GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES

MAKING DISCIPLES SERIES

Objective: This 3-part study will equip you with the principles and techniques required to become an effective Ambassador for Christ.

<p>1. Biblical Foundations</p> <p>This 11-week course that is designed to teach the basics of faith that every Christian should know. It is especially beneficial for new believers.</p>	<p>2. Every Believer Can</p> <p>This 6-week course empowers the Christian to become an effective witness for Christ.</p>	<p>3. Share Jesus Without Fear</p> <p>This 4-week course teaches you how to confidently and effectively share your Christian faith with others in any setting.</p>
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As Christians, each of us are called to fulfill the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19 compels us to seek the lost and to share our faith. We hope you will prayerfully consider participating in our new **Making Disciples Series**. This 3-part study will equip you with the principles and techniques required to become an effective Ambassador for Christ. After completing the series, you will be fully prepared and armed with the tools necessary to engage in life-changing evangelism and discipleship.

This is a vital part of our individual and collective commitment to grow God's Kingdom. Once you have completed Biblical Foundations, you can start the Evangelism Series: Every Believer Can and Share Jesus Without Fear.

What is **It**? *by Deloris Witcher*

"When the people of Israel saw it, they said to each other, 'What is It'. Exodus 16:15a ESV

What is **It** that keeps you from staying focused and doing what you know will lead to better overall health?

Is **It** eating for comfort or to suppress feelings, and not eating to live?

Is **It** procrastinating or making excuses about exercising?

Is **It** the unrealistic assertion that you can eat, drink, and think whatever you want and be healthy?

Is **It** that you tried to make healthy changes, failed, gave up, and thought you could not change?

The **It** may be **You**. Think about **It**. Fast, and pray, about what **It** is and work consistently to change. Check with your doctor before making any lifestyle changes. Consider drinking more water, eating fresh fruit and vegetables, and limiting sugary, high-fat and highly processed foods. **It** matters. **YOU** matter. You know **It** is time to change.

Please continue to weigh in for the Pound-A-Thon and remain faithful to the fast.

Children, Youth and Young Adults: News You Can Use

We're off to a great start of the year! In January, our college students engaged in a fun dinner outing with great food and great conversations. A special thank you to Candice Coates and Chase Beasley for leading this effort. We are excited about the activities planned over the next several months. Please mark your calendars for:

- ♦ **Sunday, February 16th:** Children's Church at 10:30am in the Ministry Center MPR
- ♦ **Friday, February 21st:** Offsite Youth Outing (watch for more details to come)
- ♦ **Monday, February 24th,** we will embark on another road trip to the Richmond Area to visit our college students at Virginia State and Virginia Commonwealth Universities.
- ♦ **Monday, April 20th:** John Q. Gibbs Scholarship Application deadline. In honor of our founding Pastor, Rev. John Q. Gibbs, Antioch graduating high school seniors will be recognized for their service to Antioch. All high school seniors are encouraged to participate.
- ♦ **Monday, July 7-Friday, July 11, 2025:** Antioch Vacation Bible School

Do you enjoy singing? Think about joining Praising Saints or the S.A.L.T. (Serving. Abiding. Loving. Testifying.) Choir. Please contact Sister Tiffany Horne at tiffanymhorne@gmail.com or Rev. Daniel Simpkins at dsimpkins@antioch-church.org for more information.





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In Loving Memory:

The Antioch Wall of Remembrance was established in 2014 to memorialize members who gained their wings during the calendar year. For 2024, Antioch will honor the following members during the Wall of Remembrance Ceremony on **Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 12:00 Noon** in the Ministry Center:

- ♦ Sister Loretta Penn
- ♦ Deacon Margaret Boone
- ♦ Brother Clifford Cooks
- ♦ Sister Valerie Benjamin



Save the Dates

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Feb 9 | Wall of Remembrance |
| Feb 9 | Black Excellence Sunday |
| Feb 16 | HBCU Sunday |
| Feb 22 | Iron Sharpeners Leaders Summit |
| Feb 22 | SALT & Praising Saints Rehearsal |
| Feb 23 | Taylor'd Talk |
| Feb 23 | Divine 9 Sunday |
| Feb 24 | Richmond Area College Visits |
| Feb 27 | Quarterly Business Meeting 7:00PM |
| Mar 29 | SERVE DAY! |
| Apr 5 | Noah - Sight and Sound Trip/Women's Ministry |
| Apr 6 | Pastor Taylor's 1 year Anniversary Celebration |
| Apr 20 | John Q. Gibbs Scholarship Deadline |
| Jul 7-11 | Vacation Bible School |

I Cannot Pray (The Lord's Prayer) If

I cannot pray "Our"
if my faith has no room
for others and their needs.

I cannot pray "Father"
If I do not demonstrate this relationship
to God in my daily living.

I cannot pray "Who art in heaven"
If all my interest and pursuits
are in earthly things.

I cannot pray "Hallowed be Thy name"
If I am not seeking God's help
to make me Holy.

I cannot pray "Thy Kingdom come"
If I am unwilling to accept
God's rule over my life.

I cannot pray "Thy will be done"
if I'm unwilling or resentful
of having Thy will in my life.

I cannot pray "In Earth as it is in Heaven"
unless I am truly ready to give myself
to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray "Give us this day our daily bread"
without expending honest effort or if
I withhold the bread I receive from my neighbor.

I cannot pray "Forgive us our trespasses"
as we forgive those who trespass against us"
if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot pray "Lead us not into temptation"
if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation
where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray "Deliver us from evil"
if I'm not prepared to fight
with my life and prayer.

I cannot pray "Thine is the kingdom"
If I am unwilling to obey the King.

I cannot pray "Thine is the power and the glory"
If I'm seeking power for myself
and my own glory.

I cannot pray "Forever and ever"
if I am anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot pray "Amen" unless I honestly say
"not my will, but Thy will be done".

Author Unknown