

OVER 200 CHURCHES
REACHING
4.2 MILLION PEOPLE
WITH THE GOSPEL OF
JESUS CHRIST



THE CLARION

VOLUME 59

ISSUE 3

MARCH 2026



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 7
Yellow Card Initiative
Training

April 18
VBS Clinic

CONNECT WITH US!



909.687.1360



3210 E. GUASTI ROAD
ONTARIO, CA 91761



WWW.IESBA.ORG



INLAND EMPIRE
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

SOCIAL WORKSHOP **VBS**

APRIL 18, 2026 | 9 AM - 12 PM

** OPTIONAL BONUS CLASS ON STUDENT ENHANCEMENT AND
CLASS MANAGEMENT FROM 12-1PM**

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
28355 BASELINE ST. HIGHLAND CA 92346



REGISTER HERE!

SHINING A LIGHT ON
WHO JESUS REALLY IS
**ILLUMINATION
STATION** JOHN 8:12



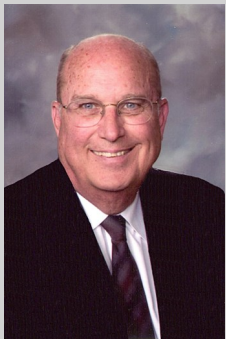
JONATHAN DE LA O
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

1 Corinthians 1:27 (NIV)

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

This semester in the ADVANCE Program I have the joy of teaching Old Testament Survey. After reading story after story of people groups and individuals missing the mark and failing it was easy to see the need for God's grace and salvation. In spite of their failures and shortcomings God was still able to use men and women to achieve his plans and purposes. One of the students picked up on this pattern and quickly added the statement, "God qualifies the unqualified".

It's easy to take credit for something when we *think* that achievements come from our own strength and merits. However, if we are honest with ourselves, all we can take credit for is our sin. Everything that "qualifies" us comes from the Lord. He should get all honor, glory, and praise. We are just His vessels and workmanship that He uses to fulfill His desires in this world. Whether we are pastors, leaders, spouses, or parents it is only by God's grace and favor that we are where we are at, doing what He has called us each to do. For those of us who feel "overqualified", please remember where the Lord has saved us from. Those who feel "unqualified" know that you are in good company and that God can still use you to fulfill His purpose.



BRUCE HITCHCOCK
CHURCH GROWTH STRATEGIST

JESUS: THE LAMB OF GOD

Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! His sacrificial death fulfills the Old Testament type of atonement (John 1:29).

We know Jesus is equal to the most significant entity in the Word of God and all eternity. He represents the central figure in prophecy, fulfillment of prophecy, proof of God's

Word through the fulfillment of prophecies of Himself, and proof of God's promises of salvation by grace. His death alone guarantees the forgiveness for sin (payment), justification (forgiveness), transformation (metamorphosis), holiness (purity), propitiation (restitution), reconciliation (resolution), reparation (restoration), assurance (reliability), sealing (guarantee) and communion (unbroken connection).



PASTOR'S BREAKFAST SCHEDULE:

1st Wednesday of the month: 11:30 am, Hawk's Landing Golf Course, 55100 Martinez Trail, 92284

2nd Monday of the month: 8:00 am, Dennys, 570 E. Fourth Street, Perris

2nd Tuesday of the month: 8 am, Dennys, 17009 Valley Blvd, Fontana

1st Thursday of the month: 8 am, Coco's Bakery, 1140 W. Colton, Redlands



JUAN SANTOS

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Es de mucha bendición coordinar oportunidades de conectarnos con otras iglesias y la comunidad. El "**GRAN DÍA**" es un evento evangelístico que puedes usar para alcanzar a tu comunidad.

Para que el gran día sea un gran evento debes preparar a tu iglesia: enseña a la iglesia la importancia del evangelismo, predica sobre el evangelismo, enseña la importancia de orar como congregación.

El Gran Día es un día especial donde la congregación se enfoca en el evangelismo para alcanzar a la comunidad.

Este Gran Día es una oportunidad donde las iglesias pequeñas puedan trabajar unidas y juntas para hacer una diferencia en la comunidad donde están.

Los animo a considerar un Gran Día durante el año, participar y trabajar juntos con otras iglesias.

La convención estatal de los bautistas del sur, y la fundación bautista ofrecen apoyo y ayuda para que puedan hacer un Gran día una forma de expandir el reino de Dios en su ciudad y comunidad.

Salmos 133:1 ¡Cuán bueno y cuán agradable es que los hermanos convivan en armonía!

Próximos eventos :

***Desayuno de pastor, sábado 28 de marzo**

Lugar: Iglesia West Grand Baptist Church, con el pastor Bill Rojas
709 West Grand Blvd Corona, CA 92882- De 9am-11am



UNA CITA DIVINA 2026 RETIRO DE MUJERES

*quien?
que?
donde?
cuando?
cuanto?*

CONFERENCIAS *por separado para mujeres y jovencitas 16+*

TALLERES | GRUPOS PEQUEÑOS | TIEMPO DE ORACION

HOSPEDAJE *3 días | 2 noches | cinco comidas*

CAFETERIA | BOLSA DE MATERIALES | CAMINATAS
TALLER DE ARTE Y MANUALIDAD

COMPAÑERISMO

ALABANZA & ADORACION | NOCHE DE FOGATA Y TALENTOS
JUEGOS RECREATIVOS Y TORNEO DE VOLLEYBALL

APARTA TU LUGAR: \$50

\$260.00 TOTAL
POR ZELLE A INDIAN HILLS B CH
(909)896-1468

NO REEMBOLSABLE

PARA MAS INFORMACION LLAMA A LETY RIOS (909)809-7715



BRYANT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



Bryant Street Baptist Church in Yucaipa was established in 1968 by a group of 12 people, and within a few weeks grew to over 72 in attendance. Moving forward to the year 2020, the church faced Covid without a pastor, and Adam Groza, who is now the president at Gateway Seminary, took on the role of interim pastor to guide them through this challenging period where the church almost had to shut down. With Adam's leadership, the church called Pastor Mike Levitsky as the senior pastor, and he and his wife Stacy have now been there for five years.

Pastor Mike was raised going to church with his family and he spent a lot of his childhood assisting his parents in serving the Lord. For much of his upbringing, his parents ran a food ministry out of their garage. Homeless people knocking at the door, spending the night, or borrowing their shower was a weekly occurrence. At the age of five, he accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior. **"By that time, I had a mind full of scriptures and a tummy full of goldfish crackers."** Those early years in his life shaped who He is today. As he matured, Pastor Mike began to grasp the concept of salvation on a deeper level. During his teenage years he faced doubts as he discovered that scripture was not as straight forward as he once believed, prompting him to seek answers to his questions. He had to confront his own sins and recognize his need for God's continual forgiveness. Throughout high school and college, he spent time reading commentaries and attending church as often as he could. **"I couldn't get enough of God's word. I loved God, His word, and His people, and tried to serve him to the best of my ability."** It was shortly after getting married that Pastor Mike felt called to pastoral ministry. After losing their apartment, he and his wife moved in with Ryan Krause, a pastor they barely knew. Ryan recognized the calling in Mike's life and motivated him to pursue it, which resulted in Pastor Mike interning at his church and receiving mentorship from him. Six months later, he found himself

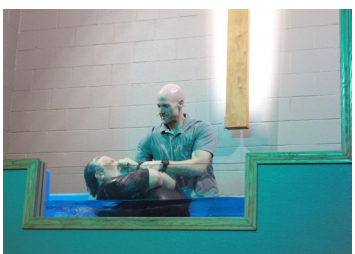
at Immanuel Baptist through music and took on a role as an educator at the Packinghouse Christian Academy, teaching middle and high school students. This experience was instrumental in training him to teach, allowing him to make a significant impact on many students who

later pursued ministry careers. After a few years of hiding behind the instruments, God strongly impressed upon him to go forward and pursue the calling He had placed on him. **"He called me to put down the instruments and pursue a teaching ministry."** Even though music felt safe, he was prepared to surrender his plan to God, no matter where it led him. Soon after, he enrolled at Golden Gate and began the journey that would lead him to become the pastor of Bryant Street Baptist Church.

Pastor Mike and his wife Stacy are going to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary on October 7th. They have two boys and a close extended family, with many that also attend and serve at Bryant Street. Their family stepped in to fill the necessary roles to help the church regain its health. When Pastor Mike first arrived at Bryant Street, there were around 40 people attending, and the church has grown to 140 people every Sunday. The Lord has been doing amazing things at Bryant Street! In December, they had one baptism, and another one followed in January. Recently, they've had a profession of faith that they hope will lead to another baptism.

Bryant Street Baptist Church is finding creative ways to serve their community. In 2025, they started their Beautiful Feet Ministry, aiming to knock on every door in Yucaipa, about 20,000 homes. Last year they managed to visit around 3,000 of them, sharing the gospel and inviting people to join their church. Bryant Street also has a GriefShare ministry with about 20 attendees each week from the community. Additionally, they have a lay care ministry called the Stephen ministry that addresses areas not covered by GriefShare. They also hold church services at two local care facilities, where members of BSBC go every week to lead worship and teach the Bible to the residents.

Please keep Bryant Street in your prayers as they are a growing church with a mission to reach the lost, focusing on growth through salvations rather than transfer growth. Pray for wisdom for Pastor Mike as he leads Bryant Street. Additionally, he would appreciate prayers for his ministry project. This marks his final year in the DMin program, and he aims to guide his church in developing a vision and values statement as they pursue the Lord's guidance on their path as a church.



YELLOW CARD INITIATIVE

Sharing the Gospel at the 2026 FIFA World Cup (Jun 13-Jul 1)




INICIATIVA TARJETA

Compartiendo el Evangelio en la Copa Mundial FIFA 2026

SAVE THE DATE:
World Cup Evangelism Training




Capacitación de Evangelismo para la Copa Mundial.

Training Details:

-  Saturday, March 7th, 2026
-  10 AM - 2 PM
-  Gateway Seminary
3210 E Guasti Rd, Ontario, CA 91761

Cost: FREE! We're covering the cost for your registration and lunch!

Detalles de la Capacitación:

-  Sábado, 7 de marzo de 2026
-  10 AM - 2 PM
-  Gateway Seminary
3210 E Guasti Rd, Ontario, CA 91761

Costo: ¡GRATIS! Cubrimos el costo de tu registro y tu almuerzo.

Meet the Training Presenter

Conoce al presentador de la capacitación.

Anthony Ferguson

Jonathan de la O



Scan to Register!
qrco.de/yellowcardregistration



Para Registrarse
qrco.de/AMARILLA



TESTIMONIES - KIRK AND TAMRA OVERSTREET

KIRK - I was raised in a Southern Baptist home where my parents were pastors and missionaries. As a pastor's kid, I saw both the beauty and the pain of ministry. I experienced love from many, but also witnessed church leaders harass my parents,

which pushed me away from church. In my teens, I fell into partying, drugs, and addiction. At 18, after my dad confronted me about drugs in our home. He said, "I love you son and you need to stop. If not, you have to go. For me and my house, we will serve the Lord." I chose to leave and spent a year homeless. It was the darkest days of my life. In 1996, my dad heard about Set Free Discipleship Ranch when Pastor Willie Dalgity shared about it at an IESBA prayer breakfast. My dad stopped by my work at the Ontario truck stop. He invited me to a Wednesday night service at Set Free Church to learn



how to enter the program. I told him I'm good but my friend might be interested. My dad was crazy and went straight to my friend to see if he was interested. He was, and they asked me to join them. I went reluctantly. That night, the Gospel hit me deeply. Remembering everything I had been taught grow-

ing up, I realized how far I had drifted. At 21 years old, I gave my life back to Jesus and entered the Set Free Discipleship Ranch for three and a half months.

While there, I sensed God calling me into ministry. I resisted at first, as I didn't want to be a pastor. My grandfather, uncles, and dad all were pastors. Pastors were broke, worked terrible hours, disrespected, nerds, and dressed funny to me. I shared that with a leader and he told me, "So you're dumping all your sin on Jesus and then walking back into the world with that empty can?" I asked for him to explain but he just walked away. I wrestled all night thinking I wouldn't do that to Jesus after all he's forgiven me of. I surrendered the next Sunday to the ministry May 1996. I began serving in youth ministry at Set Free San Bernardino. It was Set Free Yucaipa's first Church Plant. Moved down to the old arcade building we leased and slept on the floor. I was filled with joy just to serve Jesus. The Church and youth ministry grew and saw so many miracles. God even healed my dyslexia, and I developed a deep hunger for Scripture. I wanted to learn more about the Bible. My dad would load me up with books and commentaries. I'd read for hours everyday. I wanted to preach the truth of God's Word and be equipped. I attended California Baptist College and later Set Free Pastor's School of ministry. Living in the dorms, I'd go to the donut shop and laundry mat. I'd hang out and share the Gospel and invite people to Church. Many who got saved couldn't come to Church because they worked on Sunday mornings. I asked my dad who helped Plant Churches if it's ok to start a Church on Saturday nights. He smiled with a yes. So I started Common Grounds Church on the campus of CBU in the Staples room, which quickly grew to over 100 people. Lot of students then didn't have cars and walked from the dorms. I went back to Pomona to visit high school friends and people I partied with. I'd share the Gospel and many were shocked I was sold out for Jesus. 18 of them got

saved and I decided to do a Bible study with them Sundays at 3pm at Garfield Park in Pomona. My heart was heavy for them as I felt no church would accept them for the way they looked coming from gangs and street life. I eventually told Common Grounds that I'm leaving to Pomona to Plant Set Free Church. It worked out that my dad got Pastor Matt Brown and I together to pray monthly. I told him I plan to leave to Pomona and talked to Common Grounds crowd about them joining Sandals. It worked for me to go knowing they had a great pastor. Set Free Pomona was special. I not only got to see friends following Jesus, but I met my wife Tamra in the process. She came with my friend Robert who was helping Plant the Church. In 2000 Tamra and I got married. She moved into the store front we turned into our home. We had Church services every night and Sunday mornings with a meal. We eventually had a 100 homeless people sleeping in our building each night. We still say those were our favorite days.

Since then, I've helped plant churches across the country and led mission trips globally. Honored to serve with the Inland Empire Southern Baptist Association for 2years mobilizing Churches to engage their communities. In 2014 I was hired to become a Church Planting Catalyst with CSBC and the North American Mission Board. Honored to see new Churches reaching the cities of Southern California. My heart is simply to serve Jesus and spread the Gospel through local churches. I'm a firm believer that Planting Churches and unity among believers is the best way to reach the lost. Together we display the Gospel that will attract those in darkness to the marvelous Light of Christ Jesus.

Genesis 50:20 captures my story: "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."



TAMRA - February 6, 2026, marks twenty-eight years since God saved me. I was raised in a loving family with parents who found faith during the 70s Jesus movement at Calvary Chapel. Although we didn't attend church frequently, my parents did their best to take us to youth group occasionally, read the story of Jesus at Christmas, and made sure we attended the Easter sunrise service. Looking back, I truly believe that those small seeds planted in my heart eventually led me to Jesus.

Before I got saved, I looked for love in all the wrong places. I became pregnant at a young age and had a son. I worked hard to finish high school and live a typical teenage life, participating in sports and attending dances, but things didn't get easier. At 16, I started using drugs, which ultimately led to my expulsion from high school and the loss of a full college scholarship. The drugs destroyed on my life. I left my son and family



behind and moved in with an abusive man at 17. This way of life continued until I was 21 when God called me to

Him. One day, while sitting in my apartment on drugs, someone knocked on my door, offering bags of groceries and an invitation to church. I don't recall much, but I remember attending that church and feeling a sense of peace, longing for my life to change, even though it didn't happen right away. It made me realize that the drugs, the physical and emotional abuse, the pain, the hard living, and the shame of abandoning my son and losing everything were not how my life was meant to be. That was the beginning of my journey to salvation.

I found myself at Calvary Chapel U-turn for Christ's discipleship program, where I began reading the Bible daily. The Lord started to work on my heart, and while I was cleaning a bathroom with another lady, she shared the gospel with me in a deep way. The Lord opened my eyes, and I fell to my knees, inviting Jesus into my heart on February 6, 1998. After that, I attended Set Free Church and participated in their discipleship program for two years, where I learned and served Jesus. It taught me how to live for Him rather than for myself or the world, how to be a good mom, how to love and trust people again, and how to walk in forgiveness and freedom instead of condemnation.

"God saved me, redeemed me, restored my relationship with my son and my family and Delivered me from drugs."

Since that time, I have been happily married to a wonderful God-fearing man named Kirk for nearly 26 years. I earned my bachelor's degree in science and nursing from CBU and have spent 19 years working as an RN in the Emergency Room. I am blessed with three incredible sons. My oldest is married to his high school sweetheart, and I have two beautiful grandchildren. Has the journey been easy? Not at all. Have we faced

challenges, difficulties, and trials? Yes. But I wouldn't trade it for anything, and I am deeply thankful that God chose me and has given me the opportunity to live for Him over these past 28 years.



WOMEN'S
EVANGELISM
 CONFERENCE



APRIL 25, 2026 | ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA

DESAYUNO CON PASTOR IESBA



- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <p>enero
17</p> | <p>DESAYUNO CON PASTOR
 Iglesia Magnolia Español,
 Riverside, 9am-11am
 8351 Magnolia Ave,
 Riverside, CA 92504</p> | <p>junio
13</p> | <p>DESAYUNO CON PASTOR
 Iglesia Bautista senda de Paz, Upland, 9am-11am
 990 W 11th St,
 Upland, CA 91786</p> |
| <p>febrero
21</p> | <p>DESAYUNO DE PASTOR Y ESPOSA
 Primera Iglesia Bautista,
 Moreno Valley, 9am-11am
 24765 Fir Ave,
 Moreno Valley, CA 92553</p> | <p>agosto
29</p> | <p>DESAYUNO DE PASTOR
 Iglesia Agua Viva
 9am-11am
 1192 E. Davinson St
 San Bernardino, CA 92408</p> |
| <p>marzo
28</p> | <p>DESAYUNO CON PASTOR
 West Grand Baptist Church,
 Corona, 9am- 11am
 709 W Grand Blvd,
 Corona, CA 92882</p> | <p>septiembre
26</p> | <p>DESAYUNO CON PASTOR
 Iglesia esperanza en el valley, Hemet, 9am-11am
 1480 N. Kirby St.,
 Hemet, CA</p> |
| <p>abril
18</p> | <p>DESAYUNO CON PASTOR
 Iglesia Betel, Redlands
 9am- 11am-
 300 E Pennsylvania Ave,
 Redlands, CA 92374</p> | <p>octubre
17</p> | <p>DESAYUNO CELEBRACIÓN MES DEL PASTOR
 The Well, Yucaipa, 9am-11am
 12717 14th St,
 Yucaipa, CA 92399</p> |
| <p>mayo
2</p> | <p>DESAYUNO CON ESPOSA DE PASTOR
 Primera Iglesia Bautista,
 San Bernardino, 9am-11am
 667 N H Street,
 San Bernardino, CA 92410</p> | <p>noviembre
28</p> | <p>DESAYUNO ESPOSA DE PASTOR
 Iglesia Bautista Nueva Esperanza, Riverside,
 9am-11am
 6021 Limonite Ave,
 Jurupa Valley, CA 9250</p> |

MESTIZO CONFERENCE
LATINO VOICES TODAY
 HOW THE BIBLE SPEAKS INTO THE LATINO EXPERIENCE

OUR SPEAKERS:

 REV. JONATHAN DE LA O M.A. "IDENTITY HAS A VOICE"	 ROSLYN HERNANDEZ M.DIV. "BREAKING GENERATIONAL SILENCE"	 DR. D.A. HORTON PH.D. "FAMILIAR VOICE IN A FOREIGN LAND"
--	--	---

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH • 9:30AM-3:00PM
 ICB NUEVA ESPERANZA, 6021 LIMONITE AVE. JURUPA VALLEY, 92509

REGISTRATION:
GENERAL: \$24, STUDENT-\$18
 Lunch included with Registration

SCAN TO REGISTER OR VISIT
[HTTPS://QRCO.DE/MESTIZO](https://qrco.de/mestizo)

10-DAY JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND
 with Drs. Jonathan & Tammy Jarboe, The Baptist Foundation of California
January 17-26, 2027
<https://www.signaturetours.com/JJarboe27>

Clarion
(UPS 044-370)

Inland Empire Southern Baptist Association of California
3210 E. Guasti Rd. Suite 545, Ontario, CA 91761
Telephone: (909) 687-1360
Periodicals Paid at Ontario, California
Published Monthly
POST MASTER; Send address changes to:
Inland Empire Southern Baptist Association of California
3210 E. Guasti Rd. Suite 545, Ontario, CA 91761

Periodicals
Postage
Paid

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED



INLAND EMPIRE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION STAFF:



Deryl Lackey
Director of Missions
deryl@iesba.org



Jonathan de la O
Assoc. Director of Missions
jonathan@iesba.org



Bruce Hitchcock
Church Growth Strategist
brucehitch@msn.com



Juan Santos
Leadership Development
juan@iesba.org



Jerry Bennett
Pastoral Care
revjmbmc@yahoo.com



Brenda Lackey
Office Manager
brenda@iesba.org



Angela Mantzey
Graphics Specialist
angie@iesba.org

Contact angie@iesba.org to feature your event in our next newsletter