Volume XLVI, Number 4

May 1, 2025

Notes from Brandon Lewis, Lead Pastor

I'm so glad God treats me like this sometimes. He doesn't stop warning me when I ignore His first, second, and third warnings. He loves me enough to repeat Himself time and again! His Spirit will get my attention in a number of ways and point me back to His Word (John 14:26). He doesn't grow tired of steering me in the right direction and flagging me down when I'm going off course. He never says, "Well, if Brandon isn't going to get the message, I'll just sit back and watch him wreck things for himself royally!" Instead, He throws me signal after signal and pulls out all of the stops when it comes to keeping me from destructive paths.

"To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you." - Philippians 3:1

God directed Paul to repeat himself often when writing to Christ followers, because we're slow to get the picture sometimes, and the additional warnings may be just what we need.

I'm glad God loves me enough to repeat Himself!



Pastor B









Notes from Harry Sexton Assoc. Pastor

"Mayday, mayday!" This is the international distress call. "Mayday" first came into English in 1923. There was a lot of air traffic between England and France in those days, and evidently there were enough international problems over the English Channel that both parties wanted to find a good distress signal that everyone would understand. But, surely there already was a distress signal that everyone understood? There was—S.O.S.—but there were some problems with it: owing to the difficulty of distinguishing the letter "S" by telephone, the international distress signal "S.O.S." gave place to the words, "May-day", the phonetic equivalent of "M'aidez", the French for "Help me."

"New Air Distress Signal," The Times [London], 2 Feb. 1923. SOS was most commonly used in telegraphic communications where the unmistakable pattern of SOS in Morse code (...- - -...) was easy to remember and easy to decipher. SOS was used predominantly by ships that were in distress. Aircraft, by comparison, used radio and not telegraph as their primary means of communication, and when in distress, a pilot wouldn't have time to clarify to anyone listening that they meant S as in "Sam" and not F as in "Frank." A short, easily understood word that couldn't be mistaken for something else was necessary and so, the term "mayday" was born.

We're entering the last month of spring, but for us Arizonans it's often the first month of summer. VBS is coming up in a month, and we need adults and teens to volunteer for what should be a banner year in attendance. This is one of those practical ways to "love your neighbor" (Leviticus 19:18). This is an opportunity to reach children for eternity.

I know I mentioned summer, and traditionally summer is a time where churches see both their attendance and financial support decline. Let's make the decision now to not be average. God asked the nation of Israel to bring in the first of their crops to the Lord's temple. While we're no longer under the law, the principle remains that we will lay up treasures where our heart is (Matt. 6:21). As we endure the summer, let's make sure that as a church we're in a position to "hit the ground running" in the fall.

> In His service, **Pastor Harry**





Notes from the Youth Team

By Diane Williams

Life is full of transitions, from the "ready-or-not, here I come" abruptness of birth to the last breath our physical bodies take before we step into eternity. Whatever they may be, they signal a change in our lives.

In Student Ministry, May is a month of transition. Students are finishing up the school year and, hopefully, advancing to a higher grade. Some of them will be graduating from high school and moving on to jobs, college, tech school, or wherever else their path may lead.

For those of us in Student Ministry who've spent the last few years with them, it's bittersweet. We've been with them for a third of their lives, if they joined us in 7th grade. They've grown from children to young adults and learned much more than what their school subjects could teach them. The relationships we've built with them don't end, but they do change.

And that's the way it should be. It's time for them to step out of adolescence into adulthood – to fly the nest. God has plans for each one of them, and even though we will miss them, it will be amazing to watch what He does in their lives to accomplish His purpose.

So, as they begin a new chapter in their lives, we'll celebrate their accomplishments and the memories we've built in the past, but we'll also look forward to hearing what God is doing with the rest of their lives.

Congratulations, Graduates!

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act." Psalm 37:5

Sunday, May 4th – Taco/Bake Sale Fundraiser

Sunday, May 11th – Mother's Day (you know what to do)

Sunday, May 18th – Graduate Recognition Sunday

Sunday, May 25th – Water & the Word

Sunday, June 1st – VBS training after morning service

Sunday, June 8th – Mandatory Zona Camp meeting (parents & students) - After morning service

Sunday, June 8th – Water & the Word

Sunday, June 15th – Father's Day (you know what to do)

Mon. – Fri., June 16th - 20th – VBS at Rio Vista (more information later)

Mon. – Fri., June 23rd – 27th – Zona Camp





Notes from the Worship Leader

Church, we are heading to the triple digits soon, but are we not thankful for having air conditioning? I know I am; and I wonder how people survived prior to inventing such a wonderful invention.

This reminded me that sometimes we forget how good we have it. At least for me, I thank God for having what I consider a luxury. I have been fortunate to lead worship in churches outside the US where all they have are fans, and you could feel the hot air hitting your face. I observed how church members being in a building without air conditioning managed in one of the hottest cities in Mexico and still arrived to service with joy and ready to praise the Lord.

I also got the opportunity to help another church that met outside with a couple rows of chairs and a small wood pulpit. They had no building or fans, but were still excited to hear the word of God. I'm sure this congregation would be happy that they don't have to attend an underground church in China or in Iran where Christians are tortured or killed for their faith.

My point is, sometimes our focus is placed on the wrong things. Whether with or without air conditioning, a building, or fans, we attend church to praise and glorify God's name. This is what connects all believers around the world from different tribes, languages, cultures to be in one body and worship God. To be grateful for what we have and we don't have, knowing that we have what matters the most and that's a relationship with God. We have the opportunity to serve Him and love Him with all our hearts, minds, and souls.

Let's pray for our fellow brothers that are in different parts of the world who face challenges that we don't, and at the same time, let's not allow the comfort to stop us from losing our focus.

God Bless, Cesar Aleman







Wednesday Night Dinner

May 21st will be the

LAST Dinner until

August 20th

Have a Great Summer



2nd Annalise Townsley

4th Daniel Papp

5th Georgana Carlisle

7th Michele Anderson

9th William Pulley

13th Brandon Lewis

14th Peyton Mills

15th Sophia Larios

Elia Ainsley Phan

16th Pauline Onyi

Steve Roldan

18th Diego Chavez

19th Collin Anderson

Kim Martin

21st Jonas Prieto

23rd Dusty Shelton

26th Jennifer Ryon

27th Cesar Aleman

Hannah Lewis

Ruben Villa

30th Daniel Salinas

31st Lisa Chavez



3rd Cesar & Alejandra Aleman

19th David & Kris Williams

23rd Tom & Linda Combs















Regular Events

SEPTEMBER - MAY

Sunday School Classes	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Worship Service	10:15 am
Evening Study (ALL WELCOME)	
Bldg B Rm 4&5	5:00 pm

Bldg B Rm 4&5

8:00 am AM Ladies Bible Study - Mark

TUESDAY

MONDAY

SUNDAY

Victorious Overcomers Support Group 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Dinner (Last Dinner May 21st) 5:00 pm Adventure Club 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study 6:00 pm Prayer Hour 6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study (Last Ladies May 21st) 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm

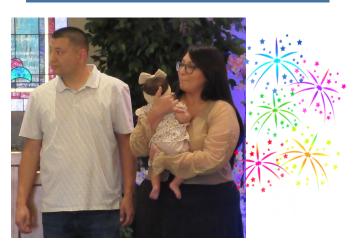
THURSDAY

GriefShare 10:00 am College/Young Adult Bible Study -off Campus 6:30 pm AA Meeting 6:30 pm

FRIDAY

AA Meeting 6:30 pm

Welcome New Members



Rudy & Julie Ruacho **April 6, 2025**

Special Events

MAY

May 3 rd -	Ladies Spring Tea	11:00 am
May 4 th -	Taco/Bake Sale Fundraiser	11:45 am
May 11 th	- Missions Meeting	11:45 am
	Mothers Day, baby bottle return	
May 13 th	- Crafting in Ruth's Footprints	9:30 am
May 18 th	- Name Tag Sunday	

High School Sr Recognition AM Service

11:45 am **Deacon Meeting**

May 26th - Memorial Day Office Closed May 27th - Crafting in Ruth's Footprints 9:30 am

JUNE

June 1st - Lords Supper AM Service **VBS** Training After AM Service June 2nd -6th VBS 8:30 am - Noon June 8th - Missions Meeting 11:45 am **ZONA Camp Mandatory Meeting** 11:45 am



