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GIVING QRCode!

If you have been looking for an easier way to give to the <u>Antioch</u> <u>Connection or other ministries</u>, here it is! You can take a picture of the QRCode with your phone and save as an app on the home page of your smart phone.

Opening this app will give you the opportunity to create an online account for giving that you control with payment info for one-time giving or recurring giving. If you have already created an online giving account through our website nothing changes, the app will take you directly to your account sign-on page.

September 2023



GIVING ORCode!

An Insight into Church Planting in California & Nevada

Antioch Connection



Bishop Sean S. O'Neal What can we do to bring life

The challenges emerging in society are real and the difficulties we encounter daily certain. As followers of Jesus Christ our difficulties are real in the world in which we live. However, the grace of Jesus Christ is significant and never ending.

Facing the future, the church has much to accomplish to complete the Great Commission in our time. We watch as Christianity in North America continues a trend of decline in attendance, giving, and going. In their new book, "The Great Dechurching" Jim Davis and Michael Graham analyze the visible trends. Their heartbreaking admission based upon their research and analysis is a wakeup call.

"More people have left the church in the last 25 years than all the new people who became Christians from the First Great Awakening, Second Great Awakening, and Billy Graham crusades combined," Davis and Graham write in their book, "The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back?"

What can we do to bring life into the church and into the communities where California-Nevada church congregations exist?

I'm reminded of what Paul said to Timothy,

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

Let's go together believing and praying for a genuine move of the Holy Spirit that will shake nations and bring people to an opportunity to experience salvation.

In this regard, we are launching a Soul Winning Initiative, as well as bringing forward a series of area revival meetings around the California-Nevada Region called FIREFALL. The FIREFALL meetings will culminate with Camp Meeting June 12-15, 2024 in Fresno at the Ministry Center Campus.

Please pray, fast and share the Good News with everyone possible!

Awaken Church

Pastor Kristen & John Edgar

Salinas, CA

WELCOME Awaken Church! In early 2015, a bible study with 10 people began in the home of Kristen & John Edgar, and Awaken Church had its beginnings. By August of that year, they moved to a storefront on San Juan Grade Road in Salinas, CA. At the time the small congregation was non-denominational, called themselves Central Coast Family Worship Center, and consisted of mostly family and close friends of Pastor Kristen and John.

Big changes in the year 2019 took place that pushed them forward to the church they have become today. By April they changed their name and a focused vision was birthed to awaken the Spirit of God within them to love one another as Christ loved the church, to reach the lost, and to serve the Lord according to His Word, and Awaken Church was birthed. Then in July 2019, Awaken Church began their relationship with the Church of God and Bishop Sean S. O'Neal, eventually registering as a church plant by December.

January 2021, the church moved its location to the heart of Salinas' skid row, better known as Chinatown. With the move, their ministry began to shift toward serving and ministering to the community of Chinatown and to love as Jesus loved the church. Outreach became their focus as they built a food pantry and began to provide essential needs of the community they were planted in, such as clothing, hygiene, and prayer. God has used Awaken to manifest His love and transform many in the community with testimonies of complete deliverance from addictions and other bondages.

August 6, 2023, Awaken Church was organized with the Church of God with 52 members. Praise God! On August 28 a celebration took place as they reached their 8 years of ministry as a congregation. They have grown from 5 leaders to 19.

Awaken gives God all the glory for everything that has been accomplished in and through them since their humble beginnings. We celebrate with this newly organized Church of God and welcome them into the family!









Home Churches Bellflower Garden Grove

Pastors Ed & Fe Montelibano

Pastor Ed & Fe Montelibano and the Long Beach Living Word Church of God have a vision for more churches. In 2016 they started a home church plant in Bellflower, currently with 8 adults. Then in 2018, the Garden Grove home church plant emerged with 7 adults.

When COVID hit our world, these two home churches did what we all had to do. They learned how to meet via zoom.

They had a vision to see God's word come alive in their hearts and they persevered and moved forward. Recently, they were still meeting online via zoom, but have plans to meet back in person very soon in homes.

Pastors Ed and Fe planted and lead these works and have been in the process of training members from the Long Beach Living Word Church to come alongside them. They also somehow find the time to personally minister to 7 different nursing homes in the L.A. county, currently via zoom since the pandemic. Amazing!

Pastors Ed & Fe and the Long Beach Living Word Church of God are to be commended for capturing the 3-cord vision of Stronger Churches, Healthy Leaders, and More Churches.