



# THE JOURNAL

ENCOURAGING EVERYDAY PEOPLE TO WALK WITH CHRIST IN EVERYDAY LIFE.



JOIN THE JOURNEY

**IMAGINE IF...** If you have ever talked with a little child you know they can have quite the imagination. They dream of doing big things. They imagine themselves in important positions not really understanding the full implication or what it would take to get there. They see life in terms of black and white, with simplicity, and somehow, they save the entire world from impending doom. Somewhere along the line it seems we all begin to smother, and then extinguish, those kinds of freeing thoughts. The reality of the hardships, the difficulty of the path, or someone simply tells us our dreams are not possible take their toll. Distractions arise to lead us off course, while interruptions in life divert our attention, and soon we think we can never get back.

So, we just determine to quit dreaming. Why should we go through the hardship and struggle? Why put ourselves through the heartache of failure? It just seems the better option to put aside the dreams and move through a safe, yet boring and unimaginative life.

But... What if you could dream again? What if you were given the tools to imagine anew the possibility of saving the world? Well, at least, your part of the world. What if you were given tools to help put your dreams in action? How energizing would it be for you to dust off the old hopes and dreams and begin to rewrite them into real possibilities? Just imagine if it happened.

Now stop and think for a moment, "If it was possible would I do it? Would I take a chance? What if you could make those dreams center around serving Jesus? What if you could help others find such dreams? Could it be possible for HiWay Baptist Church to do bigger things than we have ever done before? Ask yourself, "Am I willing to walk with my Church Family into the big things that exist where God is walking?"

Church, we have this kind of opportunity before us, and we must walk into it together! Our unity is essential. Our spiritual maturity is critical. And, we must see this journey as a step of faith and faithfulness to one another in walking with Christ as His Church.

This edition of The Journal is dedicated to the coming event called, *Imagine If*. We will take a ten-week journey together learning to become good managers of God's resources. Every member of HiWay will be at a different place in their walk of stewardship, but all of us are responsible for helping one another to grow.

SUMMER 2018



## INSIDE

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Summer is always busy here at HiWay; check out what is happening.

### GAME ON!

We had a successful turnout for Vacation Bible School; see how it went.

### IMAGINE IF

There are a few changes our church is making this fall; read the testimonies.

### BAPTISMS

God is making waves, literally, in our Family Ministries. See who joined our family of faith this last quarter.

### BAREFOOT SUNDAY

How many pairs of shoes did HiWay donate to people in need of some help?

## FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

Church Family, this edition of The Journal is dedicated to the church-wide event called Imagine If. Please, please take the time to read and absorb the information in this newsletter. It will be beneficial to you and your church family for us all to know and understand the body, soul, and spirit of this endeavor.

As you read you will be challenged to change. You may be excited or engaged, because it is something completely different than what we have been used to doing. Don't allow your emotions to rule the day. Rather think, pray, and explore how you can grab ahold of what your church will be engaging together.

For you who may ask, "Why are we doing this?" My simple answer is that the Holy Spirit has placed upon my heart to lead you in this direction. If it were not so, I wouldn't even consider the prospect. In fact, I resisted a bit at first because it was going to require more change than I was fully comfortable in leading you to make.

For you who may say, "But I don't want to do it!" My gentle response is that I am sorry you don't want to do it, but I have to go where the Lord is leading. I hope your wants will not get in the way of you coming along with the church body. What do you really have to lose by joining in and walking with others on this journey? You have a responsibility to share your wisdom with the next generation of church leaders.

For you who may think, "I'll just quit going to HiWay for a little while." My rebuke is that church is not about you, but rather a community walking together with Christ. If you cannot walk through this together with us for ten weeks you need to re-evaluate your priorities. Ten weeks is only two and a half months, less than 20 percent of a year, and 10 percent of a 70-year lifespan. We can do anything for ten weeks, especially if we walk it together.

HiWay! Let's do this! Imagine If we do it together. What amazing things will God do through us?

Much Love, Pastor George



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