



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH  
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 36 YEARS  
1982-2018"



THE CORNERSTONE

NOVEMBER 2018



# JINGLE BELL BEACH

A CHRISTMAS SINGING COMPETITION  
OF PITCH PERFECT PROPORTION

Presented by



Here's the news you've all been waiting for, though it is a little early for us to get excited about the Christmas Holidays, but get ready for it anyway – the

**Sugar Land Bible Church** presentation of the up-coming musical

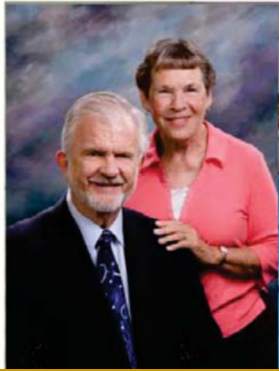
**"Jingle Bell Beach"** with singing groups from all over the Country, and a cast of all ages. The competition will be fierce between **the Starfish,**

**the Snowflakes,** and the **Electrons.**

Join us as we engage in joyful music, playful dialogue, threatening storms, and a secret weapon that disappears into a puddle of water, and the most exciting part, a **"Sing Off"** in which **all three singing groups** will join in a "Reindeer Rumble" and in the midst of all this chaos we sing to the music of :

"Hallelujah!" "Joy has Come", "Merry, Merry Christmas", Jesus is the Light, and "Unto Us".



*Missions for the Month***BLYCKER'S NOTES****"Musicianaries" to Hispanics**

February, 2017

**BLYCKERS NOTES for September 2018**

Recently we were in Guatemala City where we were honored at the celebration of 25 years of EMUSA (School of Sacred Music) located at SETECA (Central American Theological Seminary). We had the privilege of three recording sessions of our songs and hymns at TGNA, the **Christian radio station** located at the side of the seminary campus. Also, we were able to minister along with our talented former student Kike Aiquejaj in several churches up in the Cuchumatán mountains.

We are presently in a year of transition in which we are moving, beginning new ministries in Oregon (writing, G.M.O., contacting and encouraging former students in the Northwest) and visiting supporters (individuals and churches). The writing projects include: (1) finishing the commentary of the hymns found in the Spanish hymnal *Celebremos Su Gloria*, (2) editing a text book tracing the history of 2,000 years of Christian music and (3) editing the Spanish translation of my doctoral dissertation on Hispanic hymnody.

G.M.O. (Global Media Outreach) is a ministry dedicated to evangelization and counseling Hispanics online. We are excited to be part of a great team that sees God working through email correspondence.

Thank you for being both prayer warriors and partners on our team as "Musicianaries" to Hispanics. Your gifts and prayers allow us to continue serving our King of kings and Lord of lords to both train and disciple Hispanics at home and abroad. We are also grateful for talented and experienced faculty members who are taking our places at Rio Grande Bible College: Diego is from Colombia and Anita is from Chile.

Please see the attached photos from Guatemala, Central America.

In His strength,

*Phil & Arleen Blycker*

**Phil & Arleen Blycker**

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**Andy Woods—Pastor**

## Twenty-Four Church and Israel Distinctions (Part 4)

One of the most rudimentary distinctions that the child of God needs to learn to rightly divide God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15) is the basic distinction between Israel and the Church. A common mistake in Bible interpretation is to take God's promises that are aimed at national Israel and instead to indiscriminately apply them to the Church and consequently the Church-Age believer. There are, at a bare minimum, at least twenty-four differences between the Church and Israel. The purpose of this series is to highlight these basic differences. In prior installments, we saw the following distinctions: [while Israel is the wife of Jehovah, the Church is the bride of Christ. Furthermore, Israel birthed Christ whereas Christ birthed the Church. In addition, Christ will return for the Church in the Rapture while Christ will return for Israel at the end of the Tribulation period. In addition, while Jesus is the King of Israel, He is the groom and head of the Church. Moreover, while eighty percent of the Bible relates to Israel, a mere twenty percent of it relates to the Church. Also, while Israel was a party to the Biblical covenants, the Church is a mere third-party beneficiary to them. In this installment, we examine yet another distinction.](#)

### **Distinction Number 7: Their Beginning**

#### **Israel's Birthday**

When did the nation of Israel come into existence? Israel became a nation in Genesis 12 through the calling of Abram, who later was renamed Abraham. Do you recall why God called Abraham? This explanation relates to the spread of the mother-child cult which affected every nation because of what happened in Genesis 11, the events of the Tower of Babel. Genesis 11 is followed by Genesis 12. Genesis 11 is the crisis and Genesis 12 is the solution. Because God must have a nation through which to channel His messianic blessings (Gen. 3:15) to the world, He separated Abram unto Himself. Abram was an idolater just like everyone else in the world at that time. Joshua 24:2-3 says, "From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, *namely*, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River, and led him through all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac." God separated Abram from his idolatrous lifestyle in the Ur of the Chaldeans. He told him to walk by faith. Consequently, he learned to live a life of separation from the world, and gradually God began to unfold to this man various promises and ultimately a covenant called the Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 15). From that whole structure and God's dealings with Abram, we have the beginning of the nation of Israel. In other words, the birthday of Israel is found in Genesis 12. This important chapter represents the specific point in time when God's special nation began.

#### **The Church's Birthday**

Conversely, when did the Church begin? The Church began in Acts 2. How can we come to this conclusion? There are at least *six* reasons as to why we can know that the Church began in Acts 2.



## I Will Build My Church

First, in Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” The verb translated as “I will build” is the Greek word *oikodomeō*, and as you can see, this verb is used here in the future tense. The usage of the tense places the construction of the Church into the future from the time that Jesus spoke these words. Thus, the Church obviously did not exist neither in the Old Testament nor contemporaneously during the life of Christ because Jesus said, “I will build” it.

## The Church is a Mystery

The *second* reason as to why the church began in Acts 2 relates to how Paul referred to the Church as a mystery. What is a mystery? “Mystery” is an unfortunate translation of the Greek word *mystērion*. In English the word “mystery” has a totally different meaning than what it has in Greek. “Mystery” in English means something obscure that has to be searched out with great diligence. If you are watching a mystery movie, for example, you will most likely not know who the bad guy is until the last five minutes of the movie. However, in Greek, the word *mystērion* has the opposite meaning. Instead it refers to an open disclosure or an unveiling of something that in prior ages had been hidden. This is how Paul uses the word “mystery” in Romans 16:25-26. Here, he speaks of “mystery,” or *mystērion*, which had been kept secret from long ages past “but now is manifest.” Romans 16:25-26 says, “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith.” This is also how Paul uses the word mystery in Colossians 1:26: “that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints.”

With that definition in mind, notice that the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 3:3-6 calls the church a mystery, “that by revelation there was made known to me the *mystery*, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” In other words, the Church is a mystery, or a truth formerly hidden but now openly disclosed.

Simple question: is the word “apostles” here a singular noun or a plural noun? It is plural. So, the “mystery” was not just revealed to Paul. Some people believe the Church started with Paul because only Paul had the mystery. Such a notion contradicts what the Bible says. The Bible clearly states that the mystery was not only given to Paul, but it was also given to the “apostles,” plural. Paul happened to write more about the mystery than anyone else. If we did not have the writings of Paul, then we would not have the explanation of the mystery that we have today. However, the mystery was not exclusively given to Paul.

When we go into the Old Testament you are not going to find this concept of the Church in the Old Testament the way it is described here. You find Stephen in his speech in Acts 7 making a reference to an Old Testament Church (Acts 7:38). However, here Stephen was merely referring to a common synagogue or Jewish gathering. However, the meaning that you find in Ephesians 3:3-6, of both Jews and Gentiles as co-heirs in a new spiritual man called the Church, you do not find in the Old Testament. You will not even find such a concept existing in the ministry of Jesus Christ except by way of a foretaste when He hints at the change of rules that were coming on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 (Matt. 16:18; John 13-17). We are living in a unique period where the preeminent servants of God are no longer the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Rather, the primary partici-

pants in the Church are Gentiles (Rom. 11:17-19). It has been this way ever since Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13-14). When a Hebrew gets saved today, although we praise God for their salvation, they are not to be elevated to a place of national supremacy over Gentiles any more, as existed in Old Testament times. Rather, they are co-equals, fellow partakers, and joint heirs in Christ Jesus. This is the very mystery that was finally disclosed to us through the apostles. Paul in Ephesians is not introducing a change of rules concurrent to the time of writing. Rather, he is simply explaining the rules that God changed a few decades earlier back in Acts 2. Dispensations, or changes in divine rules, do not rise or fall by what Paul does or by what any other human servant of God does because only God changes the rules, or the dispensations.

### **Christ Became Head of His Church After His Ascension**

Reason number *three*, the Church did not exist prior to Acts 1. The Church *could not* have existed prior to Acts 1. Why? Because in Acts 1 you will find the Ascension of Christ and Christ did not become the head of the Church until *after* His ascension. Ephesians 5:23 tells us that Christ is the head of the Church, "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the Church, He Himself being the Savior of the body." The question then becomes, when did Christ become the head of the Church? You will find the answer in Ephesians 1:20 as Paul speaks of Christ's Ascension, "which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places." Once His ascension took place, Ephesians 1:22 declares, "He put all things in subjection under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church." Jesus did not become head of the Church until after Acts 1 because this verse says He became head over the Church *after* His Ascension, and the Ascension took place in Acts 1. If you have a Church prior to Acts 1, then what you would have is a body functioning without a head. Obviously, the Church cannot be a body without Christ as the head. Thus, anyone who tells you that the Church is in the Old Testament is not paying attention to the details that we are speaking of here.

Although Israel was birthed in Genesis 12, we are carefully explaining here why the Church began in Acts 2. Three of six reasons have been presented thus far. *First*, Christ referred to the Church in the future tense during His earthly ministry as recorded in Matthew 16:18. Thus, the Church could not exist in Old Testament times or even concurrently with the life of Christ. *Second*, Paul referred to the Church as a mystery (Eph. 3:3-6), or something previously hidden but now revealed. Thus, the Church did not exist in the Old Testament era. *Third*, the Church did not exist prior to Acts 1 since Christ became the head of the Church only after His Ascension (Eph. 1:20-22). In our next installment, we will provide four additional reasons as to why the Church began and therefore began during a completely different time in history than Israel, namely in Acts 2.

(To Be Continued...)



## Scripture for the Month:

### Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace *there will be no end*, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

I am excited to present to Sugar Land Bible Church Cornerstone Readers—A new Column--

## “WHO’s Who at SLBC”

with Ashlynn Morris reporting.

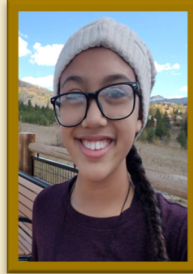
## Jingle Bell Beach

by Ashlynn Morris  
(cast member)

This year’s Christmas play, *Jingle Bell Beach*, is...different. Glowing costumes, jazzy tunes, and a musical sing off are a few of the things that makes this play fun and unique.



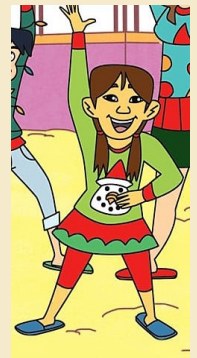
Mrs. Janet Wrenn, the director of the Christmas play, has lots of experience with acting and directing productions. In fact, she has directed our Christmas plays and VBS performances for the last couple of years. Mrs. Wrenn puts in countless hours each week, bringing in different groups of cast members on different nights so that she can help everyone individually. During rehearsals, we work on dialogue, blocking, dance routines, and singing. A favorite of the cast is the song “Reindeer Rumble.” Once you see the play, you will under-



stand why!

Putting on a play is not easy. You have to cast the characters, write the scripts, find the right music, plan the lighting, choreograph the dance moves, deal with rowdy kids, make sure everyone knows their cues and memorizes their lines, as so on! When I asked Mrs. Wrenn what she hopes to accomplish with the Christmas program, she said, “I hope to bring someone to Christ. I also want to get it done, make it great, and have fun in the process.” As a cast member, I especially appreciate that Mrs. Wrenn always reminds us that we are doing this for God’s glory.

The show will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. You won’t want to miss it! Write this special date on your calendar and invite a friend. We hope to see you there!



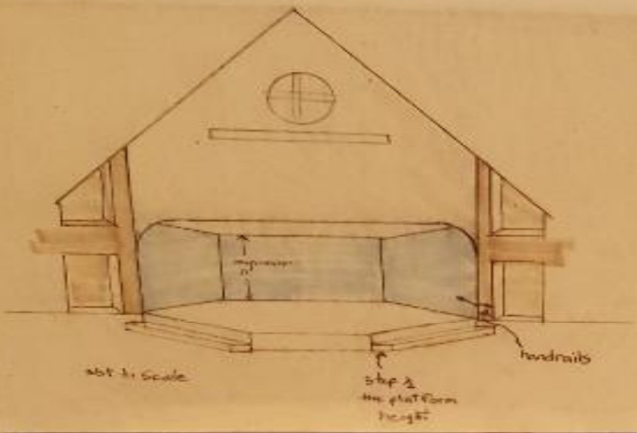
### Youth News:

The Youth are planning a trip in the summer of 2019 to the Creation Museum. They are planning a garage sale to help finance the trip. If you have some things that are in good condition and you want to get rid of them, please consider giving them to the Youth Department. Check with **Gabe Morris**, Youth Pastor for more information.

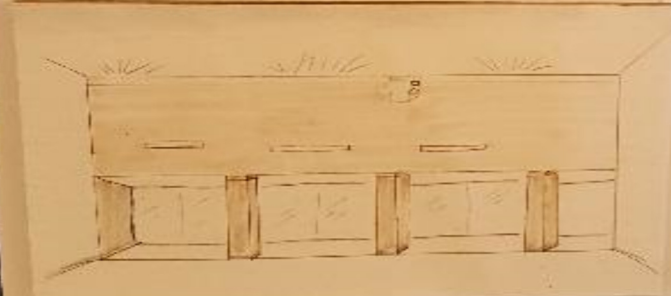




**MODIFICATIONS**



- 4. Modifications to pulpit stage, this includes:
  - a. Framing modifications to allow left the elevated "M" shape above the stage with a level opening above the stage with rounded corners on the right side of the platform (see fig 2).
  - b. Move into the two raised platforms at the rear of the stage. They include modifications beneath the platform to house the sound system and provide for correct location. Several equipment racks and electrical outlets will now be relocated to the side of the main platform.
  - c. Replace steps on rear side of platform with 17" steps to evenly align the height.
  - d. Install handrails on the wall entrance to the stage.
  - e. Remove "popcorn" ceiling above stage.
  - f. Build covering to house lights in the rear side of sanctuary.



- 4. New 8' x 8' columns to be installed in the sanctuary.
  - a. New 8' x 8' columns to be installed in the sanctuary. They will be used to support the new glass doors from the main sanctuary area. They will be used to support the new glass doors from the main sanctuary area. They will be used to support the new glass doors from the main sanctuary area.
  - b. New 8' x 8' columns to be installed in the sanctuary. They will be used to support the new glass doors from the main sanctuary area. They will be used to support the new glass doors from the main sanctuary area.
  - c. New 8' x 8' columns to be installed in the sanctuary. They will be used to support the new glass doors from the main sanctuary area. They will be used to support the new glass doors from the main sanctuary area.
  - d. New 8' x 8' columns to be installed in the sanctuary. They will be used to support the new glass doors from the main sanctuary area. They will be used to support the new glass doors from the main sanctuary area.

**SLBC SANCTUARY UPGRADE**

**CHAIRS**

2. Finish sanctuary chairs as well as all the plastic seats provided and sustain throughout the building.



**FINISHES**



- 1. FINISHES
  - a. Main floor surface: 1/2" thick medium density fiberboard (MDF) with a white primer and a clear finish. The floor will be finished with a clear finish.
  - b. Replace all existing carpeted areas. This includes the sanctuary carpeting in the sanctuary area and the choir platform. The carpet above the pulpit will be replaced with a new carpet that can be rolled up and removed if needed.
  - c. Replace existing ceiling paint.

Sanctuary Fund Raising

# Sanctuary Project

Our goal for the Sanctuary project is \$85,000 , so far we have received \$30,341. The Committee has put a lot of thought and effort into this project. As you can see from the drawings, a lot of upgrades were considered. You can find this displayed in the foyer for closer inspection.



Ladies!

You are invited  
to the Ladies Christmas  
Soup and Salad



December 2, 2018

5:00 pm

A Sign-up sheets will be on the tables in the  
foyer in November!







We presented a concert at a church in Tecpán that features a mural of lovely Lake Atitlán



Pastor Kike Ajquijay invited Phil to play along with the children's choir at the Samuel Student Center that presents the Gospel and delicious hot lunches



Phil's former student Kike had the children make a WELCOME sign



Phil spent several hours at TGNA Christian radio station recording his songs in Guatemala City



Phil was thrilled with the warm testimony of Chico Xajpot from Patzún who preaches and plays the alto saxophone



Arleen was amazed at the design and colors of an indigenous Maya farmer in Sololá, Guatemala