

The Year to Rise Up and Reach Out!



Isaiah 60:1-3

- This weekend we are celebrating 33 years of ministry. God has been so good and faithful to His Word.
- This ministry has been faithful in serving and reaching our community locally, nationally, and internationally through the support of missions each month.
- We reached thousands of people through GSFI Radio and Television broadcast. And through our Wednesday services and Weekend services whether in-person or Live Stream and Social Media.
- We continued to see people from all ages getting saved each week through our services, funerals, and outreach ministries.
- We had our set of challenges, but yet in spite of them God proved Himself strong and mighty!

A. Let me reiterate this because it's so important as we continue to move forward with the vision that God has given us.

1. There's one Vision for the house of Love and Faith and that is to: "Equip the people of God for the work of ministry."
2. We are One church in Two locations where I am blessed to be the Senior Pastor of both locations. Bishop Michael Thomas is the Overseer of Love and Faith.
3. We must stand strong together and never divided as we continue to grow and move forward. (Matthew 12:25)
4. We must remember that we are Love and Faith and not Love and Hate.
5. We will always have people to come and go. We must love them when they come. We must love them when they leave. We must love them when they return. (Psalm 127:1)
6. We must remember that this is God's House and you belong to God.

B. What is the Biblical definition of the word "arise?"

1. The word "arise" means to rise, to stand up, to be stirred up, to awake, to be in a state of readiness or to prepare for action (call to service).

2. It is synonymous to the word to proceed, to come forth, to follow, to spring forward, to soar, to emerge, to grow, to come to light, and to develop.
3. The word “arise” can also mean or indicate new seasons, increase, overflow, enlargement or expansion of territory. (Joshua 1:1-9)
 - I truly believe that this year, that God is going to expand our reach, and enlarge our territory, and bring increase or overflow of souls being saved.
 - I truly believe that this year, that we’re going to witness such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we reach our city with the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:17-21)

C. There are (3) Three D’s that I want you to remember this year as we “Rise Up and Reach Out.”

1. Stay devoted to God.
2. Stay disciplined. (to prayer, fasting, studying of the Word of God)
3. Stay away from anything that will distract you from the mission of Jesus Christ.
 - The Month of January is always the Stewardship month.
 - The Purpose: To help us to embrace stewardship from God’s perspective so that our lives will glorify Him.
 - The Goal: to make us aware of the significance of stewardship.
 - The Spiritual Principles: Stewardship, Sowing and Reaping, Obedience, Authority, Organization, Faith, Agreement
 - The Objectives: (1) Embrace God’s Call to Stewardship (2) Embracing the Stewardship of Giving (3) Embracing the Significance of Giving

D. The Believer Must Embrace God’s call to Stewardship. (Genesis 1:26-28)

1. What does Stewardship mean?
 - It means the right to care for the property of another. (Genesis 1:26-28)
 - Another word for “dominion” is stewardship, manager, or administrator over.

- In other words, God gave man “stewardship”, but not Ownership. “God is the owner, I’m just the manager.”
2. The Believer must recognize that God is the True Source and Owner of everything. (Psalms 50:10, 24:1-2, 100:1-5, 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, Haggai 2:8)
 - Without an understanding of stewardship, “Everything that God has entrusted to us will be mismanaged.”
 - Dr. Myles Munroe stated: “When you don’t know the purpose of a thing, you will abuse a thing.”
 - There are (3) Three Results that will happen when Believers Embrace God’s call to stewardship: (Matthew 25:14-30)
 1. God will get the glory.
 2. God will entrust more to the faithful steward.
 3. God will reward the faithful steward for their obedience.
 - There are (2) Two Reasons why God gave us Stewardship. (Genesis 1:26-31, 2:1-9, 15-17)
 1. To honor Him.
 2. To teach us responsibility.