VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · JAN-MAR 2023

# FOREVER **FAMILIA CONNECT**

Official Newsletter for Tabernacle of God Church

#### Prioritizing Prayer in 2023

PASTOR TITO SOTOLONGO

To desire revival... and at the same time to neglect (personal) prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another. — A.W. Tozer



Catch up or Review - www.tabernacleofgod.church/media

Prayer is a more powerful spiritual discipline than many Christians believe. Yet, many confess that it is the area in which they struggle the most when it comes to their spiritual walk. I don't think that is a coincidence as our enemy wants us to either misunderstand or misapply the practice of prayer because the kingdom of darkness knows they have no defense against a church that prays.

This is why I am committing to preaching only on the topic of prayer in 2023. We will examine many different verses about what prayer is, as well as study prayers in the Old and New Testaments so that we can grow in prayer and in the power of God. I pray that if you are to grow in one area, it would be in prayer because I know it will impact everything in your life.



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#### **FOREVER FAMILIA**





#### Valerie Morón's Story

Before I met Jesus, I was living in sin. I was raised in a Catholic Church in Miami FL. While I was there, I learned the basic foundation of who God is. Yet, I never had a deeply intimate relationship with him. When I turned 17, my older sister gave her life to Jesus. Seeing her let Jesus transform her life caused me to have the desire to give my life to Jesus as well. Toward the end of 2019, I fully gave my life to Christ, who took away all my anxiety and other things I felt. I got baptized in 2020, in a Church in Miami FL. Knowing the Lord for about three years has truly transformed my life. I am so grateful that I found Tabernacle of God Church in Tampa since then. Everyone

welcomed me with open arms as I vividly saw their love for Jesus. God provided me with a place that I can come home!

**NEXT STEPS:** Like Valerie, there are many people who are searching for church's to visit every day. Sharing our website, social media, and content can help people like Valerie find a place where they can grow in their faith too. www.tabernacleofgod.church, Facebook/IG/Youtube: @tgcfamilia

### Ricky & Maria Figuroa's Story

As a married couple, we have loved to participate in our Church's Welcome Team over the past year. We enjoy serving the Lord with all our hearts in this way because we love people. We get to see and speak to a lot of new faces every month. The reason we enjoy interacting with one another is that it helps us to get out of our comfort zone and to become more open with others. It gives us joy to spend more time with each other as a married couple when we serve together. Also, our involvement has taught us to be more open with other people outside of Church. But,



the best part of being on the Welcome Team is making other people happy and seeing them smile because we want people to associate joy with Jesus.

**NEXT STEPS:** If you would like to learn more about serving on one of our teams, visit our website, www.tabernacleofgod.church and click on the BLUE CIRCLE to sign up and learn more.





#### Patti Casey's Story

Before I started coming to the Tabernacle of God Church, I was invited by John Melendez to join a small group on zoom. The group meeting was called the Engagement Project. At the time, I needed the Engagement Project, because it helped me to grow more. However, I wanted to go in person, because I love the personal face-to-face connection. When John first brought me to the Tabernacle of God Church I was able to meet everyone personally. I met my Pastor Tito and his wife Alisha, as well. I felt the love of everyone in the Church. I felt like I belonged. I was home and part of a family. I was hungry to be in fellowship! It was my pastor's

preaching and how real and caring he is to the people in the Church that got my focus and attention. Being a brand-new member of the Church, and feeling so accepted in the Church, I found an amazing, wonderful family and a community where I now belong!

**NEXT STEPS:** First, pray about who is in your life that is not connected to a church and who has questions about God. Second, invite them to sit with you during one of our weekend services! Have them visit our website and social media pages to help them to better get to know us. www.tabernacleofgod.church, Facebook/IG/Youtube: @tgcfamilia

### **John Melendez's Story**

My life started to change completely right after Pastor Tito and Alisha prayed over my life many years ago. Jesus saved me! Everything I now do is for the glory of God, not for myself. It was in my heart to go to Fort Myer, to help out during the week after Hurricane Ian. I prayed hard God led me to two specific people that were stranded and needed help. After getting their address, I took my kayak and was willing to go get them. However, the authorities already rescued them. So I prayed and ask God for a new direction. God then led me to do a barbecue for



them. During this time, it was in my heart to adopt a widow that was in need. I felt so grateful to be able to help them out during such a tough time. Praise God!

**NEXT STEPS:** Stay connected on our social media or website to find outreach opportunities in our local community for you and your family.



New Season. New Beginnings. By Jamie Reed



This new year with its brand-new season can be exciting. But I bet for some, this new year might come with hurt and struggles from past years. But let me tell you there is a God, that loves you and that He has a new plan for your life. Learn from the past, but don't worry about it! Trust God and know that He can help you to move forward. He can take everything you went through and turn it around for good if you put your life in His hands.

Just know that God hears your prayers and He promises to answer them according to His wisdom and plan. It might not be what you want when you want it, but He knows your needs. Remember that God loves you so much. Trust that He is working everything out for your good. God is with you and will still be with you in your new season and wherever you go. He will not forsake you nor leave you; never will He abandon you. There is still hope for you His love is everlasting, His grace is everlasting, His mercy is forever, and His peace will forever be inside of you.

God wants to prepare you for what's next. It could be anything that you have been praying for while waiting on the promise. It could be your walk with Him as a new believer, a new job with new opportunities or promotions, your health, a new direction, or relationships. Just know it's never too late for God to use you and work through you. Trust in Jesus as you take your next steps in knowing Jesus in His Word and living by His grace.



www.tabernacleofgod.church

Make sure to visit our website and select the BLUE CIRCLE on the bottom right-hand corner to take your NEXT STEP in finding your place in our church family.

#### I'M NEW

PRAYER WALL

GIVING

JOIN A TEAM

Key Date: April 9, 2023Easter Sunday