

Unity

May, 2026

A Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church Publication

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! *Psalm 133:1*

Sunday,
May 10

HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY

Sundays

Sunday School
9:30am
Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

Wednesdays

Youth Bible Study and Activities
(Family Life Center)
5-6:30 P.M.

Schedule for May, June and July
Meeting only on following dates:
5/6 & 13, 6/3 & 10,
7/22 & 29 and 8/19 & 26

Adult Bible Study (Sanctuary)
6:30 P.M.

YOUTH WEEK June 13-20

SATURDAY, 6/13, 11 am
Parade Celebrating
Vacation Bible School,
Youth Bible Study and
Sunday School!

SUNDAYM 6/14
Youth Day

MONDAY-THURSDAY
6/14-18, 6-8 pm
Vacation Bible School (VBS)
FRIDAY 6/19
Special VBS Activity

SATURDAY, 6/20 10a-2p
Fun Day and Car Show

MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Monday,
May 25



Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

SUNRISE SERVICE - RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Rev. Tony Black, Associate Minister
Harvest Community Church, Centerpointe, AL

HE'S MORE THAN JUST A NAME John 17:1-3

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He ¹ should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

In our desire to know Jesus, do we stop at just knowing His name. Jesus wants us to know Him in a more intimate way. He wants us to know his nature, his character, and His existence. If we don't, our Christian walk will never move to the next level with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Galatians 5:16-17 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another; so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Romans 7:15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

Romans 7:20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who love me and gave Himself for me.

Romans 7:24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

The mind is slave to the law of God; flesh is slave to the law of sin. We however, are not let off the hook, we are still responsible.

Ephesians 3:17-20 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Jesus Christ is more than just a name. Get to know His nature, character, and existence. A relationship with Christ will cause you to change course.

Philippians 3:7-10 ⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Know Christ and the power of His resurrection!

We already know Him as Jehovah Jireh-our Provider,; Jehovah Raphah-our Healer, Jehovah Nissi-our Banner, etc.... Get to know Christ in His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We have the responsibility to get to know our Savior as intimately as He knows us.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, April 5, 2026

JUST A LITTLE WALK WITH JESUS Luke 24:13-24

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

¹⁷ And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?"

So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. ²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. ²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴ And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

Luke's rendition of the resurrection of Jesus Christ deeply tells the story of His death and burial. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is foundational of who we are as Christians. Jesus make provision for us on Calvary. Jesus died for our sins.

The brothers in today's passage were moving in the wrong direction, they were going south of where they ought to have been. Jesus gave them instructions as to where to be and what to do. They were to be waiting for Jesus.

As soon as we get to the place when things don't go the way we thought they should go, we go south. Where are you moving spiritually, North or South? Anytime you're not doing what you're supposed to do, you are descending.

We can identify with these brothers, when He died, they forgot everything Jesus taught them.

The Bible is to be understood. God is real. How to be blessed? Obey God's Word. One day we're going to stand before Him.

When the brothers stopped to rest, they recognized they were walking with Jesus.

The reason we can't stop doing the things we are supposed to do is because we love the things more than we love God. *Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

As a people, we have more money, better jobs, and more things than we've ever had. Yet, instead of growing near to God, we are descending.

Paul is pressing upward, trying to be better in Jesus Christ.

Every effect sin has on our lives, Jesus showed Himself to have the authority. God loves us so much. He will never leave you alone.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, April 5, 2026

**Answer for last month's challenge:
How many overlapping crosses can you count here? 11**

JUST PASSING THROUGH

Philippians 3:17-21

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Often, our character, our nature doesn't align itself with our doctrine or our teaching. Our walk on this earth isn't in alignment with what the Bible actually teaches, that is, we're just passing through.

We are not ordering ourselves as if we are just passing through. We have lost sight of the biblical tools; we'll be gone in a little while, we are strangers, pilgrims on this earth.

Paul warned the Church of Philippi against living for the flesh, being fleshly motivated; having a tendency of letting things slide. Living for the flesh will cause spiritual compromise. We ought to have spiritual priority. We ought to understand and live like, walk and talk like we know we're just passing through.

The Church of Philippi was affected by false teaching. To encourage them to align themselves, Paul told them to follow his example (v17).

*Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams
April 19, 2026*



**Let the Word of God
illuminate your life;
join us for Sunday School
and Bible Study!**



**Lillie and Tyrone
Kidd
5/14/05**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR 2026 MINOR HIGH
GRADUATES!!!**

ALEXIA EVANS

**ARYANA
WINDHAM**

Upcoming District #5 Meetings

**First Quarter Meeting
August 6-8, 2026**

**Second Quarter Meeting
November 5, 2026**

**Third Quarter Meeting
February 4-6, 2027**

Fourth Quarter Meeting



TREYVIN ALDRICH LEE

“Tre” graduated Magna Cum Laude from Alabama State University on Saturday, May 8, 2026! He was inducted into the National Honor Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success. Tre was recognized at both the ASU Honor’s Day and the Music Department’s Honor Day. He remained on the Dean’s List throughout his college career. Tre plans to pursue his Master’s in Music at the University of Alabama/Birmingham.



Tre thanks everyone for their love and support and asks to keep him lifted up in prayer as he continues his musical journey.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!

Congratulations to:



Rebecca Williams has been accepted into the Alabama School of Fine Arts (ASFA) in the Visual Arts Department. Rebecca is a rising 7th grader.



Aubrie Washington has been accepted into the Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School (JCIB). Aubrie is a rising 6th grader.



Sincere Conaway has been accepted into the Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School (JCIB). Sincere is a rising 6th grader.

Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

WHEN THE LORD IS WITH YOU II Corinthians 20:14-17

¹⁴ Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. ¹⁵ And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

Be assured, God will not leave nor forsake us. We are never alone. We can trust God in difficult situations and circumstances. As children of God, we can be reassured that the battle is not our because God is with us.

1. We have to be conditioned for victory— King Jehoshaphat was conditioned for victory and he sent out his leaders to teach his people. When the people are not ready, they can be misled or deceived.

II Chronicles 20 talks about how the enemy rose up against Judah. *It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat ² Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi). (vv1-2)*

King Jehoshaphat began to pray once he got the message. *And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴ So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. ⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, (vv3-5)*

We ought to learn how to pray this way. *and said: "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? ⁷ Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? ⁸ And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, ⁹ 'If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.' ¹⁰ And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them— ¹¹ here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. ¹² O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." . (vv6-12)*

Everybody prayed because Jehoshaphat conditioned the people to serve the Lord. *Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord. (v13)*

Every now and then, God will show up while we're praying. Step out on faith and trust God despite of what you're going through. When God is with you, you ought to look like it.

The people prayed and God sent them an answer. The first thing God said was "Don't be afraid." (v15) If you're going to pray, don't worry. If you're going to worry, why are you praying? You ought to pray with some expectancy. You don't have to worry about fighting, God's got you.

God is not doing you, God is doing God. We ought to pray to be a part of what God is doing; for God to use us to bring about His design and will.

2. We have to be positioned. You don't have to fight but you have to show up. When you position yourself, you will experience the deliverance of God. (v17)

Position yourself, stand still and trust God with all your heart. It doesn't matter how big the army is, you'll see the salvation of God.

It may look like your cause is right or noble, but sometimes God's plan is completely different.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, April 12, 2026

EFFECTIVE PRAYER II Chronicles 7:13-14

¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16b

There's an outcry about prayer. We know we need to pray, however, our prayers need to be effective prayers. The greatest tool in the Church of God's tool box and the greatest weapon in the Church of God's arsenal is prayer. Effective prayer can change situations.

The Church should make intercession, not just for the people of the Church, but also for those that don't know Jesus Christ as pardon of their sin.

People get so caught up in D.C., in the Supreme Court, in State government. God is omnipotent and works providentially on behalf of His people. Whether your person is elected or not, you can trust God to effect change. It doesn't matter who is in the White House or in State government, if God is not pleased then God is our problem. Even if the Church made the rules for the world, it won't effect change. Change only comes when we can make our case for the true and living God.

In today's passage, God is speaking to Solomon. Solomon prayed on behalf of, not only the temple, but also the people of Israel that God will have an eye toward Judah. God answered Solomon's prayer. We don't always have to wait, sometimes God will speak into our spirit/situation/circumstance right away.

There's a decline in our nation. The Church can make a difference when it prays effectively; when it realizes it has to come in compliance with what thus says the Lord.

Apparently, there's a top ten list of sin. The Church is so concerned about abortion but not so much about the homeless. So concerned about homosexuality but not so much about fornication. God is concerned about all sin. It's not so much about the world, the world is doing exactly what it is supposed to do. It's about the sin in the Church.

The sin in the Church is what causes God to turn His face from a nation, from His people. The Church needs to realize that it can't legislate righteousness. The agenda of the Church doesn't move by government. God wants His Son, Jesus Christ, in the hearts of people. The Word of God has to be alive in their hearts.

If God chooses to move in judgement on the United States of America, the only people that can cause God to relent is when the Church of Jesus Christ get in line with Him and do things God's way.

In effective prayer, it matters who is praying:

1. It takes the right people
2. It takes humble hearts
3. It takes the right motivation

We all have to be dependent on God, trust Him. Apart from God, we can do nothing. We have to seek God's face in prayer, we can't be living in sin and pray effectively. We have to align our lives with the Word of God. We have to walk in obedience and stand in truth, righteousness, and love.

We're on a downward slide and we need God to relent. We have meshed Christianity and patriotism and used the Church to manipulate even the people of God. We need to due our civic duty, but don't get it twisted. Our civic duty evolves out of our relationship with God.

We need to humble ourselves and turn from our wicked ways. We need to seek God's face and understand we are God's representatives. We are representatives of the Cross.

We need to not try to make anybody to anything. We need to simply impact hearts for Christ.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, April 26, 2026

**We are Saint Matthew Missionary
Baptist Church of Docena, AL**

Where

Our Vision is that of an all-inclusive church, ministering to the needs of all God's people, to transform and empower them through the teaching and preaching of the Word of God.

Our Mission is to progressively pursue the restoration of the spiritual, physical, and social condition of the community as we actively engage in reaching out to those who do not know Jesus the Christ as Savior and Lord.

Our Motto is "Making a Difference in the Lives of Others for the Kingdom of God," which reflects the heart of this church as we address the needs of the church and the community.

We Believe that our society will be best affected through the ministry of the church. We further believe that the church is the best organization of people to rebuild our battered communities. As the church grows, so do the community, the city, the state, and the country. We are going to make a difference: one person, one family, one community at a time, for the Kingdom of God.

www.stmatthewdocena.org

Facebook: St. Matthew Missionary
Baptist Church Docena AL.

**Saint Matthew
Missionary Baptist Church**

Pastor

Reverend Eddie Washington, Sr.

"We do not have to raise the standard to become the men and women God wants us to be; we simply have to come up to the one He has already set."

Deacon Board

Brother J.W. Henry, Chairman

Brother Steven Anderson Brother Antoine Palm

Brother Victor Griffin Brother Wallace Simmons

Brother Ronald King Brother Lavone Thomas

Brother Roosevelt McCray Brother Carlos Williams

Unity
May, 2026

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202 Sixth Street
P.O. Box 66
Docena, AL 35060

Victoria Williams, Editor