



# **NEW** **MEMBERS &** **BELIEVERS**

ORIENTATION BOOKLET

ROUND O MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



I keep asking

that the God of our Lord **Jesus Christ**, the glorious Father,  
may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that  
you may know him better.

that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that  
you may know the hope to which he has called you, the  
riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his  
incomparably great power for us who believe.

## THAT POWER

is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he  
raised **Christ** from the dead and seated him at his right  
hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and  
authority, power and dominion, and every name that is  
invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to  
come. And God placed all things under his feet and  
appointed him to be head over everything

## **FOR THE CHURCH**

which is his body,

the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

*Ephesians*  
1:17-23

# Welcome

It is certainly with a heart full of excitement and hopeful anticipation that we welcome you into the Body of Christ! Whether you are joining the Round O Baptist Church family, confessing Jesus as your savior for the very first time, or both...we are rejoicing along with all of Heaven because of this landmark season of your life!

Having said that, it is our hope that you fully understand God's beautiful plan for salvation. It is a plan that is clearly communicated throughout the entirety of the Bible. The Book of Romans however, gives us a plethora of scripture references that thoroughly explain the Lord's heart for salvation. These verses are widely known as, "The Romans Roadmap to Salvation".

The Romans Roadmap to Salvation consists of four general parts and over the next five days we will take a look at each of them along with some foundational beliefs about baptism.

Again, I am so excited that you have heard the invitation of Jesus Christ to be a part of His beautiful church, and have decided to FOLLOW HIM and HONOR HIM with your life!

Yours in Christ,

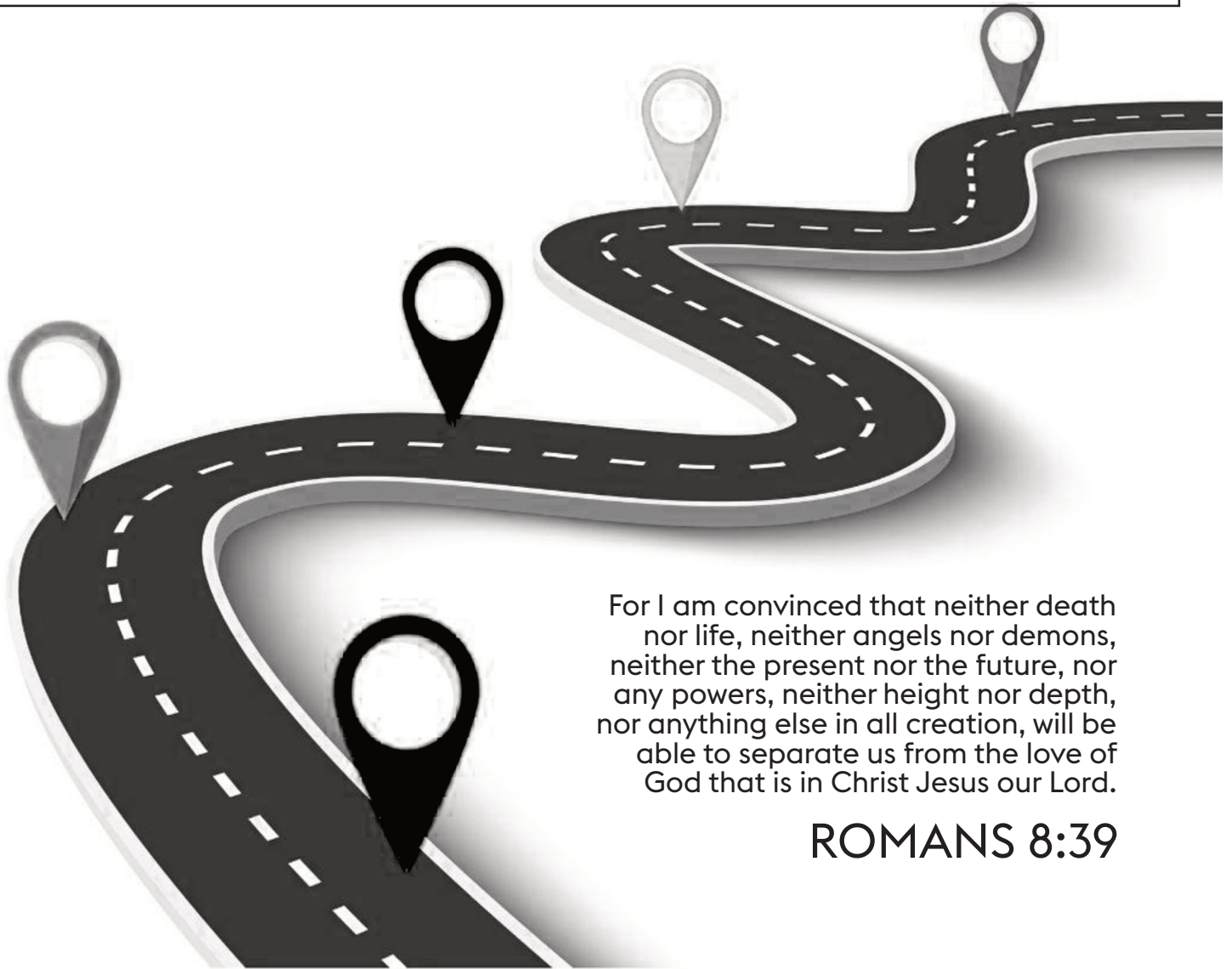
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# UNDERSTANDING *Salvation*

THROUGH THE BOOK OF ROMANS



For I am convinced that neither death  
nor life, neither angels nor demons,  
neither the present nor the future, nor  
any powers, neither height nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation, will be  
able to separate us from the love of  
God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:39

## ***Understanding Salvation Through the Book of Romans***

### ***(Day ONE)***

***Our Great Human Problem*** (Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23, and Romans 6:23).

The first part of the Romans Roadmap confirms the state of every person as sinful.

“As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;” (Romans 3:10)

Paul proclaims that everyone is a sinner. He teaches that no one can hope to avoid God's judgment as a result of their sins. By this standard, there is NO TRUE HOPE for any person for all will be found guilty of sin and is certainly deserving of God's full wrath. Again, “NO ONE IS RIGHTEOUS!”

What David says is right in line with Paul as he writes in Psalm 14:3, "There is none who does good, not even one." Here's the point: All people—without exception—are sinners and are in desperate need of salvation! And according to scripture there is no one who can claim they are "good enough" to deserve heaven because of how well they have lived.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23)

Now that we have established that all have sinned and missed the mark, Romans 6:23 explains the great dilemma that we are ALL up against because of this reality.

“For the wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23a)

Do you see the problem that we are all facing?

If no one measures up. If EVERYONE sins. And if there is a mandatory penalty for every sin..., then at some point we will all have to pay for our sinfulness! And that payment unfortunately is death!

But wait..., thankfully there's more to this verse! The second half of the verse states the hope of the sinner through Jesus Christ.

“...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23b)

The Bible explains, the work of a sinner is absolutely worthy of a paycheck. That paycheck however, is death! In other words, the sinner has earned eternal death. Meaning eternal separation from God. And again, this truth is certainly worth saying at least one more time: No matter how good a person may think they are (as it pertains to their righteous acts, see Isaiah 64:6), in some way they have missed the mark and can never ever be good enough to avoid the death-penalty.

# ***BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS IN THE WORD OF GOD!***

**THROUGH WHAT JESUS DID ON  
THE CROSS, FULL PENALTY-  
PAYMENT IS AVAILABLE, BY  
FAITH! OUR FAITH AND TRUST  
“IN THE FINISHED WORKS OF  
JESUS” SERVES AS THE FULL  
PAYMENT FOR OUR SINS!!!!**

Paul calls eternal life God's gift to us who are “in Christ Jesus”. When we trust in, depend on, and put our confidence in what Jesus did on the cross, God gives us credit for Jesus’ perfect, sinless life and accepts the payment of His death for ALL of our sins. How about that!!!! Every one of us owed a debt that could only be paid by death, and Jesus stepped in and gave His life as FULL PAYMENT! HALLELUJAH!

*Reflections*

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## **(Day Two)**

### ***Humanity's Hope in Jesus Christ*** (Romans 5:8)

The Romans Roadmap further encourages the sinner in the hope they have in the love of God that is expressed through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

One of the most beautiful and FULL OF HOPE passages in the Bible is found in Romans 5:8! Christ died for us while we were STILL SINNERS (in a state of disbelief, rebellion, ungodliness, being an enemy).

A sinner is someone who cannot conform to the standards of God. In every way he fails to measure up to what God expects. Aside from accepting the gift of salvation “in Christ Jesus”... WE ARE ALL SINNERS! Having said that, think about this: It is a very unlikely occurrence that a person would die for even a good man.... How much more unlikely is it for one to give his life for someone who is STILL a sinner?

YET, THIS IS THE BEAUTIFUL REALITY FOR EVERY SINNER: JESUS GAVE HIS LIFE ON THE CROSS WHILE THEY WERE STILL IN THEIR SIN STATE!

NOW THAT'S REAL LOVE BEING DEMONSTRATED!

The circumstances surrounding mankind in the way Jesus demonstrated his love for us on the cross, in that we were still in sin, serves as a constant reminder that OUR PAYMENT FOR SIN is NOT based on what we have done (past), what we are doing (present), or even what we will do (future), but rather it is solely based on WHAT HE (JESUS) HAS ALREADY DONE! Now that's GOOD NEWS!

As you continue in this NEW journey of Christianity, never qualify or disqualify the love of the Father, as it pertains to your life, by your own works! Always remember that God's love operates and functions without respect to human merit.

*Reflections*

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## **(Day THREE)**

### ***The Sinner's Response to the Lord's Gift of Salvation***

(Romans 10:9-10 and Romans 10:13)

Once we come to an understanding that we are ALL in need of a savior and recognize the HOPE we have in Jesus Christ as that savior, we are ready for the third part of the Romans Roadmap to Salvation, which is calling out to Jesus.

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” (Romans 10:9-10)

#### ***Believe it. Declare it. Walk in it.***

Confessing that Jesus is Lord is more than just saying a prayer filled with heartless words that we don't understand; it is a confident declaration of our belief in the works of Jesus Christ. This confession is an essential aspect of our faith, as it declares and demonstrates the willingness of the Sinner to identify with Jesus and to proclaim that His death, burial, and resurrection is indeed enough to render him righteous in the eyesight of the Lord.

#### ***I BELIEVE IN MY HEART.***

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is at the very core of our Christian faith. To believe in our heart that the Father raised His Son Jesus from the dead is to affirm that the power of God has conquered and defeated the power and influence of sin and death in the life of the Sinner. From within our heart we trust in the finished works of Jesus on the cross and His glorious resurrection as the source of our own eternal life and salvation.

#### ***The Promise of Salvation***

When we declare with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe beyond all doubt in our heart in His resurrection from the dead, we are promised salvation. This gift of God liberates and delivers us from the bondage of sin which is death and grants us the blessedness of eternal life! A life full of peace, grace, forgiveness, power and transformation.

#### ***Walking Out Your Salvation***

We can walk out the confessions of our mouth and the beliefs of our heart as we identify with Jesus by openly sharing our faith with those we encounter daily as led by the Holy Spirit.

There is absolutely no substitute for living out loud our heartfelt confessions in regards to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this is what the Lord desires for those of us who now believe.



“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” Romans 1:16

### **MORE GOOD NEWS....**

### **THE DOOR OF SALVATION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!**

Romans 10:13 expresses God’s desire to save everyone.

“For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” (Romans 10:13)

Some may feel that they are not worthy of God’s love and Gift of Salvation because they are all too aware of their sins. Honestly, they are spot on in feeling this way because of man’s inability to measure up to God’s standards as we learned earlier. But our Lord shifted the focus of worthiness from the sins of man to the perfection of Jesus! Through Jesus, everyone now has a pathway to worthiness!

Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God’s holy people) in the Light – Colossians 1:12 AMP

Rejoice in knowing that the salvation of our Lord is accessible to all and He is open to receiving all men... at all times. This is a universal truth that stands firm from generation to generation without discrimination!

The hope of the Lord is to save everyone. John 3:16-17.

## *Reflections*

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## **(Day FOUR)**

### ***The Result of Salvation*** (Romans 5:1-2; Romans 8:1)

The fourth part of the Romans Roadmap mentions two results (peace and justification) after a sinner decides to declare with their mouth and believe in their heart that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Romans 5:1-2 explains that through faith in Jesus Christ, sinners can enjoy peace with God, and are no longer separated from God because of sin.

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.” (Romans 5:1-2)

Here’s a quote for christianity.com in regards to Romans 5:1-2 that perfectly explains these verses...

“... this kind of peace is, at its core, a spiritual reconciliation between family members. It’s a restored relationship between Heavenly Father and earthly child, made possible simply because Jesus wanted it so—enough that He was willing to suffer, die, and rise from death for it. And because Christ Himself has guaranteed our peace with God, we live with unfettered “access” (prosagōgē) to our Father—a word “used in the ancient world to refer to a person’s being conducted into the presence of royalty” (verse 2).

How cool is that?

Still, the absolute best description of peace with God is found in one insightful story told by Jesus long ago, captured for generations in Luke 15:11-32. It goes like this:

A brash, ungrateful young man hatefully insults his father, takes his dad’s money and sinfully squanders it in a foreign country. This situation ends badly for him, until one day he finally realizes his devastating circumstances are caused by his own sin. Then this thought enters his head, “I will go home to my father” (Luke 15:18, NLT).

The son arrives home fearfully, expecting well-deserved hostility. Instead the father greets his bad boy with open arms and great joy. Why? Because it was the son who warred against the father, and never the father at war with his son.

This lesson of the Prodigal reveals the meaning and implications of Romans 5:1-2 most clearly. In a very real, spiritual and practical sense, having peace with God means simply this: You can always go home.

***DECLARE THIS: BECAUSE OF JESUS... I HAVE PEACE WITH MY FATHER FOREVER AND EVER...! AMEN.***

Before faith in Jesus, all who have sinned were condemned by their sin and awaiting a death sentence. But now because of our faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross, “there is no condemnation” and the Sinner, now converted BELIEVER, are gifted eternal life with the Father.

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,” (Romans 8:1)

In short, if you believe in the finished works of Jesus and have accepted the Gift of salvation, YOU ARE NOT UNDER CONDEMNATION! However, please don't disregard this statement's disclaimer: THE CONDEMNATION-FREE LIFE is for those who place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ ALONE!

There is no other way to experience a GUILT-FREE LIFE! No other way TO BE SAVED (Acts 4:12).

***It is all about the work of Jesus....!***

When we place our faith in Jesus, God identifies you and I with His Son and ultimately gives us credit for the way He lived. His sinless, righteous life is credited to us and He accepts Jesus' death on the cross, as payment for our death-deserving sin. WITHOUT CONDEMNATION!

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

So then, if God is judging us on the basis of Jesus' righteousness, how could we ever be condemned? Right....! You're getting it now!!!! HE WILL NOT! God would never condemn Jesus, therefore He will never condemn those who are "in Christ". And again, how do we come to be "in Christ"? Only by faith in the finished works of Jesus (Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:8-9).

In conclusion:

Please commit yourself through prayer to fully understanding each phase of what you have learned about salvation from the book of Romans and supporting books of the Bible. Understanding salvation builds a defense system against Satan's attempt to undermine your faith in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ!

This document is designed to be read and discussed with an assigned church mentor.

Let's Pray

Dear Heavenly Father, I realize more than ever, that I am a sinner and that the penalty for my sins is death. I believe that you sent your son, Jesus Christ, because of your passionate love for me. His death, burial, and resurrection is indeed the one and only payment necessary for my sins.

THANK YOU LORD!

I declare that Jesus is my Savior!. And I profess His death, burial and resurrection from the grave. Thank you Father for the grace, forgiveness, peace, power, and the gift of eternal life that you have so richly given unto me through JESUS!

In the name of Jesus I pray....Amen!"

# Reflections

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**(Day 5)**

## ***The Significance of BAPTISM***

As it pertains to being baptized.

“9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”” ~Mark 1:9-11

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” ~Matthew 28:19

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.” ~Matthew 10:32-33

## ***BY BEING WATER BAPTIZED, YOU ARE:***

1. Following the instruction of God the Father and the example set by Jesus
2. Symbolizing union with Jesus, in His death, burial, and resurrection.
3. Declaring your faith in Jesus Christ publicly.

## ***Following the example set by Christ***

Water baptism declares publicly what has happened privately within your heart. In being baptized we are literally following the example set by Christ.

Jesus himself was baptized. He was not a sinner, yet he humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.” Mark 1:9-10

Jesus was baptized, and He is indeed the author and finisher of our faith! It is He, Jesus, who begins and brings to perfection our faith. We look to Him as our “life” example.

### ***Symbolizing your union with Christ, in His death, burial, and resurrection.***

“In Romans, faith is the means by which we are united to Christ and justified. But we show this faith — we say this faith and signify this faith and symbolize this faith — with the act of baptism. Faith unites to Christ; baptism symbolizes the union.” ~John Piper

“Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” ~Romans 6:3-4 NLT

So the symbolism of baptism is death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus died, was buried, and then raised to new life.

When we are baptized, by faith, we are united with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. Your baptism is a beautiful symbol of what happened spiritually when you received Jesus into your life: The old you... the unbelieving, rebellious, idolatrous you, died! Now the new, full of faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ you, has now arrived! You are being raised to a new life! A life governed by the Holy Spirit.

“Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive – right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ’s cross.” Colossians 2:12-14 MSG

### ***Declaring your commitment publicly***

Water baptism declares publicly what has happened privately within your heart. Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ.

- You are a follower of Jesus Christ.

Those who accepted his message were baptized. —Acts 2:41

- You are part of a new family.

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. —Galatians 3:26–27

Conclusion: Baptism is a public act of confession, repentance, and faith in Jesus. It’s a statement of faith that says: The old life of sin and death has been destroyed, and the new life of union with Christ has begun.

In baptism, the church commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus while also celebrating the radical commitment of believers who are raised to life, and now walking in their new grace-life with him.

## Reflections

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## **THE CHURCH**

We believe the Church is the most influential and powerful force in the earth! One of the key factors in being a part of a church that glorifies the Lord in this way is “structure”. Here at The O we also believe that all things should be done in order and with excellence as we are led by the Holy Spirit.

Having said that, the next phase in your NEW Believer/Membership journey will be spent in training with our Deacon’s leadership team. In these sessions you will receive information in regards to the STRUCTURE of this church with hopes that you will be well equipped to serve and share the love of the Father, as well as the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the community, as a member of the **Round O Missionary Baptist Church family**.

***“But all things must  
be done appropriately  
and in an orderly manner”***

I Corinthians 14:40 AMP

ROUND O BAPTIST CHURCH "WE ARE HERE FOR YOU..."

# COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



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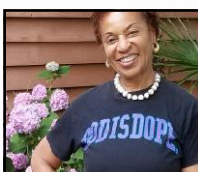
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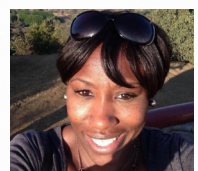
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Joining the church is not solely about Sunday Morning's.  
No... it's about submitting oneself for the shaping and  
leading of the Holy Spirit into ***purpose.***

***Today is not mine to OWN. TODAY belongs to the  
Lord. Therefore, I will live according to HIS WILL.***

~ Pastor Lacie L. Jones

## **GET CONNECTED**

**AND DISCOVER PURPOSE**  
SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE MINISTRIES OF THE O.



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