

# DAY ONE - PASTOR PHIL AS PASTOR

*Contributed by Tom Dixon*

*"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you..."  
- Romans 1:8*

Even though Paul is writing to the church in Rome and thanking God for them and longs to see them this verse applies in the reverse as well. First, we thank God for Pastor Phil, Meghan, Andrew, Gabe, Lauren and Micah. This is where we should start in these 10 days of praise and gratitude for the Auxiers...by thanking God for this wonderful gift.

*"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."  
- Jeremiah 3:15*

What a blessing it has been for Crestview's history, that God has been faithful in giving us shepherds who are after God's own heart. Pastor Phil has been the latest shepherd for twenty years. I think back of all who have learned from this Godly man. Students, (including many of our own), leadership, the congregation and many in the community have benefited from Pastor Phil's teaching and example. What a blessing it has been to see him grow in Christ and feed us with knowledge and understanding of the Gospel. Let's thank God for this wonderful shepherd.

*"As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you." - 2 Corinthians 9:13-14*

One thing is certain over all these years is that Pastor Phil has always had this in his heart, giving glory to God. He has never been one who wants recognition for his God-given ministry but desires to be a humble servant leader. Let's thank God for Pastor Phil and continue to pray for him with deep affection and love according to God's grace as we become obedient to God's Word under his leadership.

## DAY TWO - PASTOR PHIL AS MENTOR

*Contributed by Tom Dixon*

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith & of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. - Ephesians 4:11-16*

Pastor Phil has been our teacher for the purpose of equipping the people of Crestview for the work of ministry. He has definitely been a mentor who has equipped all of us for ministry these past twenty years. Some of you may think, when has Pastor Phil been a mentor to me? Let me give you 3 things to consider:

Takes Time to Listen: I have never known a time when Pastor Phil won't make available a time to listen and answer questions. Whether a call, text, email or a quick stop by his office he will make the time, if possible, even when he has other responsibilities, he cares for his us and wants to pour into our lives to equip us.

Allows Others to Take Risks: This is something that is not easy to do and harder to implement. Phil desires for God's people to have creative ideas in our church body, neighborhoods, etc. Pastor Phil has been a leader in developing these servants within our church over the past twenty years. Yes there are failures in this process but there are also great rewards, as each one of us grows in the fullness of the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Invests in Relationships: We admire those whom we trust. And we develop trust by sharing our lives. This is what leads me to think of Pastor Phil as a mentor. Whether developing future leadership in ministry, having an impact in our community or just getting to know Phil as a husband, father and friend, Phil thrives on building relationships to further the Gospel for the glory of God.

I challenge each of you to think how Phil has had an impact on your spiritual growth and thank God for this man! We have caught a glimpse of what Paul intended when he exhorted the Philippians to *"join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us"* (Phil 3:17)

As we pray today let us to not only remember Pastor Phil and the elders, but to pray for ourselves that we may be godly sheep receiving mentorship.

## DAY THREE - PASTOR PHIL AS COUNSELOR

*Contributed by Tom Dixon*

*So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." - 1 Peter 5:1-5.*

As the potter presses his clay, he has in mind a final design. Each spin of the wheel brings this design to reality. Scripture uses this pottery metaphor to describe our sanctification, *"for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."* And in this life-long process the Spirit uses faithful pastors to press grace into our souls.

One thing I have experienced over the past twenty years is how Pastor Phil has developed into the kind of man these verses describe. Of course, he's not perfect and he'll be the first to admit that, but we have all felt the love and care he has for us. And above all, he is a man who is passionate to counsel and comfort us by bringing us to the the Chief Shepherd and His incredible Good News.

As we pray today let's thank God for a Godly, Christ centered shepherd whose desire is to counsel, willingly and eagerly, each one of us at Crestview. Also, that it would be our desire as the sheep to become these kinds of people and that we would be praying for him in all humility so that Christ may use Crestview for the glory of God.

## DAY FOUR - MEGHAN

*Contributed by Cheri Dixon*

What a pleasure it has been to see Meghan grow these past 20 years. After Phil and Meghan got married we looked forward to seeing her grow as a pastor's wife, and the extra role a wife of a pastor has. But when I think of Meghan I think what kind of wife and mother and disciple of Christ she has become. These following verses define Meghan as she has grown in all of these roles and ones I thought of when thinking about her.

*She opens her mouth with wisdom and loving instruction is on her tongue. - Proverbs 31:26*

*Remember the truth, to teach it to your children.  
- Deuteronomy 4:9*

*Teach us to number our days that we may gain wisdom. - Psalm 90:12*

*Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that you labor in the Lord is not in vain; Know that there is a reward for serving; Do not grow weary in doing good. - 1 Cor. 15:58; Col. 3:24; Gal. 6:9*

*Make the most of every opportunity, let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt. - Colossians 4:5-6*

Pray for Meghan that she will consistently fill her heart and mind with God's word and wisdom so that her words will be wise instruction for her family and that her speech will be encouraging. Pray that she will have wisdom in such a busy season of life. To choose her time wisely, knowing what things she could set aside for this stage of life and what efforts she should focus on for each family member. Pray for strength and steadfastness, that she would press on in her efforts to become more Christ like and to lead her children in that path. Pray that her actions and attitude would continue to reflect Christ and would be an encouragement to those she works with and encounters in our community. And finally pray that she would love Phil in such a way that it would honor Christ and glorify God.

# DAY FIVE - ANDREW

*Contributed by John Wilson*

Many of you know Andrew as the oldest of the Auxier children. If you haven't intentionally talked to Andrew, you may not have had the chance to really get to know him.

Andrew is quiet and introspective in public but can be loud and boisterous around friends. He is a great student to have in class, who replies with well-thought-out and excellent replies. He is witty and has good comebacks. He is caring; he thinks of how others will be affected before he acts.

Andrew is also growing into a man and, like his ultimate role model, is growing in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man. What a joy it is to praise God as we watch Him work out His will in Andrew's life! And what a duty we have as Andrew's church to lift him up in prayer, asking God to make him as much like Jesus as possible.

Andrew will be in ninth grade this fall! As a freshman, he will be facing all the challenges of someone who is growing into adulthood. School is hard, and laziness is easy. Athletics promise physical development, fun with friends, and growth in character – but sports can also lead to pride and self-worship. The constant pull of an electronic screen can shorten focus and desensitize any believer to the beauty of Christ. Social acceptance can begin to feel like it defines his value, making him forget that he has already been accepted by his Creator. In all these things, our God is sovereign and good, so let's go to Him in prayer for our brother Andrew.

## PRAISE

*Luke 2:52 – Andrew is mimicking Christ as he grows!*

*Psalms 139:13-16 – Andrew's maturity is God's handiwork*

*Ephesians 2:4-10 – Christ has redeemed Andrew's life*

## PETITION

*Proverbs 2 – that Andrew would heed his parent's instruction & pursue wisdom in the fear of the Lord.*

*Job 31:1 – that Andrew would be preserved from the draw of lust and pornography.*

*Psalms 1:1-4 – that Andrew would delight in God's Word*

*John 16:33 – that Andrew would put his hope in Christ*

*Philippians 1:6 – that God would complete the work that He has begun in Andrew.*

*Proverbs 11:2 – that Andrew would be kept from pride*

*Proverbs 3:5-6 – that Andrew would trust in God, and that God would direct his paths.*

# DAY SIX - GABE

*Contributed by John Wilson*

Gabe is a fan-favorite with the younger kids at church, and there are many reasons for this. He is old enough for most of the kids in our church to look up to, yet he remains humble and does not hold his age and experience over them. He makes himself accessible to them and enjoys seeing others be made happy.

Gabe is a natural includer. He has a knack for spotting the one person who is on the periphery, drawing them in, and making them feel welcome. When it is necessary, I have seen him lead others effectively. Gabe resolves conflicts by finding commonalities that kids can agree upon. He cracks funny jokes, speaks up at the right times, and has an unshakeable "chill".

Gabe will be in 7th grade this fall, entering middle school. Recall all the joys and pressures that come with this transition. Classes are harder, and pressures from teachers, coaches, and peers grow heavier. Athletics start mattering more. With these challenges, Gabe will have to make the choice daily of which voices to believe: is his value determined by yesterday's conversation in the hall, or was it already determined in Christ? What is more important - the daily reading of scripture, or developing his video game character? With what beauty should his eyes be filled: the image of Christ, or the beauty of this world?

Jesus is Gabe's Creator and Sustainer...and he has been in Gabe's shoes before. So let's go to our faithful Savior on Gabe's behalf.

## PRAISE

*Luke 2:52 - Gabe is mimicking Christ as he grows!*

*Psalms 139:13-16 - Gabe's growth is God's handiwork*

*Ephesians 2:4-10 - God has redeemed Gabe's life*

## PETITION

*Proverbs 2 - that Gabe would heed his parent's instruction & pursue wisdom in the fear of the Lord.*

*Job 31:1 - that Gabe would be preserved from the draw of lust and pornography.*

*Psalms 1:1-4 - that Gabe would delight in God's Word*

*John 16:33 - that Gabe would put his hope in Christ*

*Philippians 1:6 - that God would complete the work that He has begun in Gabe.*

*Proverbs 11:2 - that Gabe would be kept from pride*

*Proverbs 3:5-6 - that Gabe would trust in God, and that God would direct his paths.*

## DAY SEVEN - LAUREN

*Contributed by Cheri Dixon*

Lauren, what a blessing she is! Watching her grow through the last nine years has been so sweet - seeing her move from an active little one to a young lady humbled in recognition of her sin! Seeing her ask questions and learning about Christ and how to love others has been great, but more wonderful is her desire to put that into practice! Learning to apply that knowledge to the challenges she faces and will face both at school and at home will not be easy. Learning how to live and function in a home full of all boys, learning that they often can easily bypass the nurturing, caring roles that are so necessary in a girl's life. Dealing with emotions that are so different than theirs and sometimes feeling 'left out'. Finding ways to reflect Christ while navigating school, exploring her talents and interacting with friends. Below are some verses that came to mind that we can use as we pray to help her on this journey!

*God is able to make grace abound so that in all things at all times you may abound in every good work.  
-2 Corinthians 9:8*

*Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Do everything in love.  
- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

*Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace, in the strength that God provides. - 1 Peter 4:10*

*Pray for Lauren that she would continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. That she would be filled with humility and love and become an encouragement to those in her family, at her school and in her neighborhood. Pray that others would be drawn to Christ through her actions and words. May God give her discernment, wisdom and a boldness to share the truth and hope that she has in Christ. Pray that Lauren would listen diligently to her parents and church leaders, hearing God's Word and recognizing the gifts that God has given her to serve others. Pray that she would rely on His strength to continue in her walk with Christ.*

## DAY EIGHT - MICAH

Contributed by Kathy Warren

*Micah, having the distinction of being the youngest of the tribe that is 'Auxier', you hold the privilege of having 3 older siblings who have blazed the trail before you, so finding your way has not been without challenges. You have had to make a lot of noise to be noticed, which is good practice for proclaiming the Gospel in whatever vocation God calls you to! Your somewhat impetuous and persistent personality is balanced by your fun-loving, affectionate, and sociable character which endears you to us all. You love to make people laugh! God has given you a keen mind, which even though distracted at times, seems to collect the essential information in a Bible lesson which you eagerly share! All that He has created you to be is for His glory and your good.*

*Your name means, "Who is like God?" And of course the answer is, "No one"!! May He draw you to Himself so that you may know the great love and mercy He stores for you, and the great strength and protection He will provide in times of fear and trouble. The prophet Micah records the promise that from Bethlehem One would come in the majesty of the name the Lord His God, One who would be our peace. The One we celebrate at Christmas...you were born in that season, it's your dad's favorite time of year, - You are so special!!*

*~We pray that God might grant you the faith to believe and follow him all the days of your life.*

*~May you love His word, the unfolding of it gives light and imparts understanding to the simple.*

*~May you submit with respect to the authority of your parents that it might go well with you and you might live long on the earth. May you continue to grow in wisdom and stature and favor with God and men.*

*~May you discern the voice of the Holy Spirit above all others that contend for your affections, for His sheep hear His voice! We praise God for the day He created the one & only YOU!*

## DAY NINE - PHIL & MEGHAN, HUSBAND & WIFE

Contributed by John and Jenn Wilson

*On the day that God brought Phil and Meghan together and made them one, He once again played out the parable of His love for His Church. God has woven into each marriage an image for us of His love for His Bride. How is the love of God manifested in marriage? Marriage gives us a glimpse of what life was like before sin entered the world – perfect love between equal partners, with different roles, and both living in submission to Christ. But then it happened, the first couple rejected His love, thus tearing apart this perfect union. But that is not the end, Christ is now redeeming marriages of two broken individuals through His sacrificial death and resurrection. Now these marriages are brought into Christ's larger family, the church, for mutual love, service, and submission. And finally, one day, at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, we will all join together to rejoice in our complete union with Christ that He secured for His people.*

*As another couple in a long history of God-glorifying marriages, Phil and Meghan provide their church with an encouraging example of strong, tender, compassionate, unbreakable love. We see Phil fulfilling the role of headship, leading, providing, and protecting his wife and family. We see Meghan fulfilling the role of willingly submissive partnership and serving her family sacrificially. Their unceasing faithfulness to one another points to Christ's love for us. Their diligent and humble parenting ensures that the next generation of believers will not stray from the faith. Their work to build up the body of Christ, sharing each other's burdens and emptying themselves for each other will prove fruitful. In all of these things and a hundred more, Phil and Meg's love stands as an example that should turn us to God in praise, praying that it may last until death.*

*Let's join together in praying for our beloved friends and their marriage.*

- That their bond of love would be unbroken by sin.*
- That their love and discipline of their children would prove effective in generating believers for Christ.*
- That as their bodies age and life becomes increasingly difficult, their hope in Christ and love for one another would grow.*
- That the mystery of Christ's love for His Bride would shine bright in their union.*

## DAY TEN - PHIL'S HEART FOR THE CHURCH & FUTURE GENERATIONS

*Contributed by Luke Thompson*

*Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." - Matthew 16:16-18*

When I think of Phil, this verse frequently comes to my mind because he has made this his mantra for ministry. I can't count how many times I have heard him quote this verse as a hope when things are awry in the world, during frustrations in ministry, or when thinking about the future of Crestview.

Phil is passionate about the message, the gospel of Jesus Christ. That He is the only Messiah, our only hope and treasure. He beats that drum in everything he does in throughout every aspect of his ministry and leadership at Crestview over the last twenty years since I have known him. And I'm confident that the Spirit will lead him to preach this gospel for the next twenty years.

And more than this, Phil's complete dependence on the promise that he is not the one who is building Crestview, but that Christ has done it, is doing it, and will do it until He returns again. Phil has had an unwavering hold on the fact that hell cannot stop what Christ will do with His church. No matter what is happening in the world around us, Christ is dedicated to His church and will lead us to glory. Phil has reminded us of that for years through his preaching, leadership, developing future leaders, impact in the community, and leading us by his example.

So today, let's thank God for putting that drive and dependence in our pastor for the last twenty years. Let's praise God for bringing us the gospel through Phil week after week. And let's pray that God would protect Phil from taking his gaze off Christ and His promise to lead the church in victory.