

*past,
present,
future*



GIVING THANKS
for the PAST

TBC's Mission Statement

Temple Bible Church exists to glorify God through fulfilling
the Great Commission by...

Matt. 28:18-20

- Evangelizing the lost
- Establishing the young
- Equipping the growing
- Extending the mature

TBC's Mission Statement

- loving God, loving others
- relevant, expository preaching
- contemporary, celebrative worship
- the centrality of the Word of God

TBC's Mission Statement

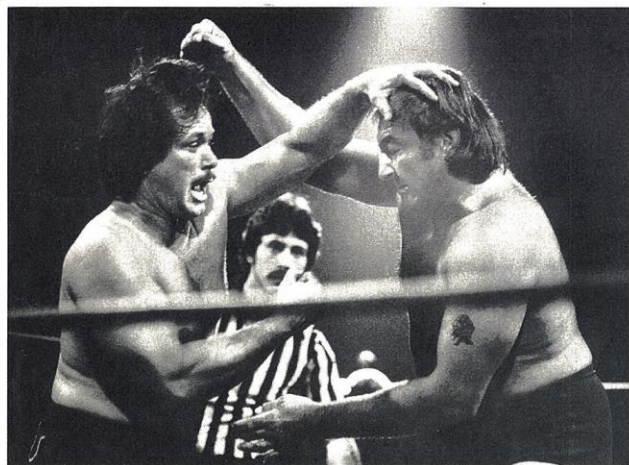
→ elder rule

→ global and local outreach

→ emphasis on making disciples and equipping saints

→ grace based growth

In Texas: Wrestling with Good and Evil



Casey, left, massages Howard's locks, while Howard tries to return the favor

The vast expanse of rolling scrub and farmland is still and dark. Dawn, when it comes, tinges the land red before a hot, white sun climbs in the sky, turning the dew to vapor that rises from the surface of the plain. This heartland, thousands of square miles, is central Texas. Bonnie and Clyde rampaged through the territory. Sam Bass, the outlaw, was gunned down in Round Rock, not far from the Santa Fe railroad. Today, Interstate 35 passes small and medium-size towns, ranches and farms. Huge trucks rumble into dusty, chalk-white depots to load crushed rock from local quarries. At intervals, as the road stretches across the land, a red, white and blue Lone-Star State flag flutters above a solitary dwelling.

When day breaks, church bells ring in Temple, Texas, founded in 1881 astride the rail line south of Waco and not far from modern-day Fort Hood, the largest military base in the free world. Temple's churches fill on Sunday, and as the white sun climbs higher, hymns are sung and sermons spoken. Down at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, parishioners of Temple Bible Church finish their prayers and stream out into the noonday heat, and the bright light that bears down on the town, bleaching its low buildings against the prairie.

As the churchgoers file out, another kind of Sunday crowd lines up at the Civic Center ticket window. Men stand together quietly in their rough leather boots and clean work clothes; women, teen-agers and small children talk excitedly. A sign out front announces: LIVE WRESTLING.

Back in 1979, Temple's high school Wildcats clinched the state football title under Bob McQueen, the coach and town hero. The people of Temple do a lot of hunting in season, shooting doves with shotguns and deer with rifles. But for year-round entertainment, nothing in town beats professional wrestling.

Inside the Civic Center people are taking their places, even though wrestling won't begin until 2 o'clock. Loretta Lynn's soft voice drifts from loudspeakers embedded in the ceiling above a concrete floor set with row after row of red plastic chairs. In the middle of the arena is a blue canvas ring lit with bright, hot, white lights. In a corner stand armed security men. "Our job



Youngsters take their cheering seriously

is to protect the wrestlers from the people," says a Temple guard. Finally a gong rings, and an announcer climbs through the ropes and into the ring.

Joe Blanchard, bail bondsman, former wrestler and promoter of the bouts, explains, "In wrestling, you've got to have good guys and bad guys." Blanchard has run matches around the state for more than 20 years. "We're selling entertainment and excitement," he says, gesticulating with large, powerful hands. In fact, wrestling's heroes and villains are the same as those in the real world, ebbing and flowing with the tide of world events. "We've seen Iranians after the hostage crisis, Russians, Germans and Mexicans with headdresses," says Blanchard. He mentions current Texas favorites: "Tully the Kid," "Wahoo" McDaniel, "Abdullah the Butcher," a gallery of rogues conjured from professional wrestling's fevered imagination. A fusion of morality play and Greek comedy, wrestling fires extreme emotions, building to the catharsis of victory of good over evil, of hero over villain.

Blanchard knows his business and his wrestlers. He says that wrestlers do well by developing strong ring personalities and by engaging in lengthy and hateful grudge matches that stir fan loyalties. Such disputes often begin on Blanchard's Monday wrestling television show and spill over into the arena, where more insults and slurs lead to head stompings and chair bashings. Not long ago, one of Blanchard's matches climaxed with a combatant dumping a large bucket of manure on his opponent's head.

The heavyset men now climbing into the ring are veterans. Bill Howard, in his 40s, from Milwaukee, is portly, tough and tanned, in maroon robes tied with a gold-en cord. He shows his anger with a slow, bull-like shaking of the head as he encounters "Cowboy" Scott Casey, in his late 30s, a hulking former hairdresser from Amarillo, wearing a white hat and boots stamped with red patches in the shape of the state of Texas.

The crowd loves Casey. They hate Howard. Howard is grimacing, hurling guttural insults at Casey, who pursues him with burly, outstretched arms. The bout has a plot as clear as that of any play. As the referee turns his back, Howard slyly removes a shining metal strip from his mouth. The crowd understands that Howard is about to gouge Casey with the metal now concealed in his hand. The crowd is on its feet, shouting to warn the referee, who takes no notice.

Then Howard grabs Casey by the head, holds him down and strikes him again and again above the eyes. The action looks faked, but no one seems to











GIVING THANKS
for the PAST

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..."

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5

STAYING FAITHFUL
in the PRESENT

"...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

"So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

His wife said to him, 'Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!'

He replied, 'You are talking like a foolish woman.
Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?'

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said."

JOB 2:7-10

STAYING FAITHFUL
in the PRESENT

"Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Savior."

HABAKKUK 3:17-18

"Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

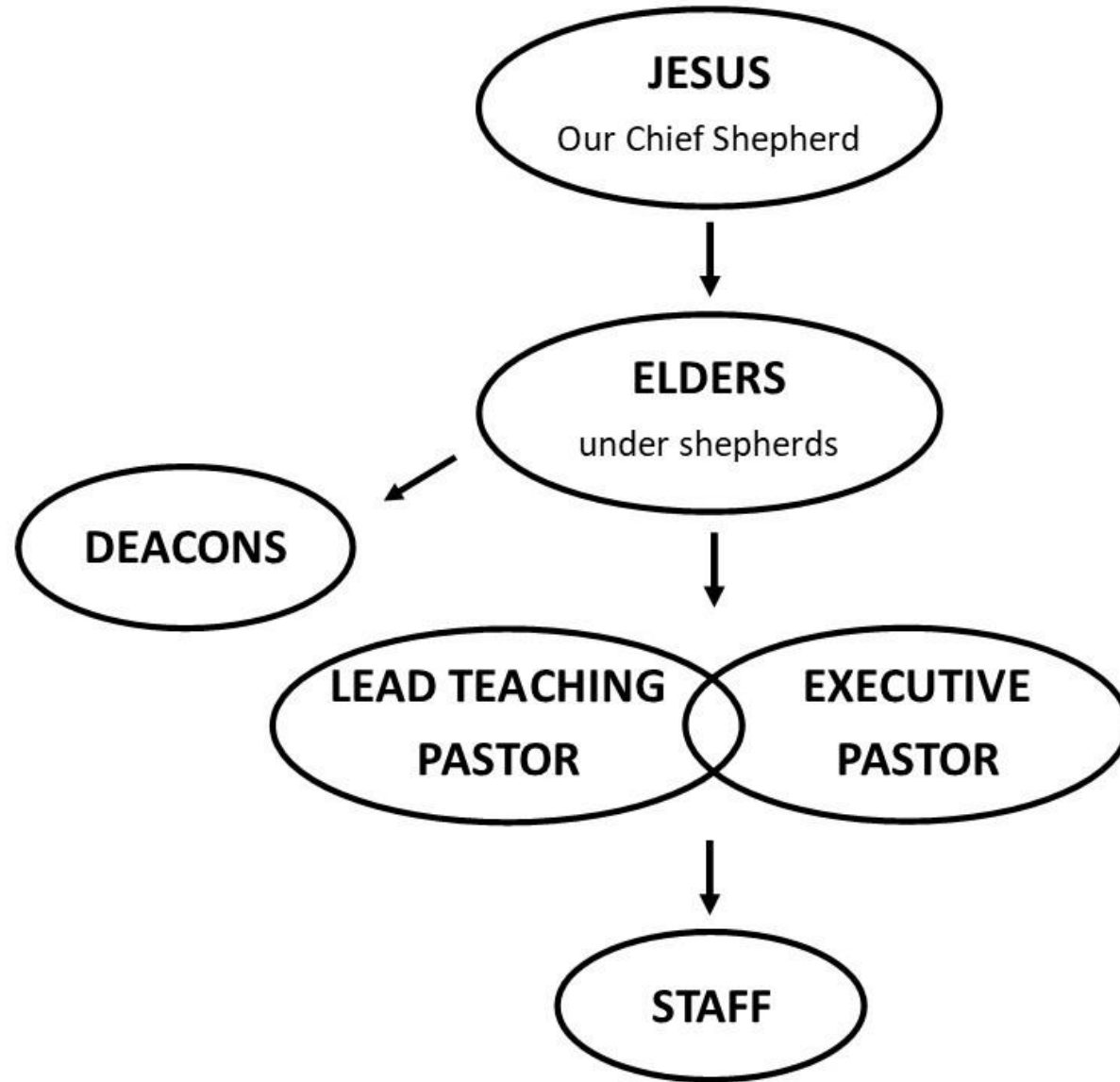
PSALM 90:12

EXPECTANT and EXCITED
about the FUTURE

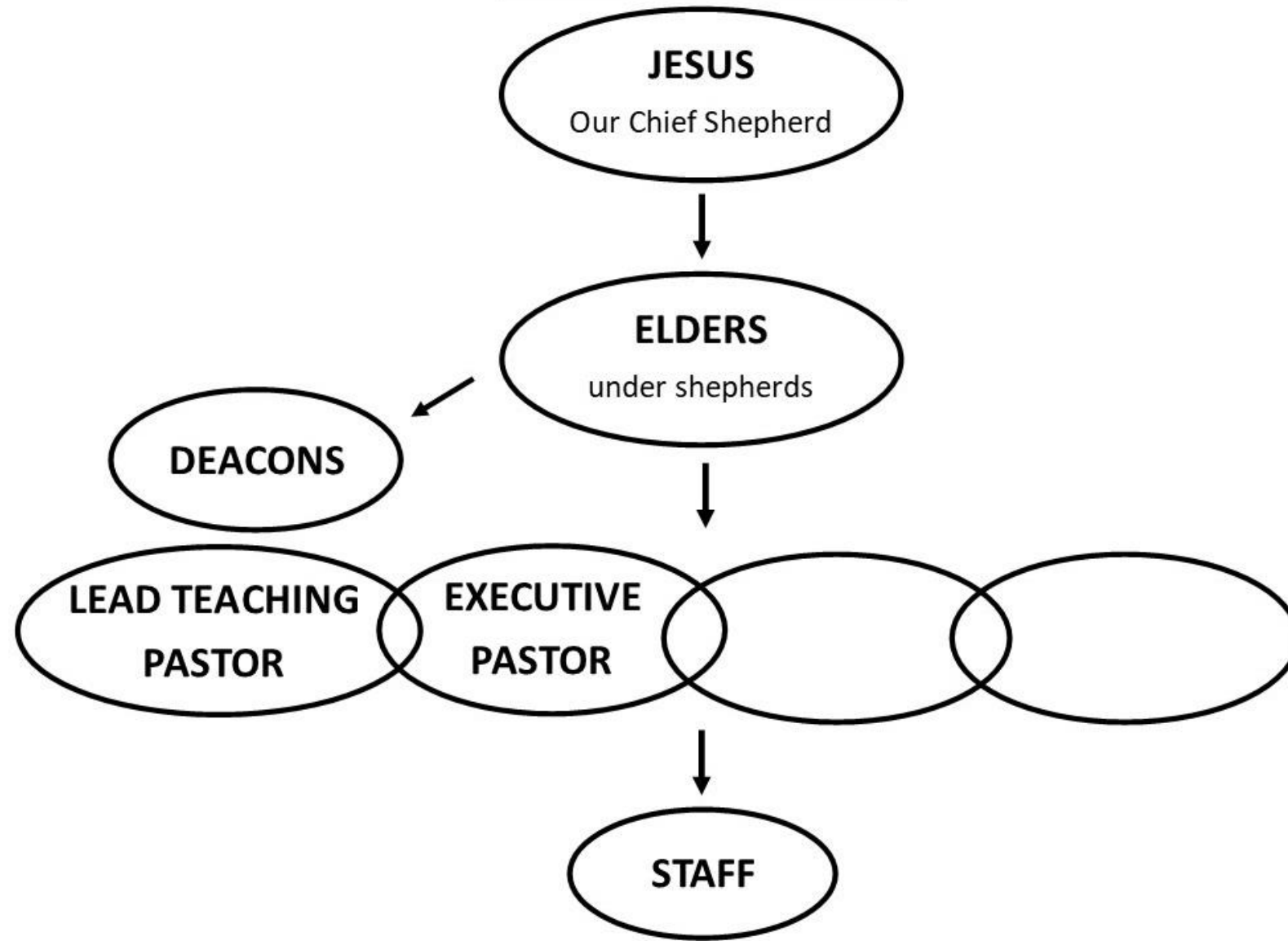
"The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it..."

I THESSALONIANS 1:8

CURRENT MODEL



FUTURE MODEL



EXPECTANT and EXCITED
about the FUTURE

HONORING the PAST...
FAITHFUL in the PRESENT...
EXCITED about the FUTURE!