

Valley Bible Church

Annual Report

2023

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 INTRODUCTION

The year 2023 ushered in Valley Bible Church's 52nd Anniversary! From its humble beginnings in 1971 in downtown Pinole, to its current location here in Hercules in 1989, Valley Bible Church has not changed in its mission, "To know Jesus personally and to share His love passionately!" The 2023 Annual Report not only provides reviews of the various key ministry activities during this past year but will also reveal how God's provision has been faithfully utilized to further the Gospel of Jesus, shepherd the people, serve others, reach out to our local community through our outreach efforts, and globally benefit others through our missionary organizations. The following pages include reports from the Pastoral Staff and Ministry Leaders as well as a review of our finances during the calendar year of 2023 and our Church Budget for 2024.

Copies of this Annual Report are made available to the congregation as required by our Church Bylaws and can be obtained by requesting one from the Church Office, downloading from the church website (valleybible.org), or picking up a copy from the Word of Life Bookstore in the Worship Center.

I wish to thank all those who have supported the ministry here at Valley Bible Church and who continue to be faithful givers, attenders, servants, and friends of the ministry of Valley Bible Church. We give all glory and praise to God for his many blessings!!

Bill Smith
Church Administrator



VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH'S MISSION:

**To know Jesus personally and
to share His love passionately!**

30 baptisms and
41 new members
in 2023, praise God!



Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. HEBREWS 13:7

THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE ON 2023

As I took a look back over 2023, I see the evidence, once again, of a year that was marked by God's faithfulness and graciousness to Valley Bible Church and its people. With ministries flourishing and accomplishing many wonderful things through you and your efforts to serve God and His church, He has poured out His blessings on our ministries. He has provided resources through you, His faithful children, to minister in Hercules and the surrounding communities, all under the leadership and care of our pastors, elders, and deacons, partnering with the staff of Valley Bible Church. I thank God for you and your faithfulness in the giving of your time and resources during this past year, recognizing that this Annual Report would not be possible without each and every one of you.

It is my belief that in your review of the 2023 Annual Report, you will find it to be a blessing to you, as you see how God in His faithfulness and graciousness has allowed Valley Bible Church to continue to minister in Hercules and beyond. All the Glory belongs to Him!

You will find in the pages of this booklet, reports from our staff and their ministries along with the 2023 financial report for Valley Bible Church. It represents the financial resources that were necessary to accomplish what we believe God laid on the hearts of the leadership. It is my prayer that as you read and review this report, you will pause and take time to praise the Lord for His great blessings on this ministry!

**In the grip of our
Lord and Savior,**

**Pastor
Larry Howard**



Jude 24–25
**Now to him
who is able to
keep you from
stumbling and
to present
you blameless
before the
presence of
his glory with
great joy, to the
only God, our
Savior, through
Jesus Christ
our Lord, be
glory, majesty,
dominion, and
authority, before
all time and now
and forever.
Amen.**

ADULT EQUIPPING

We praise God for His ongoing work to equip the saints for ministry at Valley Bible Church! Here are a few highlights of our ministry year:

SUNDAY SCHOOL

More Classes!

- **The Spirit-Filled Church:** A study through the opening chapters of Acts focused on the Spirit's role in building Christ's church.
- **Grace Upon Grace:** How the glories of our salvation impact our daily lives.
- **Faith and Work:** How your relationship with Christ impacts the workplace.

New Teachers!

- It was a joy to see the saints served by many gifted men in our Sunday School ministry, particularly in the "Grace Upon Grace" class. Several elders, deacons, and ministry leaders got to use their gifts to bless the body!



Meet Shawn Davis

MMy name is Shawn Davis. I am originally from Texas, but have lived in Thailand, Kazakhstan, Utah, and now California. My beautiful wife, Angel, and I have been married for 14 years, and we have four children—Shanel (Feb 2013), Shadrach (April 2015), Shai Leo (Nov 2021), and Shamar (Apr 2023). I am an operations assistant at Chevron Refinery in Richmond and have worked for Chevron in multiple locations and various jobs since 2007. I am currently in the 4th year of the Master of Divinity program at Reformed Theological Seminary.

I was baptized at age 7 and have been actively attending church since age 14. I have served as a deacon, youth director, and Sunday School teacher. While in Kazakhstan, I was asked to fill a vacancy as an elder in the expatriate church (after 6 months of attendance and service). It was there when God stoked the fire for preaching and shepherding. When Covid hit in 2020, I was repatriated to the United States, and I began seminary.

God has been sanctifying me, and I am excited to serve and grow at Valley Bible



Church. I have already been blessed at Valley Bible to teach multiple Sunday School classes, to serve as a teacher in AWANA on Wednesdays, to lead a small group on Mondays, and to receive God's overflow of abundant grace.

I look forward to serving God with my whole heart alongside this great body at Valley Bible Church!

MIDWEEK CLASSES

Marriage and Family

- **Happily Ever After:** Keeping Christ at the center of marriage.
- **Parenting with Purpose:** Raising our children to know and love the Lord.

The Body of Christ at work!

- One of the great encouragements of equipping ministry is seeing the fellowship and care that happen as a fruit of being with God's people and sitting under His Word.



God's Work in Our Life at Valley

by Shawn Davis

I am thankful to God for placing our family at Valley Bible Church! My wife and our 3 (now 4) children began attending in January 2023, after moving from Utah for my job. We were drawn by the emphasis on the preaching of God's Word, the diversity that reflects God's Kingdom (Rev. 7:9-10), and the love that the church showed us since day one.

God in His sovereignty met all our needs at Valley Bible Church. First, God provided for my marriage. Through attending Pastor Todd's marriage class, we were able to talk about some of the challenges with our move (5 times since 2017) and seek to model Christ in our love for one another. Second, God provided for us in our time of need with a new baby being born. The

Marriage Class gave us a baby shower (without our request), prayed for us, and showed up to help take care of our kids and provide meals when Shamar came two weeks early. Third, we wanted to be able to serve God using our gifts, but we had no idea how. All the pastors graciously welcomed us and encouraged us to use our gifts. After becoming members, Pastor Todd provided an opportunity for me to use my gifts to teach Sunday School in December 2023.

I could expound on the many ways that God has used Valley in our lives (e.g. our kids have friends, our small group loves and supports us, both Angel and I are being mentored, etc.) but for now, let us each Praise God for the precious pearl that is our local body of Christ, Valley Bible Church!

TIMOTHY FELLOWSHIP

- The current Timothy Fellowship wrapped up year one where we studied the following topics:

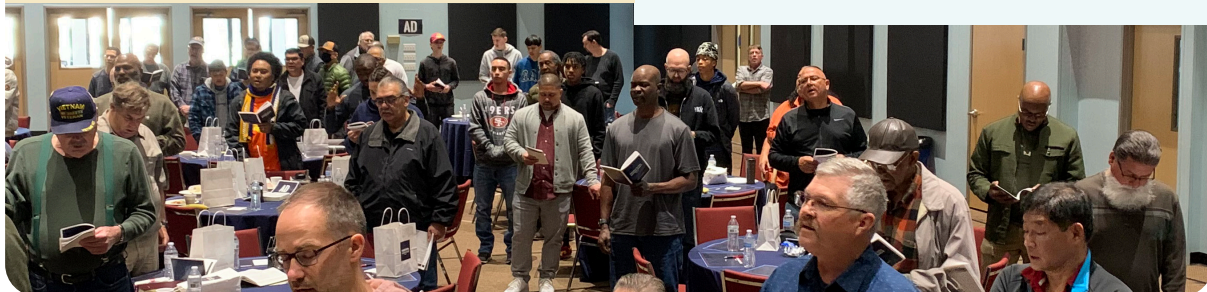
Spring: Attributes of God, Bibliology, and How to Study the Bible

Fall: Christian Life, Biblical Counseling, and Philosophy of Ministry

- In addition to the wonderful fellowship, it has been exciting to see the Lord raising up leaders with a passion for spreading His glory and serving His people.

2024 is off to a great start as well! We just wrapped up our Growing in Christ Sunday School class, where we have been challenged and encouraged to see Christ formed in us. We praise God that over 100 people have attended! We look forward to seeing what else the Lord has in store for His people as we seek first His Kingdom!

For His glory,
Pastor Todd



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

God is so good, and He is worthy of all of our praise. What a joy it is to lead the church in worship each week. Psalm 47:1-2 says, “Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.”

Worship Ministry saw growth in 2023. We were blessed to add more members to the ministry in choir, band, and the audio-visual department. We saw growth in having more of the youth involved. The Youth Band and Youth Worship Team were a part of several services as well as the Christmas program. This was very encouraging!

As a worship ministry, we have been studying the holiness of God and the pursuit of holiness. Earlier in the year we studied the *Attributes of God* by Steve Lawson, and Pastor Larry Howard led a study on sanctification

and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

In August, we held our 22nd Annual Worship Retreat, and our theme was, “The Holiness of God”. Tommy Walker was our guest and brought his daughter, Eileen, as well as his worship band. Tommy has written many of the worship songs that we sing here at VBC, such as, “He Knows My Name”, “Thank You For Loving Me”, “Dwelling Place” and “We Will Remember”. Our team was encouraged

and energized as we were able to spend time in breakout sessions with their band and with Tommy and Eileen on vocals. Christy Aday was our special guest trainer and gave valuable vocal training to choir and worship team.

Bill Smith oversees the Audio-Visual Ministry, and this year we were

able to add several new computers that were much needed for carrying out ministry every Sunday. We have added weekly video announcements, and the church has enjoyed seeing new faces of VBC.

In November, Rebecca Webster was installed as the Worship Director for Worship Ministry. Bobby Swanson had served as our Interim Worship Director for the last two and a half years. We love the Swanson Family and pray for God’s continued leading in their lives. Bobby served in Worship Ministry since high school and had a great impact

We met to worship the Lord
and to “sing loud songs of joy” during:
104 services this last year
2 Sunday worship nights
Christmas program with 960+
in attendance
Christmas Eve Service
Good Friday Service



on our youth and our current worship ministry.

After the transition, we had only 5 weeks to pull together a Christmas program. Our Christmas program was called, “Noel, the Story of Amazing Love”. The ministry worked so hard to learn new songs, and it was an exciting time. It was so encouraging to the ministry to walk out onto the stage and see every seat full! Praise God! We had a turnout of over 960 people come out to Christmas in Hercules. That means 960+ people heard the gospel, had a great time caroling, making cookies and ornaments with their families, and experiencing the love of Jesus. There were several people who placed their faith in Jesus Christ during our Christmas program, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day services.

“A Grateful Gathering”- We were able to have an end-of-year appreciation dinner for our entire ministry, as well as a farewell dinner for Bobby Swanson and his family. This was a really special night where long time ministry members were honored for their years of service and thanked for their commitment to this ministry and to Valley Bible Church. A few of the folks who were honored were: Conrad Oller, Annie Sampson, Patty

Chan, Karen Tewes, Curtis Burkhart, Doug Van Blaricom, Bobby and Christina Swanson.

We thank God for all that He’s done and how

He carried us through 2023. We are trusting God to add to the ministry in musicians, singers, and in our AV department. He is faithful and we look forward to all that He has for us in 2024.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

PSALM 57:9-11



YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Youth Ministry at Valley Bible Church continues to see Christ grow in our leaders and students. Because of your faithful prayers, support, and giving, we have been able to invest in our Youth Department.

We have seen an increase of students attending mid-week youth group and Sunday meetings. High School ministry has come alongside the John Swett Christian Club to help reach people for Christ. This past year we have outgrown the youth room and

now meet in the FLC gym for musical worship and lesson time.

At Summer Camps, students have placed their faith in Jesus, deepened their relationship with Christ, and have repented of sins, getting their walks back on track with Christ.

Summer Leagues (Volleyball Madness and Bungee Soccer) are increasing annually with the number of participating students. In 2023, we had a big increase of students from the community.

We had 140+ players that played volleyball and heard about Christ every week during our half-time message.

This gives us the opportunity to reach out to their families and invite them to church on Sundays as well as to students during



mid-week for a small group. Great job to Randy Osti and Mark Quevedo for heading this up.

We continue to place an emphasis on our small groups. This provides loving relationships in order to direct students to Christ.

The good news of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed weekly in lessons, small groups, Sunday School, and outreach events. We wouldn't be able to have the impact we have without the time and effort our 30+ youth staff volunteers.

Let's continue to pray for our leaders, volunteers, and students in pursuing Christ through the preaching and teaching of His Word.





“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence”

2 PETER 1:3



VBC KIDS



Childcare:
22 kids cared for
7 team members

“Serving in VBC Kids Jr. has been a joy. I am often reminded of the simplicity of the gospel and the sweet love of Jesus through this ministry. And just like a child, to come to Jesus - excited, curious, and expectant for Him to show up, which He always does.”

- Aisha Ortega



Sundays:
427 kids
63 volunteers
10 classes
50 weeks
100 services
8 kids baptized
12 Sunday giveaways



Candy Kingdom:
206 volunteers
over 2,000 people on campus
72 candy stations
over 80,000 pieces of candy with Bible verses went out into the community





Community Events:

City of Hercules Trunk-or-Treat
1250 bags with versed candy

National Night Out
12 fish
500+ pieces of versed candy

Bay Front Run
250 bags with versed candy

Hercules Tree Lighting
Hercules Cultural Festival



“God has blessed us through VBC Kids! We have loved participating and serving in Sunday School, Summer Night Camp, and Candy Kingdom. It fills my heart to see my children growing in Christ and knowing His love through our family at VBC. This year, two of my sons chose to be baptized! I can’t wait to see how God will continue to work in and through our lives both at Valley and in our community!”

- Nancy Svensson



VBC **KIDS**



Summer Night Camp:

225 kids

161 volunteers

25 kids prayed to receive Christ

Awana:

87 kids

34 volunteers



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The year 2022 saw a significant deficit in income to expenses. After much prayer and putting our faith in God, we submitted the 2023 budget with anticipation of growth. I am happy to report that God blessed Valley Bible in 2023 with giving that far exceeded expenses. Total income received in 2023 was \$3,011,022, which was 15.8% or \$411,866 above the amount received in the prior calendar year. Tithes/

offerings accounted for 72% of the total income received in 2023, which was an increase of 16% when compared to the prior calendar year account difference. The total annual income comes from other sources including ministry operations such as youth events, children's ministry events, campus use fees, lease agreement fees, and other operational event transactions. The total expenses incurred during 2023

was \$2,753,735, which was 3.7% or \$97,950 above the amount spent in the prior calendar year. All individual ministry expenses are monitored in order to accurately record them within the total church budget accounting. The result in 2023 was a surplus of income exceeding expenses by \$257,287. Praise God!

2023 ALL FUNDS INCOME & EXPENDITURES

INCOME		EXPENDITURES	
2,380,374	MINISTRY	2,248,176	
41,236	SPECIAL OFFERINGS	43,636	
68,109	AGAPE FUND	30,420	
373,384	STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN	279,581	
12,682	TRUTH FOR TODAY	25,304	
130,442	MISSIONS	106,337	
4,794	OTHER INCOME	20,281	
TOTAL INCOME		TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
3,011,022	OVER/UNDER	2,753,735	
	+257,287		

BALANCE SHEET

2023

PAYROLL TAXES **(1,312.97)**
 MORTGAGE ACCOUNTS
 PAYABLE **2,996,564.86**
 TOTAL LIABILITIES
2,995,251.89

OPERATING FUNDS **(709,382.76)**
 DESIGNATED FUNDS **1,184,559.95**
 EQUITY **20,906,493.70**

TOTAL FUNDS
21,381,670.89

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUNDS
24,376,922.78

MINISTRY FUND CHECKING ACCT **185,311.68**
 MINISTRY FUND CONTINGENCY ACCT **27,458.46**
 MINISTRY FUND PETTY CASH **300.00**
 MINISTRY FUND SWEEP ACCT **387,564.65**
 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN ACCT **215,240.54**
 OUTREACH/MISSIONS FUND ACCT **41,840.31**
 MINISTRY FUND CAPITAL RESERVE ACCT **30,580.63**
 AGAPE FUND ACCT **56,707.89**
 TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS
945,004.16
 TOTAL ASSETS
24,376,922.78

DIFFERENCE = 0

2023 MINISTRY FUND INCOME & EXPENDITURES

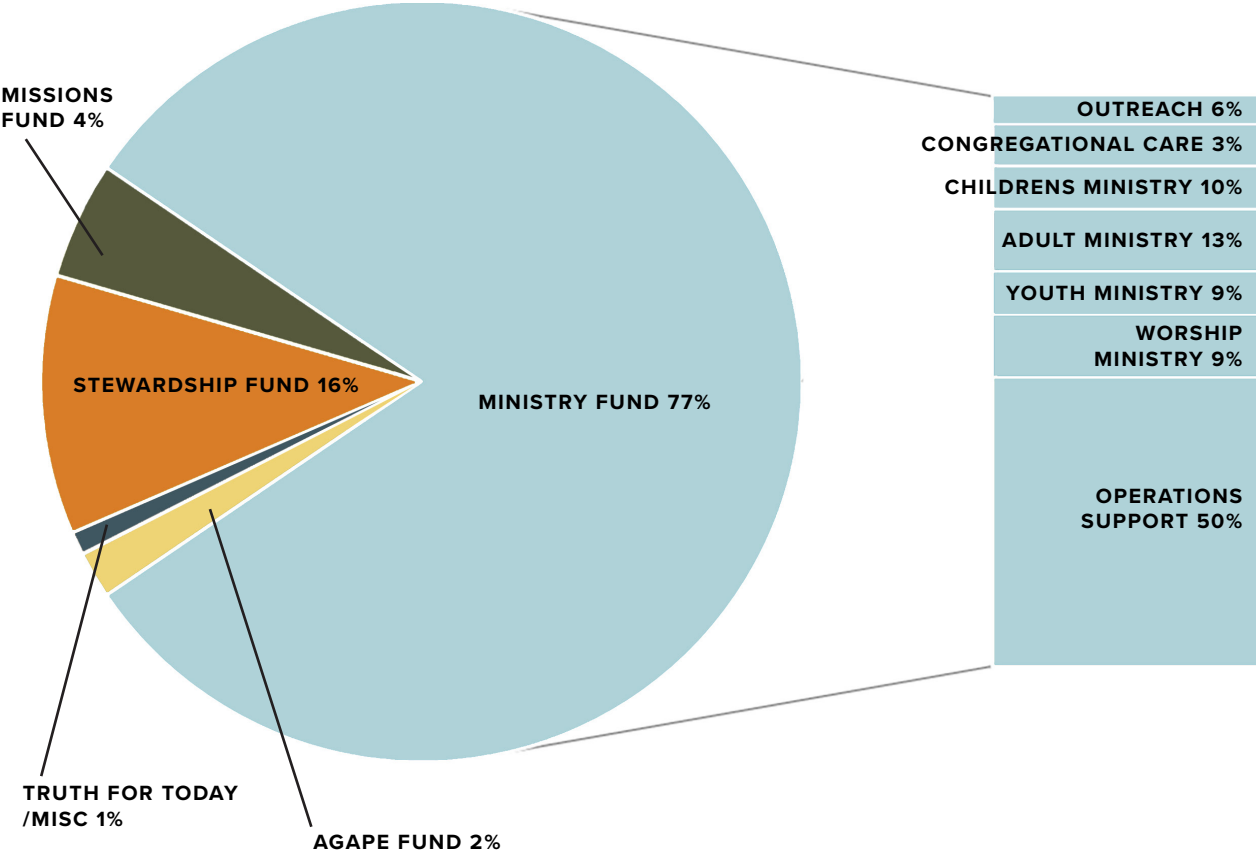
INCOME		EXPENDITURES	
111,995	ADULT MINISTRY	302,754	
	CONGREGATIONAL CARE	84,369	
	CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	208,021	
	YOUTH MINISTRY	213,554	
	OUTREACH MINISTRY	115,254	
	WORSHIP MINISTRY	155,123	
	OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,169,102	
2,268,379			
TOTAL INCOME		TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
2,380,374	OVER/UNDER	2,248,176	
	+132,198		

2024 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Valley Bible Church's 2024 Budget was approved by the Elder Council after careful review. Each leader of a church ministry area met with the Executive Pastor to prayerfully review the proposed budget for their area of responsibility. Once all questions or concerns were addressed, discussed, and/or edited, the proposed budget for that ministry was passed onto the Church Administrator. Once all ministry leaders have gone through this process with the Executive Pastor, the total church budget was then put together by the Church Administrator and turned over to the Chairman of Elders. Once the Chairman of the Elders familiarizes himself with and fully understands the proposed budget, he then is ready to present it to the Elder Council. The Elder Council is given the total proposed budget for their collective review and once all questions & concerns have been discussed and fully addressed, the budget is put to a vote and approved.

The approved church budget reflects the targets of each ministry in all areas of the church operation. The 2024 Church Budget reflects both the total income and total expense of all church fund accounts expected to occur to accomplish the goals for this current year. The 2024 Church Budget represents the most accurate estimation of potential income and anticipated expenses to occur during the calendar year. Valley Bible Church's traditional operation motto has been, "if the funds are not available, the expenditure will not occur". As a congregation, please join in praying for God's provision to His ministry of Valley Bible Church and for wisdom to be good stewards of what He has already provided and will provide in future obligations, and in financial aid to those in need

ANNUAL BUDGET 2024



TOTAL 2024 BUDGET: \$2,960,152

77% Ministry Fund **\$2,315,179**

2% Agape Fund **\$61,136**

4% Missions Fund **\$130,100**

16% Stewardship Fund **\$470,328**

1% < Truth For Today **\$7,000**
 Miscellaneous **\$3,186**

ELDERS

TIM VAHLSTROM, *Chairman*
TODD BOLTON
EDWIN CHANDRA
LARRY HOWARD
JEFF JOYA
CHUCK LATIBEAUDIERE
RANDY OSTI

DEACONS

TIM MCNEIL, *Chairman*
RICHARD ARMSTRONG
JOEL ENRIQUEZ
ADAM HOWARD
RON HUGHES (*RETIRED 12/31/23*)
PETE KNIGHT
TIM LATIBEAUDIERE
ROBERT LENDWAY
JULIO LETO
RAY MOLINAR
WAYNE MOORE
NICK OROSCO
JORGE PEREZ
GRANT PINKSTON
MARK QUEVEDO
ERNIE SANCHEZ
JOHN SMITH
RANDY WATSON
JASON WEBSTER
TOM WHITE
OTIS WILEY
STEVE ZIEM

VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH PASTORS & STAFF

Pastors

LARRY HOWARD
Executive Pastor

TODD BOLTON
Associate Pastor

TIMOTHY VAHLSTROM
Lay Pastor/Chairman of Elders

DR. PHILLIP A. HOWARD
Founder/Pastor Emeritus

Student Ministries

MANNY DESOUZA
VBC Youth Director

ANGELICA CAMACHO
Administrative Assistant for VBC Youth Middle School

OLIVIA CORTESE
Administrative Assistant for VBC Youth High School

Children's Ministry

ANDREA HAZEL
VBC Kids Director

SANDY ORMEO
Administrative Assistant for VBC Kids

MICHELLE GIBSON
VBC Kids Elementary Team Leader

MELISSA VINES
VBC Kids Jr. Team Leader

LAURA MITTELBUSHER
VBC Babies Team Leader

TEIA JURINOVIC
Childcare Team Leader

Worship Ministries

REBECCA WEBSTER
Director of Worship Ministries

CHERYL MILLER
Associate Director of Worship Ministries

Creative Communications

LISA FARIA
Director of Creative Communications

ANNA NASON
Assistant to Creative Communications

Administrative and Support Staff

BILL SMITH
Church Administrator/Audio-Visual Director

SHANNON GROSENHEIDER
Administrative Assistant

LACY DESOUZA
Administrative Assistant

DELORES WILEY
Administrative Assistant (Retired February 2024)

RAELENE LANE
Financial Assistant & Fellowship/One Support

SCOTT KALLANDER
Facilities Maintenance

DINO LEDESMA
Facilities Custodian

JOHN ROSS
IT Support

MICHAEL GROSENHEIDER
Bookstore Manager

EXALT

The Lord Is Worthy of Our Praise Psalm 34:3

ENFOLD

Don't Do Life Alone 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

EQUIP

God's Word Grows People Ephesians 4:11-13

ENLIST

Saved People Serve People 1 Peter 4:10-11

EVANGELIZE

Found People Find People Matthew 28:18-20





VALLEY
BIBLE CHURCH

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