

VOICES FROM OUR PAST

JULY 6, 2025



PASTOR
WALTER AUGUST JR.

JULY 13, 2025



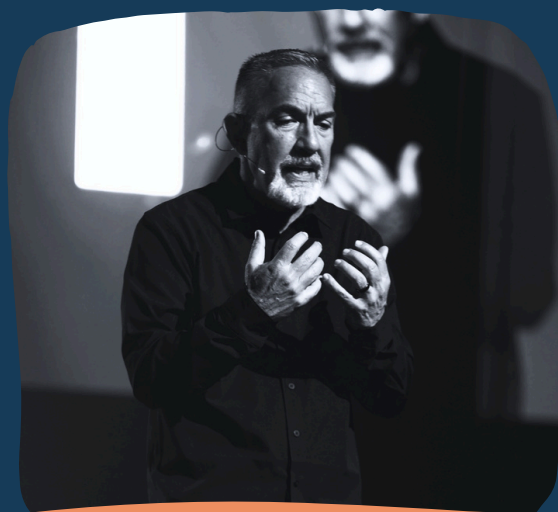
PASTOR RICHY FISHER

JULY 20, 2025



DR. LIBIN ABRAHAM

JULY 27, 2025



PASTOR TIM HOMA



PASTOR WALTER AUGUST JR.

SENIOR PASTOR
ONE CHURCH @ BETHEL'S FAMILY

Early Life and Foundation

Born on January 28, 1959, in Lafayette, Louisiana, Pastor Walter August, Jr. was raised in the close-knit community of Abbeville, where he developed the strong values that would later guide his ministry. After completing his education in the Vermilion Parish School System and graduating from high school in 1977, he demonstrated his commitment to service by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps, where he served with distinction until 1983.

Professional Journey

Following his military service, Pastor August transitioned into the corporate world in 1984, joining First City Bank Corporate Security Group. His dedication to excellence led him to complete Professional Management Training School, earning him the position of Security Specialist in 1991. He later advanced his career at LaSalle Partners Asset Management Company, where he served as Director of Security through 1996.

Divine Calling and Ministry Beginnings

The year 1992 marked a transformative moment in Pastor August's life when God began revealing His divine purpose. Under the spiritual mentorship of Dr. E.L. Lott, Senior Pastor of True Light Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Pastor August embraced his calling to gospel ministry. This spiritual awakening would reshape not only his own life but the lives of thousands in the Houston community.

Founding Bethel's Family

In 1994, guided by divine vision, Pastor August took a leap of faith and founded Bethel Family Baptist Church alongside his wife, three sons, and six committed adults. What began as a small congregation has flourished into a thriving ministry serving over 4,000 families through 50 diverse ministries. The church's remarkable growth reflects Pastor August's heart for community and his ability to inspire others to serve.

Before fully committing to Bethel's Family, Pastor August honed his pastoral skills serving 7½ years as Missions Pastor at Sugar Creek Baptist Church. This experience prepared him for the full-time leadership role he would assume at Bethel's Family in 2004, a pivotal year that saw the ministry flourish under his dedicated guidance.

Global Impact and Mission Work

Pastor August's vision extends far beyond Houston's borders. Through his visionary leadership, over 4,000 people have participated in international missions to countries including Belize, India, Angola, Kenya, South Africa, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Haiti, and the Czech Republic. These missions encompass evangelism training, medical clinics, advanced biblical studies, and church leadership development, demonstrating his commitment to building God's kingdom worldwide.

Educational Achievements

Committed to continuous learning and spiritual growth, Pastor August attended Southwestern Theological Seminary in Houston. His dedication to ministry and community service has been recognized through Honorary Doctorates of Divinity from Alliance Theological Seminary, Saint Thomas Christian College, and Encourager Bible College & Seminary.

Community Outreach and Social Impact

Pastor August's heart for service extends beyond the church walls through numerous community initiatives:

- **Bethel's Heavenly Hands Food Pantry** (established 2003) serves over 14,000 people monthly with grocery distribution, clothing vouchers, and essential social services, addressing critical needs in the Houston community.
- **Bethel's Place** (established 2006) operates as a separate 501(c)3 Community Development and Empowerment Center, serving over 4,000 people weekly and demonstrating Pastor August's commitment to holistic community development.
- **Bethel's Family Christian Academy** (opened 2010) provides a faith-based educational environment for young families, offering quality instruction rooted in Christian values.

Expanding Vision and Recent Projects

In 2021, Pastor August's vision expanded to his Louisiana roots with the establishment of "The Nehemiah Projects of Acadiana" in Abbeville. This non-profit organization empowers community residents to transform their lives and overcome societal challenges.

Most recently, in 2024, Pastor August led an investment group in developing an ambitious \$49 million, 251-unit multi-housing project in Southwest Houston, scheduled for completion in 2027. This development will provide quality housing with modern amenities, further demonstrating his commitment to community improvement.

Disaster Response Leadership

True to his calling as a servant leader, Pastor August has positioned Bethel's Family on the frontline of disaster response throughout the greater Houston Metroplex. His church's rapid mobilization during crises reflects his understanding that faith must be accompanied by action in times of need.

Family Life

Pastor August's ministry is deeply supported by his family foundation. He has been joyfully married to Ruby Jewel for nearly 38 years, and together they have raised three sons: Walter III (married to Tanecia), Patrick, and Alex (married to Marcie). Their family has been blessed with 12 grandchildren, providing Pastor August with continued inspiration and motivation for his community work.

Legacy of Service

From his humble beginnings in Abbeville to his current role leading a multi-thousand member congregation and numerous community initiatives, Pastor Walter August, Jr. exemplifies servant leadership. His journey from Marine to corporate security professional to transformational pastor demonstrates how God can use diverse experiences to prepare individuals for extraordinary ministry. Through his work, thousands have found spiritual direction, practical assistance, and hope for the future, establishing a legacy that continues to impact communities locally and globally.



PASTOR RICHY FISHER

**LEAD PASTOR
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**

Richy Fisher brings nearly 40 years of church ministry experience, having served in a wide range of contexts—from small rural congregations to large multi-staff churches in metropolitan areas. His leadership has spanned churches, non-profits, and ministry organizations throughout Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Throughout his ministry, Richy has held numerous leadership roles and served as a consultant and contributor to a variety of church and parachurch ministries. He has taught at ministry conferences and training events, equipping leaders for gospel-centered service.

In 2022, following his years as Pastor of Student Ministry at Sugar Creek, Richy became Lead Pastor of Community Bible Church, a multi-site church based in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he had previously served as Executive Pastor.

Richy and his wife, Susan, have been married for 34 years and currently reside in Van Buren, Arkansas. They have three sons: Ryan (29), married to Sam; William (26), married to Haylee, with two children, Kendrick and Carmelo; and Nathan (19), a student at Arkansas Tech University, a member of the Arkansas National Guard, and in his second year with the ROTC.



DR. LIBIN ABRAHAM
LEAD PASTOR
BENT TREE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Libin Abraham was born in Kerala, India, and spent most of his childhood in Chattanooga, TN. His passion for ministry began to take root under his parents, who have been serving in pastoral ministry his whole life. Libin received his M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. in Pastoral Ministry from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Libin served on staff at Sugar Creek from 2012 to 2021. He and his wife, Stacey, have been married since 2014 and have three wonderful children: Avery, Liam, and Luke.

Libin serves as the Lead Pastor of Bent Tree Bible Fellowship in Carrollton, TX, where their mission is to experience and share the love of Jesus. Libin finds great joy in seeing individuals be called to Christ and sent to people.



PASTOR TIM HOMA

**EXECUTIVE PASTOR
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**

Tim Homa is the Executive Pastor at Community Bible Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he has served over the last year.

Prior to this time, he spent 11 great years serving at Sugar Creek, where he was the high school student director for 5 years before launching the Richmond Rosenberg Campus as the Campus Pastor in 2020.

He has been married to his wife, Angie, for 32 years, and they have two adult daughters, Jordan and Jensen. Both daughters reside in the Houston area.

Tim continues to find time to hunt, fish, and spend as much time as he can with his black lab and best friend, Max – a boon companion!