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BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5

All of us have had to carry heavy circumstances that weigh us down, and we needed something to lift the burden off our shoulders. We need mercy. Mercy reduces, removes or relieves someone's distress. It is simply compassion in action

The Bible says in Ephesians 2:4, God is rich in mercy. In other words, God is rich in blessing us with divine favor and compassion, releasing us from distress, discouragement, brokenness, pain and problems. Mercy is in fact God's reaction to our misery.

Mercy is asking God to not let us bear the full weight of our burdens. Everyone needs mercy. Lamentations 3 states that God's mercies are new every morning. Every day you wake up, you wake up to mercy. You got up today with new life, and guess what? New life means new opportunities. That's another day and a new opportunity to praise Him. (Tony Evans)



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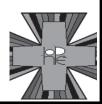
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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Service and volunteerism are integral parts of the Bible's teachings. The issue of how to motivate church members to serve should be a primary concern for church leadership, because when a congregation is focused on giving back to the community, Jesus' teachings can be more tangibly carried out. However, many church leaders are left scratching their heads about how to encourage church members to serve and volunteer.

So, in this space I want to share some smart strategies about how to motivate members of your church to serve and volunteer.

And, this is the first thing we should remember - say "Thank you!" Honestly, when was the last time you said thank you to your ministry and committee volunteers? Even though their volunteering comes from a real passion and a heart for God in Jesus Christ, your volunteers still want to be appreciated for what they do. If their efforts aren't being recognized, they're more likely to be like Casper and become less and less available.

Another way to motivate your church members to serve and volunteer is to talk about the benefits we receive from service to others. When you set out to increase your volunteer capacity, the most important thing to remember is that it's all about culture. You must instill the culture of service among members of your church.

There's not a dearth of Bible verses that talk about the value of serving others. If you're a pastor, you can incorporate these Bible teachings into your sermons and your messaging platforms, such as when writing your Pastor's Pen, newsletters, and even your church's social media presence. Applying the teachings of the Word of God is a reliable approach to encouraging church members to serve.

Serving should be woven into the very fabric of your congregation. If you can achieve that, everything else will follow suit. This is often easier said than done, but the work you do to instill a culture of service in your members' minds will have significant payoffs in the long run.



One more strategy is to make members aware of service opportunities. Often, church leaders forget the most important part of how to encourage church members to serve, i.e., making them aware that their help is needed. After all, if members don't know what mission and ministry opportunities the church is involved in or how to sign up, they won't contribute. That's why you need to keep your congregation informed.

In addition to speaking on the topic during Sunday service, you should use other channels to spread the message wide. A couple of examples of this would be to include a note in your church newsletter and a create volunteer page on your site.

Another way to motivate the members of your congregation and/or ministry to serve is to offer them training. Provide training for your church members who have expressed interest in serving. Do your volunteers know what they need to do? If there's a lack of clarity, then your volunteers won't know what they should do, which means they're not going to do their job.

Focus on providing training that will enhance their skills so you can maximize them for the greater good. Provide them with the training they need to get the job done.

*dr. michael bell is Senior Pastor of Greater St. Stephen First Church FtW. a seminary adjunct professor. and a certified Life Coach. He is the author of a new book, "Finding God in Hard Places" and is a contributor to a soon-to-be-published anthology, "Justice Looks Like..."

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Speak Life Thought

with First Lady & Co-Pastor Yolanda G. Butler

"A Restored Life"

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (Galatians 6:1)

Within the confines of the Body of Christ are those who will hurt us, disappoint us, offend us, and abuse us. Within that same Body are those who will help us, encourage us, lead us, and love us to a place of restoration. There is no doubt that Paul was addressing both sects within the Church of Galatia as he penned these words of instruction.

As believers in Christ, we are shaped in iniquity, born into sin, and redeemed by the sacrificial Blood of the Lamb of God. To all who believe and accept the Risen Savior into their heart shall be saved (Rom 10:9). We learn that we must all continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philip 2:12). We are attacked daily by our adversary the devil and all his kingdom of darkness (Rom 8:36). We have not been left defenseless. We are instructed to daily adorn ourselves with the full armor of God so that we might be able to extinguish the fiery darts that the enemy casts our way (Eph 6:10-18).

Knowing this, we should not "trip out" if and when a brother makes a mistake or falls into sin. We are admonished to be watchful and on guard because

someone at any moment, for whatever reason, may be caught off guard and fall. This "fault" can either be a willful or deliberate sin or a sudden fall or a deviation from the truth that has the power to create an offense. As believers, it is important to know the difference because we have an obligation to not only help our fallen brother or sister but know how to help.

Not everyone knows how to approach one who has fallen. This is why Apostle Paul says the one who is "spiritual" should initiate the help. This is someone who is mature in the doctrine, mature in restoration, not easily offended, and walks in the fruit of the spirit. This is one who is literally anointed in mending souls. You often see this character in pastors-shepherds but it is not limited to these elite leaders.

The main objective to approaching one who is fallen is to "restore." This Greek word is a surgical term used for setting a bone or joint; to mend, repair, complete, make perfect, or join. It is the same word used to mend nets (Mat 4:21). It is a continuous action that requires skill: patience, prayer, and persistence to bring someone back.

Restoration means I must possess a spirit of meekness. This is the character of the fruit of the Spirit demonstrated through gentleness and humility. Our Father deals with us with meekness and by His grace does not withdraw from us. So, we are to do the same with



our fellow brothers and sisters. Even though that same fallen brother or sister may relapse, fall right back into the same sin, make the same mistake, and/or fail to adhere to wise counsel, you still cannot throw them to the dogs. In fact, all the more we are called to fight for our brothers and sisters and sever the enemy's bondage over their lives.

One final caution is, "consider thyself." You cannot be so haughty or high-minded to think that you are exempt from making the same or similar offense against another. You too may find yourself in a place where you need someone to "restore" you back to fellowship.

So dear hearts, be determined to do all that you can to restore your fallen one back to fellowship with Christ in a spirit of meek-

Dr. Yolanda G. Butler is Co-Pastor and Church Administrator of Praise Center Community Church, where her husband Bishop Donald H. Butler is the Senior Pastor. She is an intercessor, evangelist, mentor, and published author. Follow her on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and at www.firstladybutlerministries.com.

CHURCHIN' www.churchinnews.com

The St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church celebrate their 66th Church Anniversary & Homecoming

The St. Matthew Mis-Bapsionary tist Church (SMMBC) located at 5500 East Berry Street celebrated its 66-year journey with during God



the month of June. Anticipation, expectation and excitement mounted with each passing week as we moved toward the culminating service for our 66th Founder's Day, Church Anniversary and Homecoming celebration. Sunday, June 25th was a signature day of worship, praise and fellowship with former and current church family and friends. The morning worship was highlighted with the presentation of the T.W. Pope Memorial Scholarship recipients.

SMMBC was elated to acknowledge our 2023 T.W.

Pope Memorial Scholarship Recipients.

Miss Aniyah Evans is a graduate of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School and Mr. Elijah Adebayo is a graduate of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Young Men's Leadership Academy. Both prodigious students were actively involved in extra-curricular activities, community service, and exceeded the prerequisites of eligibility for the scholarship award. Miss Evans plans to prepare for a Nurse Practitioner career. Mr. Adebayo plans to prepare for a career in Health Science and Physical Therapy.

The afternoon service was a jubilant celebration as we underscored the church history with a narrative entitled "Our Journey" vividly spoken by Regina Blair and Angela Pope. The narration was accentuated with music from the homecoming reunion choir. The guest church was Holy Way Baptist Church pastored by Rev. Milton West who delivered the anniversary address. A delectable homecoming dinner was served afterwards.

Meet Rev. Frederick Haynes, Rev. Jesse Jackson's successor at Rainbow PUSH Adapted from an Article by RASHAD MILLIGAN

On July 15, a day before the organization's 2023 convention, the Rev. Jesse Jackson named the Rev. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III as the new president and CEO.

Jackson announced his retirement on June 15. In recent years, the 81-year-old has been apologetic about his speech due to his Parkinson's disease and his prolonged battle with a severe case of COVID-19.

Haynes, 62, also said he's grateful for the example Jackson has set for him.

Haynes is the senior pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church, a megachurch in Dallas, Texas, with over 13,000 members. Haynes remains the church's senior pas-



tor after the new announcement. Pastor David McGruder has been named the church's executive pastor.

Haynes has a reputation of being a social justice pastor and advocate for marginalized communities with the nickname "the drum major for justice."

In 2022, Haynes received the Joseph R. Biden Jr. Presidential Lifetime Achievement Leadership Award in Community Service. In 2016, he was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame

Haynes has led his church to donate over \$1 million to HBCUs. The church has also donated over \$2 million in scholarship assistance to students who are members of the church and the Dallas area. The Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III Global Preparatory School, located on the campus of Paul Quinn College in Dallas, is named after Haynes. The prep school serves students in grades 6-12 who look to enter the International Baccalaureate program.

TWELVE RULES FOR RAISING DELINQUENT CHILDREN

1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.

2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he's cute. It will also encourage him to pick up "cuter phrases" that will blow off the top of your head later.

3. Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is 21, and then let him "decide for himself."

4. Avoid the use of the word "wrong." It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.

5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around - books, shoes, clothes. Do everything for him so that he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility on others.

6. Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful that the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but don't worry about his mind feasting on garbage.

7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way they will not be too shocked when the home is broken up later.

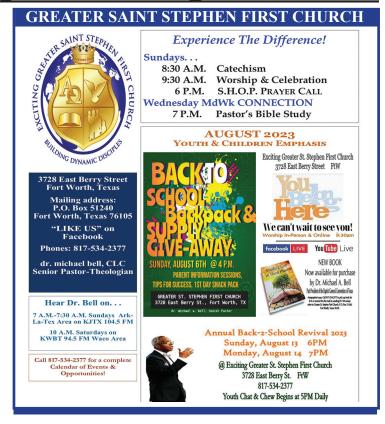
8. Give the child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his. Why should he have things as tough as you did?

9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that every sensual desire is gratified. Denial may lead to harmful frustration.

10. Take his part against neighbors, teachers, policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.

11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize to yourself by saying, "I never could do anything with him!"

12. Prepare yourself for a life of grief. You'll surely have it.









Lawrence Thompson: transforming the education strategy in

Fort Worth CITY NEWS | Published on July 21, 2023

Lawrence Thompson is a dedicated professional who has made a significant impact in the fields of education and community relations. Since 2021, he has been serving as the education strategy manager for the City of Fort Worth. With a focus on enhancing educational opportunities, Thompson's goal is to form strategic partnerships with the 15 school districts located within the city's borders to create a brighter future for Fort Worth residents.

Why it matters: Formerly focused on the Summer Learning Reading Program, the education strategy Manager position has transformed. Thompson's main focus is on building strategic partnerships with independent school districts. community organizations and the business community. This collaborative approach not only improves access to quality education but also empowers residents with the skills needed to succeed in a changing job market. Throughout his career, Thompson has gained a reputation for his outstanding work in the nonprofit sector, skillfully establishing successful community relations across the country. His ability to forge strong connections and collaborations has earned him recognition at the local, state and national levels for his contributions, making him instrumental in driving positive change in various communities.

As an advocate for education, Thompson serves as a liaison between the City's departments and ISDs, aligning resources to strengthen public education and



promote equity. His expertise and leadership are vital in creating economic opportunities and removing barriers for all Fort Worth residents. He believes that "education improves the possibilities of upward mobility for families, and every element in our community has an important role to play in achieving economic prosperity for all." With an undergraduate degree from the University of the Cumberlands and further education at Harvard Business School, he has honed his understanding of community needs and acquired the necessary expertise to address complex challenges in education and community development.

The education strategy manager plays a vital role in monitoring the performance of educational programs, ensuring they comply with federal, state and local regulations.

Through collaboration with businesses, government bodies, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and ISD leadership, Thompson develops innovative strategies and initia-

Additionally, he works closely with the leadership in each of the ISDs to identify and bridge employment gaps in local industries, creating new career pathways.

Fort Worth's education strategy highlights the importance of collaboration between the City and school districts. This partnership has immense potential to unlock numerous benefits and drive the city toward greater success. By pooling resources and aligning goals, Fort Worth can foster a well-educated and highly skilled workforce, attracting businesses and boosting economic growth. Collaboration between the City and school districts also cultivates unity, community pride and civic engagement. Jointly organizing events, initiatives and activities strengthens bonds among residents, creating a sense of belonging and promoting inclusivity. Furthermore, this collaborative effort allows Fort Worth to address pressing social issues such as poverty and inequality, ensuring a better quality of life for all residents.

Thompson's leadership as education strategy manager will enhance Fort Worth's reputation as an education hub and attract talented individuals and families to the city. By prioritizing education, Fort Worth sends a strong message about its commitment to nurturing young minds and creating opportunities for success.

tives to promote continuous education for Fort Worth's youth.

Bishop Vernon L. James and

First Lady Linda L. James



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Morning Worship......11:15am

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Pic 1) Wilma Mason 70th Birthday Celebration At St Jude Church with Family, With Niece Preshawn Ford, and her Children Mason and Trinity Ford, Sister-In-Love in

Around the Community with Pastor Sharon Ford-Turner

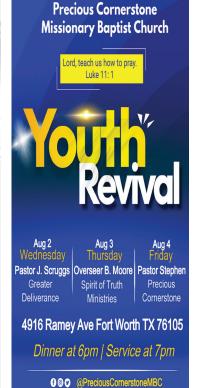
Love, Pastor Sharon Mason Ford-Turner; Pic 2) With Douglas Mason Sr. Husband and Pastor Sharon Mason Ford-Turner

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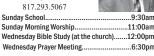
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Sunday Worship	10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:15 p.m.

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	wednesday Bible Study/:13 p.m.	ı
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Sunday Morning Worship	10:45am
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Baptist Church

"The Church That Truly Cares About Your Soul!

MORNING WORSHIP......11:00AM
WEDNESDAY (Prayer & Teacher's Meeting)7:00PM

REV. DONALD F. WILSON. JR.

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3351 Heritage Lane

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Sunday School - 9:00AM

Sunday Service - 10:30AM

Children's Church available

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Tuesday Adult and Children Bible Study 7:00PM

Daily Devotion & Prayer Line

6am M-F 7am S-S

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t. Worth, TX 76119 817-534-1612Fax

..10:30 am

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Phone: 817-536-6421



PASTOR WILLIAM MCKINLEY JACKSON

Sunday School	9:30 am	
Sunday Morning Worship		
Wednesday Prayer		
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm	
"The Church That's Moving To The Next Level"		

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ST JOHN MBC PASTOR C.E. CUNNINGHAM 3640 Avenue F Fort Worth, TX 76105

SERVICE TIMES SUNDAY SERVICE. .9:00 AM WEDN. NIGHT PRAYER...6:00 PM - 6:30 PM INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

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SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:15 am
SUNDAY SERVICE	10:30 am
SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE	4:00 pm
(Every 2nd & 3rd Sunday)	
BIBLE STUDY (Wednesday)	7:00 pm
PRAYER MEETING (Wednesday)	6:30 pm

7101 Wichita St - Forest Hill, TX 76140 Office: 817.446.9408 / Cell 817.675.3402

The Church at Philadelphia 4716 Wichita Street Fort Worth, Texas 76119 Service Times

unday School (In-Person or Virtual) 9:00e orning Worship (In-Person or Virtual) 10:30e



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Evangelist Sharon Mason-Turner, Overseer P.O. Box 330401 Ft. Worth, TX 76163 . 817-294-244 Email:slford@academicplanet.com

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Precious orners one
Missionary Baptist Church 4916 Ramey Avenue Ft. Worth, TX 76105 817.413.8771 Email: cornbapt02@aol.com -- Service Times --SUNDAY SCHOOL



SUNDAY MORNING 10:30 AM WEDNESDAY PRAYER MFFTING &

9:30 AM

BIBLE STUDY @ 7:00 PM

A New Chapter Begins with Vivian J. Lincoln Library's Grand

Opening CITY NEWS | Published on July 04, 2023

Visitors to the Fort Worth Public Library's newest facility will be greeted with large windows that let natural light pour into the interior, details and art that feature treelike structures and designs, amenities such as a quiet reading room and study spaces - and a 12-foot-long dinosaur made of car parts.

Highlights of the 18,000-squarefoot building include:

- An atrium-like element in the center called "the lantern," which caps the children's area with a bank of windows along the ceiling that are supported by treelike posts.
- Fabled, an art piece by Area C Projects, features portals to multimedia submissions from community members.
- An Idea Lab where visitors of all ages can create and ex-
- Special spaces including a large meeting room that can be divided, a conference room, quiet reading room and study spaces.
- Bumpersaurus, a sculpture composed of car and machine parts originally donated to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, relocated to the Central Library and now at the Vivian J. Lincoln Library.
- A City of Fort Worth municipal court.

What they're saying: "We are excited to offer city services in this fast-growing area of Fort Worth," said Marilyn Marvin, interim director of the Fort Worth Public Library. "The community support has already been tremendous,

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225 Barron St | Ft Worth, TX 76103 | (682)-224-6831 Email: Wallsofjerichofamilychurch@gmail.com w.wallsofierichodeliverancechurch.org "Seeking the Kingdom" Matthew 6:33

Pastor John Reed & First Lady Alicia Reed

SERVICE TIMES Sunday School......9:00am Sunday Service.....10:30am Wedn. Bible Study....6:30pm

Here we grow!





Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-731-3502

Dr. W.L.D. Campbell, Pastor

Sunday School - Sunday 9:00an Morning Worship - Sunday 10:05am Prayer Meeting - Wednesday

VISION STATEMENT ing at home



and we know the Lincoln Library will provide a gathering place for everyone to learn, dream and do new things.

"This library will provide an incredible focal point for Far Southwest Fort Worth neighbors to come together," said District 6 Councilmember Jared Williams. "I know the Vivian J. Lincoln Library will be an important part of what brings a sense of community and opportunities for lifelong learning to residents of this vibrant community for years to come."

"My mom would have been so humbled, delighted and filled with gratitude to have the newest

library named in her honor," said Melissa Smith, Vivian J. Lincoln's daughter. "Her lifelong commitment to children and excellence in education will continue to be nurtured through each and every individual who visits the Vivian J. Lincoln library."

Go deeper: Nestled next to a growing residential area, the library parklike property includes a small hiking trail behind the library. The facility is one way Fort Worth is expanding services to the far southwest corner of the city. The new library is named for Vivian J. Lincoln (1956-2022), a longtime public educator who was principal of Jackie Carden Elementary School in Crowley ISD for 15 years before retiring in 2017. Her name was selected through a public voting process. Funding for the \$9.6 million construction cost project was through the 2018



Baptist Church

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PASTOR RUFUS HUCKABY

Morning Worshi

Prayer Meeting

Bible Study, Mi

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Fort Worth, TX 76107

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REV. K.L. HAWKINS, Pastor

EVERY WEDNESDAY - BIBLESTUDY.

orship and Study Services

11:00am

HOW TO CHURCH

- Don't Evangelize
- Regularly Criticize Leaders
- Attend Services
- Infrequently
- Refuse to Volunteer Neglect the Youth
- Complain More Than Encourage
- Stop Taking the Bible
- Seriously

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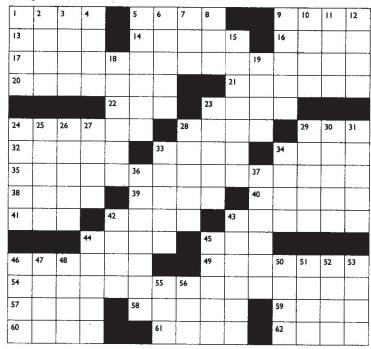
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BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Topic: ARTIFACTS



ACROSS

- 5 Chimps 9 Arm or leg
- 13 "And by him we cry," Father" (Rom. 8:15, NIV)
- 14 A sample photo
- 16 Operatic air
- 17 Used to anoint Jesus' feet (John 12:3)
- 20 Criticized strongly
- 21 LA to NYC flight (hyph.)
- 22 1979 film: Norma
- 23 Rock of __ 24 Lord
- 28 Made angry
- 29 American Missionary Fellov ship
- 32 Odor
- 33 "You ___ me together in (Ps. 139:13, NIV)
- 34 Hodgepodge
- 35 King leholakim cut and burned it (Jer. 36)
- 38 How to spell millenary, as
- opposed to millennium (2 wds.) 39 New York Information
- Exchange: abbr.
- 40 Had possession of 41 Did the marathon
- 42 Sting
- 43 Last letters

- first his kingdom (Matt. 6:33, NIV) 45 Upon, prefix
- 46 New York island
- 49 Street sellers
- 54 Goliath's bane
- 57 One who fires people 58 Intelligentsia
- 59 Fifty shekels, in Bible times
- 60 How Judas betrayed Jesus
- 61 8,760 hours 62 "Those who hope in the Lord
- ... will ____ on wings like eagles" (Isa. 40:3 I, NIV)

DOWN

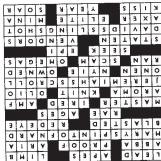
- I Passover beast
- 2 Biblical mount near Gerizim
- 3 Magic word
- 4 "There will be terrible times in the last _____" (2 Tim. 3:1, NIV)
- 5 "We must all before the judgment seat of Christ'
- (2 Cor. 5:10, NIV)
- 6 lt precedes a fall
- 7 A long time
- 8 Wino
- 9 Touches down
- 10 Dies ____ (day of wrath, Lat.) II "He brought me up ... out of
- the clay" (Ps. 40:2, KIV)
- 12 Commanded
- 15 What an amnesiac does
- 18 "Let justice roll on like a river,

ing ____" (Amos 5:24, NIV) _ my lambs" (John 21:15) , shine, for your light has come" (Isa. 60: I, NIV)

righteousness like a never-fail-

- 24 Field of college study
- 25 Where Christians met lions
- 26 Philosopher Kierkegaard 27 Treasury agents
- was life" (lohn
- 1:4, NIV)
- 29 "Merrily We Roll_
- 30 A minute
- 33 Boat for one
- 34 "Whether we live
- die, we belong to the Lord" (Rom. 14:8, var.)
- 36 Odiferous offering 37 "Look, he is ____ with the
- clouds" (Rev. 1:7, NIV) 42 "The promises were spoken to
- Abraham and to his (Gal. 3:16, NIV)
- 43 First line
- 45 Webber musica 46 Pierre is its cap.
- 50 Distinguished Service Medals
- (abbr.) 51 River dividing Indiana from
- Kentucky
- 52 Gossip monger Barrett
- 53 The sun, for one
- 55 Clever





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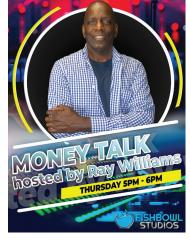
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P.O. Box 330401 Ft. Worth,TX 76163 Evang, Sharon Ford-Turner, Pastor e-mail: sharonImasonfordturner@gmail.com Sunday Services:

Conference Call Services. 9:00 am

Sunday School



10:00 am....Worship Service 11:30 am 2nd & 4th Sunday Village Creek Nursing Homes Minister

Tuesday10:30 am Prayer and Bible Study Conference Call Service

6:00 am Intercessory Prayer

