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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Proper alignment on your vehicle is key to tire wear, comfort, and fuel efficiency. You know how when your wheels are out of alignment, it still runs, but it pulls to the left or right, and the ride may not be very smooth? Life is much the same way. Having your life in alignment is about clarifying who you are - your principles, purpose, values and priorities and deleting the absurd noisiness and mindless distractions that mission, vision, and principles. dislocate you from your destiny.

You've heard about the criticality of aligning your tires and aligning your life; it's not a new idea. But did you know that your Church can experience alignment issues which, left unchecked, can lead to serious problems? Churches have been known to pull and wobble and, instead of moving forward, and unaligned Church can start to drift sideways.

There are many reasons why a Church can become misaligned, but they ultimately boil down to a loss of direction and priorities. Misalignment in mission, vision, leadership, operations and facilities can adversely impact your church's ability to advance her purpose and extend God's kingdom.

Former president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources Thom Rainer underscores the importance of church alignment , stating, "Without alignment, the Church can be a multitude of sub ministries... A Church that lacks alignment does not feel like one body. It feels more like These and similar questions, a building that houses a wide variety of ministries... All Churches naturally drift away from alignment... When misalignment on a car is not addressed, the results are damaging. Tires can blow out while driving. Damage to the wheels can occur. The same is true for a Church. When misalignment is not addressed, there is skills, knowledge, and abilities damage."

There are some fundamental questions Church leaders can ask themselves and prayerfully process internally. The answers to of Greater St. Stephen First Church these questions may bring your leadership, specific ministry em- sor, and a certified Life Coach. He phasis, or volunteer team back conducts leadership seminars and into alignment with your Church's conferences across the country.



Do our goals, desired outcomes, and actions line up with our approach to ministry? Since your Church has a ministry strategy, are your leaders conversant with it?

- Do our volunteer and paid staff persons demonstrate our vision and mission statements and core values in their behaviors and attitudes? Having the wrong person in a pivotal position can create a toxic situation that will undermine the health of your Church.
- When potential staff is interviewed or when volunteers are recruited, are questions posed regarding their ability to align with our approach to ministry?
- Do our Leadership Team, Ministry Associates, Music Team know the role they play in moving our Church forward?
- Do we have the paid/volunteer staff in place to make ministry happen on the scale and scope we envision?

asked with the context of a properly focused and spiritually mature leadership team, can help keep your Church aligned with why it exists while staying focused on where it is going. If your Church knows why it exists, then it can identify paid/volunteer staff attributes, characteristics, that align with that reason for existence.

*dr. michael bell is Senior Pastor FtW, a seminary adjunct profes-

Bishop K.D. Davis and the **Sixth Avenue Baptist Church** 125 S. 5th St, Corsicana, Texas

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Speak Life Thought with First Lady & Co-Pastor Yolanda G. Butler

"A Life That Shines"

'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

In this passage, Jesus used two illustrations to demonstrate the impact true believers have on the world: salt and light. Spiritually speaking, salt adds flavor, creates a thirst for more (information), and is a preservative against evil society. If you fail to maintain your saltiness, your purpose is useless and must be discarded.

Light shines and gives direction. Throughout the generation of my culture and race this has been an area the enemy has endeavored to darken in our lives. For centuries we were treated as worthless dirt and dark shadows of defeat were unfairly placed on us passing through generational cycles. Through Jesus Christ we were given the right and ability to overcome the wicked chains of darkness and a defeated mindset, be free, and walk in the peace and marvelous Light of the Kingdom.

Through Christ and the Word, our mind and character are renewed with the fruit of the Father's character of love.

joy, peace, goodness, gentleness, patience, faith, meekness, and temperance (Gal. 5:22-23). Holy Spirit is the working agent empowering us to walk out this character and shine in Spirit and in truth. Mankind was created in the image of God and His original righteousness was meant to shine and give direction (govern the earth, tend the garden, etc.-Gen 1:28) The devil stole that right, but Jesus Christ got it back. Hallelujah! (Rom 5:15) Believers are not meant to walk in darkness but in the glorious light of the power of Christ and lead others to that Light as well. (1 Peter 2:9)

Every believer has influence and affluence. Influence is the capacity to impact the life of another. Affluence is the wealth of what you carry spiritually or naturally. As a child of God, you do not have to always settle for less than or second best. That defeated mindset was harnessed on our backs for years but defeated at the Cross. When God saves you, all things become new in your life and everything you do is meant to stand out. Yes, people will hate on you, act ugly, funny, jealous, try to sabotage your hard work or just outright not like you. It really has nothing to do with you but all about what is in you. You have power, influence, and affluence to be able to empower and guide others to possess the



same Salt and Light you possess

Whether you serve in ministry, workforce, at home, or on the streets, do it all for the Lord. Let the Light in you shine. You gifted with numbers, work those books. You gifted with administration, set things in order. You gifted to teach, speak truth. You gifted to lead, raise up a generation. You gifted to give, sow cheerfully and wisely. You gifted to pray, watch, pray and slay. Stop selling yourself short of who you are. You are worth the anointing. You are worth the position, raise, promotion, etc. God placed it in you not to be hidden but to be exposed You got the goods. Do not sell yourself short of your value. Let your Light shine. So dear hearts, be determined to remain salty and shine baby, shine!

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.

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INSIDE THE MUSIC

with Elder Judy Neal

"THE RESURRECTION SOUND IN THESE TIMES"

Hello dear Believers, Seekers and Saints. We have just entered that blessed time on the Christian calendar when songs, sermons and symbolism reign supreme for our gratitude to Jesus for His ultimate sacrifice.....death on the Cross.

If we subscribe to the concept of the 50 days of Eastertide (the eve of Easter to the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2) we can experience the sacred sounds celebrating Jesus' love for us over and over. The Resurrection season features music within our hymnals, children's tunes, melancholy anthems, worship songs and glorious melodies in traditional and contemporary choral styles. Due to the limited church attendees allowed, it will probably be P&W teams carrying the Easter music this year. That doesn't mean you can't crank up your favorite "Cross" songs on your home systems. Gospel songwriters don't seem to sing or write many new "Cross" Songs anymore. But praise be to God, there are enough powerful songs about Jesus' death and resurrection that have endured down through the ages. And, in this

time of pandemics (i.e. social, health and economic crisis) don't be surprised to hear your Worship Ministry igniting the atmosphere with unique sounds that are more esoteric, world conscious and empowering to praise our Redeemer. Let me present some of my beloved Easter melodies plus introduce some 21st century sanctified sounds.

The Hymns: The Old Rugged Cross, Because He Lives, There is A Fountain, He Is Lord, Lead Me to Calvary, Jesus Paid It All, Nothing but the Blood, He Lives, Were You There, and The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power!

P&W: Here I Am to Worship, This is Amazing Grace by Phil Wickham, My Redeemer Lives, Lord I Lift Your Name on High, The Hill by Travis Green, Holy Spirit by Nia Allen and Fred Hammonds' The Living Word.

Traditional Choirs: He Decided to Die. No Greater Love. He Rose by Brent Jones, More Abundantly by Ricky Dillard & Nu G, Jesus by Shekinah Glory, Vashawn Mitchell's "He Got Up". The Blood Still Works by JJ Hairston, Worth by Anthony Brown, Marvelous by Walter Hawkins, Vincent Bohanan's He Reigns, and You Saved Me by Shawn Bigby.

Gospel-styled Anthems: Matthew 28 by Donald Lawrence, They Didn't Know by Kurt Carr, The Resurrection by Richard Smallwood and the gospel version of Handel's Messiah, The Halleluiah Chorus.

Contemporary: Lifter of My Head by Ricky Dillard and Nu G. It Wasn't Easy by CeCe Winans, All for Me by James Fortune, Miracle Worker by JJ Hairston, Carried Me by Marvin Sapp

and Glory to the Lamb by Geoffrey Golden

These are just a few of the old, new and classics that we shall forever hear and sing as we celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus.

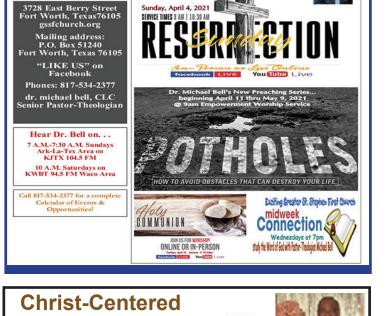
New Gospel Music and Events: Look

through your music systems soon from both new and seasoned artists. Covid-19 did not stop the creatives from writing and recording in this last year. In fact, let me first lift Sirius XM's Meta Washington with her new book Cracking the Code for Indie artists. It will give new knowledge for those who want to take their ministry seriously beyond the church's 4 Walls. The special focus Myron Butler gave to the late great Andre Crouch's music though his Grammy nominated project, "My Tribute" is fresh and powerful. Detrick Haddon's "TIME" is full of current world issues that point the listeners back to God's promises. New Grenadian gospel artist Jeverson with "Prav for Your Son" places major concern for the struggle of young black men trying to live peacefully in the USA. Jason Nelson has a new single, "Residue" and a new label, TyScot to prepare his 2021 CD. Finally Kelontae Gavin's new project, "The Now Experience" will take us through the rafters with undeniably high praise. And until next time, I pray your celebrations, worship, health and daily living remain safe and precious in this new season where God Still Reigns.

May peace be your journey iudvneal@comcast.net Holla!

APRIL 2021 RESURRECTION EMPHASIS Exciting Greater St Stephen Pirit Chun 3728 East Berry Street FW Du Michael Bell, Semior Pastor-Recident Th for some anointed songs to flow

SNINT STEPHA





How to stay safe at church, family gatherings and businesses. Navigating COVID: Back to life By Cliff Mehrtens

As stay-at-home restrictions are being eased, more people will be heading to worship services, family gatherings and businesses that have been shut down for a few months.

What are the top three precautions to take if you go to a church service?

- Wear a mask. A face covering helps reduce the risk of person-to person transmission.
- Avoid shaking hands, hugging, and any close contact with others.
- Avoid visiting places that don't openly display efforts to protect your health. If there are too many people present, a lack of face coverings, or no evidence of frequent cleaning, don't go inside.

What are the top precautions you need to take if you go to a family gathering, with relatives and friends who aren't the ones you live with? (Social distancing is a given)

- Even when visiting family, take common-sense precautions. If you're not sure it's safe, consider postponing the gathering. Before the get-together, ask yourself these questions:
- Is anyone sick?

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- Has anyone been exposed to COVID-19?
- Is there anyone in the family that might be especially hard-hit by the virus, due to advanced age or pre-existing chronic medical conditions?
- Can we keep the gathering small, and can we min-

imize the risk of person-to-person spread through spacing, handwashing, and other measures?

What should your expectations be for businesses and churches?

Before visiting a business, place of worship or workplace, confirm that steps are being taken to protect your health. Is the facility being regularly cleaned and disinfected? Are measures in place to facilitate social distancing? Are employees and staff being screened for illness before they report to work?

What precautions should you take when visiting a business?

- Try to use "contactless" transactions. Pay for goods or services electronically using your phone, rather than by cash or card. Use deliveries that perhaps can be left at your doorstep while you remain inside.
- Use hand sanitizer or wash your hands after touching objects that others may have used before you, such as keyboards, keypads, gas pumps, countertops, etc. Carry your own pen, so you don't have to borrow one that may be contaminated. Avoid sharing food, beverages, or eating utensils.

Are there any extra steps I can take to protect myself and my family?

Remember, a person can have COVID-19 and not continues on Page 5.



The Rising Star Church of God in Christ 3909 Reed St. - Ft. Worth, TX 76119 - Ph: 817.534.6963

Around Town with Evangelist Sharon Ford-Turner



The Minister Derek Locke Memorial Music Scholarship Foundation Celebrated 20th Anniversary on 3/13 /21. Honoring 20 year Board Member Mary Rogers-Capers and Preshawn Ford. The Founder and Board President Sharon Mason Ford-Turner.

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Wednesday MdWk Connection

Experience The Difference!

Empowerment Worship Service I Empowerment Worship Service II S.H.O.P. PRAYER CALL



9 A.M. 10:30 A.M. 6 P.M.

The Gospel Corner with Proclaimer of the Word... **Rev. J.R. Brumfield**

THE KING AND I Matthew 21:1-13

1. Introduction

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the two main hinges upon which the door of salvation turns. In John 10:9, we find the words in the English Standard Version, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. In the KJV, it states that "I am the door: by me if any man enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. In Matthew 20:28, we ascertain that Jesus came into the world on purpose to give his life a ransom. Therefore, the history of his sufferings, even unto death, and his rising again, is more particularly recorded by all the evangelists than any other part of the Gospel writers account of Jesus Christ.

It is in Matthew 21, that we have the beginning of the passion-week. Jesus stated on several occasions to his disciples that He would be betraved in Jerusalem. Now, is the time that scripture records our Lord and Savior travelling to Jerusalem to fulfill his purpose on earth. Jesus stated that "we go up to Jerusalem, and there the Son of man must be betrayed." A great deal of good work was previously done by our Lord Jesus along the way. He had healed the sick and raised Lazarus from the dead. He had opened blinded eyes and now at length he gets ready to go into Jerusalem. As we move into verse 1, we find that Jesus makes His public entry into Jerusalem. This was on a Sunday which we usually call Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday begins the first day of the passion-week (v. 1-11). However, Resurrection Sunday is coming!

All the four evangelists take notice of this passage of Christ's riding in triumph into Jerusalem, five days before his death. In Exodus 12:3, we find information regarding the date of the Passover. The Passover was to be observed on the fourteenth day of the month, and this was the tenth day of the month. In this chapter, we find the fulfillment of Old Testament rules regarding the Passover. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the tenth day of the month. The tenth day of the month was a day the law appointed that the paschal lamb should be taken up and set apart for that service. Because of Old Testament prophecy, Christ our Passover, comes to Jerusalem as the sacrificial lamb. Sunday was the prelude to the passion week of Jesus Christ. He had lodged at Bethany, a village not far from Jerusalem. On the prior night, Mary had anointed his feet in John. 12:3 Jesus travelled most of his ministry by foot and he travelled a many dusty roads. He kept on working until His journey's end. This is the reason why we should not park on the side of the road but keep on keeping on!

2. The King is Coming, v.1-6

The provision that was made for this solemn occasion of Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The means of the donkey and the colt were very ordinary means. Jesus could have ridden in on a horse which was the custom of great officials at that time. However, since He came in the form of a servant, Jesus decided to utilize very common means. Let's remember that Jesus did say on one occasion that his kingdom was not of this world. There were no heralds at arms provided, and no trumpets sounded before him. Jesus did not ride into Jerusalem on chariots of state but he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. These luxurious items were not a part of the Lord Jesus's present state of humility. Jesus was humbled unto death. He could have summoned chariots of cherubs but He chose to use a lowly donkey for His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. However, at our Lord's second coming. He will come in

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all the pomp and circumstance as the olorious King! The second coming of Christ will far exceed his first coming. When the last trumpet will sound, our Lord will come in such a magnificent appearance. Until then, the pomp and circumstance will be reserved for our Lord Jesus's second coming. At the second coming, the glorious angels shall be his heralds and attendants, and the clouds his charints

When we ascertain the creatures that were used for Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we learn a couple of things. Jesus gives instruction to his two disciples that the they are to go into the village and they will find a donkey that is tied and a colt with her. His omniscience extends itself to the lowest of his creatures. God is concerned about the donkeys and their colts. He wants to untie them from their bondage and use them for God's special use. If the Lord is concerned about setting a donkey free, then one should know that our Lord is concerned about people's freedom in this world. The Lord is concerned about the voting rights in Georgia and across this country. This donkey must not be taken by force but in the eyesight and with the consent of the owner. God knows who and what to ask to do anything!!!

In 2 Corinthians 8:9, we understand that Jesus came into this world and He became poor. Our Lord Jesus, who worked in the God-head as part of the creation account, did not own a donkey and he needed to borrow it for a little while. It is commonly said, "They that live on borrowing, live on sorrowing; in this therefore, as in other things, Christ was a man of sorrows. He had nothing of this world's goods but what was given him or leat him.

The disciples who were sent to borrow this donkey are directed to say, The Lord has need of him. In the borrowing of this donkey, we have an instance of Christ's knowledge. The Lord Jesus know everything and He is fully aware of the condition of His creation.

Jesus told his disciples how to address the master of the donkey if a question arose. When we borrow anything, we must restore in due time and in good order. The wicked may borrow with no intention of paying again.

It has been stated that Scripture does not contradict itself but there is unity of Scripture. As an example, the old testament prophets prophesized that Jesus would come and that the people will rejoice as stated in Zec. 9:9. This passage of Scripture is fulfilled in Matthew 71.

3. The King is Celebrated, v. 7-11

Our Lord and Savior is not attended by the gentlemen of the country and He is not met by the magistrates of the city in their formalities as one might have expected. Jesus should have had the keys of the city nresented to Him. Jesus triumnhant entry into Jerusalem should have been conducted with all the pomp and circumstance of a king. However, these verses indicate that none of the high government officials were there to greet Him into the city of Jerusalem. Nevertheless, it was the common people that were our Lord's attendants into the City of Jerusa-

lem. It was the common people that graced the solemnity of Christ's triumph. Nevertheless, the chief priests and the elders would gather themselves later to crucify Jesus upon an old rudged cross.

Christ is honored by the multitude but He was not honored by the magnificent ones in power. Our Lord does not value men and women by their positions in life but rather he values men by their relationship with Him.

A. What They Did, 7-8

Now, concerning this great multitude, we are here told what they did. The great multitude that attended Jesus upon his triumphant entry into Jerusalem did their best to honor Christ. They spread their garments in the way, that he might ride upon them.

If you are going to truly honor Jesus Christ, then one must allow Jesus to have the preeminence in their lives. Although the multitudes may not have had the best in life to honor Christ, they did what they could. There is an important lesson when we do what we can to honor and uplift the name of the Lord. The Lord Jesus will be happy with us if we do what we can to give him all the honor, praise, and glory.

It was stated in these verses that others cut down branches from the trees, and strewed them in the way. This was a practice that was utilized at the feast of tabernacles, in token of liberty, victory, and joy. The practice of the feast of tabernacles looks toward the gospel era as seen in Zec. 14:16.

A. What They Said, v. 9-11 In verse 9 we find the words, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord?" "Hosanna in the highest!' These were the words of expressions that Jesus heard upon His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The Hebrew expression of these words indicate the need to save now as noted in Ps. 118:25. These words are an exact representation of verse 9 of this passane. The word does not contradict itself but rather the Word confirms itself.

A question was asked by some bystanders in verse 10, "Who is this?" I am thankful that there was somebody in the crowd that could answer that question. The multitudes stated that this is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee. Do you have an answer to the question? Do you know "who is this?"

4. The King is Concerned, v. 12-13

When Christ came into Jerusalem, he did not go up to the court or the palace. Although Jesus is our King, the Word informs us that Jesus went directly into the temple. The Lord's kingdom is spiritual, and it is not of this world. Therefore, Jesus had a need to see what was happening in the house of prayer.

When Jesus shows up in the temple, He finds unlawful practices in the house of prayer. There were moneychangers that were looking out for worldly gain instead of heavenly provisions. Jesus overthrew the moneychangers and their ungodly practices in the temple. This is a word for the church today. Is your church doing business that our Lord and Savior may consider as improper in the house of prayer? Jesus stated in verse 13, "My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves." Before right can be established in the house of God, abuses and unlawful practices must be purged out. Let the church be the church!

Rev. J.R., Brumfield is a member of Berean Bible Fellowshin Church in Plano Tx

Look forward to his monthly articles covering Sunday School and Bible Lessons each month. Please direct all comments to Rev. Brumfield at his contact information listed above.



Email: strangersrbc@att.net Website: www.strangersrestbc.net WORSHIP DAYS & TIME Sunday School Sundays ~ 8:45 AM Morning Worship Sundays ~ 10:15 AM Bible Study **PASTOR EDDIE BROWN, SR** Wednesdays ~ 7:00 PM LADY MARILYN BROWN 5705 Donnelly Ave. Ft. Worth, TX 76107 817-738-3833



How to stay safe at church continues,

know it. An infected person can spread the infection, even before he or she has symptoms. Protect yourself at all times.

- It is still smart to only go out for essential activities.
- Wash hands frequently and scrub thoroughly, using soap and water, for at least 20 seconds.
- Remember that certain people are more vulnerable to COVID-19. People over 65, and those with chronic conditions such as lung disease. heart disease, cancer, or suppressed immune systems need to be especially careful.

Stay attuned to your health. If you have a thermometer, check your temperature daily. If you develop a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or any other concerning symptoms, call you medical provider for advice.

Keep in mind that the closer the contact, the greater the risk of getting the virus. This risk can be reduced by taking common-sense precautions, and staying up-to-date on the virus in your community.



CHURCH DIRECTORY



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Local Finance Advisor's "U's Rules for Financial Success" is Amazon Best Seller

Facts:

Among racial and ethnic groups, African Americans have the highest poverty rate, 27.4 percent.

The median wealth of black households is \$36,000, while white households estimated median wealth at \$150,000.

African American families have a median household income of \$41,000, white families have a median household income of more than \$70,000.

Based on these alarming statistics there is a serious need for African Americans to understand how to break the poverty chain.

U's Rules

for

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In his book, U's Rules For Success: How To Break The Poverty Chain, Ray Williams provides insightful and easy to understand strategies and tips on how to unlink the poverty chain.

This Amazon best seller is a must read for anyone having a desire to escape poverty chain.

Available on Amazon.com or go to wehelpubuildwealth.net



Services.

9:00 am



