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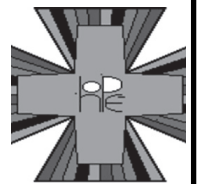
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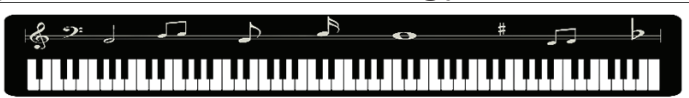
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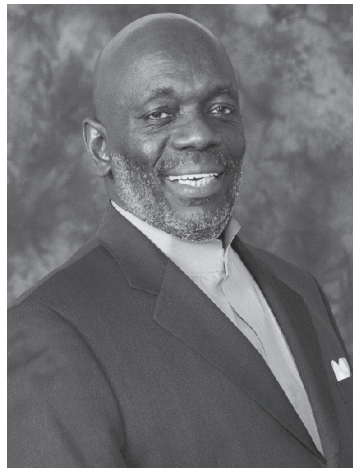
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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Before I unpack this month's column, I think it's necessary to make it crystal clear that when I talk about the "church" I'm not talking about so-called "Christian nationalism." I wholeheartedly agree with Cynthia Miller-Idress, a professor in the School of Public Affairs and the School of Education at American University, when she asserts that "Christian nationalism is not Christianity... It is a perversion of both Christianity and patriotism." New York Times bestselling author Jemar Tisby posits, "white Christian nationalism is an expression of white supremacy baptized with religious language and symbolism."



So, when I say "church" I'm talking about the body of Christ, the extension of the ministry that Jesus began; the hands and feet of Jesus going places and doing ministry that Jesus would do.

Now, let's have a dialogue about **the need for the church to be and stay relevant.**

In a fast-changing culture and a constantly evolving world, one of the challenges facing the church is **maintaining relevance.** This requires the church to adapt and engage with shifting societal norms and find creative ways to leverage emerging technologies as a tool to enhance her services and effectuate her mission.

Being relevant is not about skinny jeans, strobe lights and fog machines. **Relevance is about the ability to connect.** Churches become irrelevant when they can no longer connect in meaningful ways with the next generation. Joseph Yoo writes, "Being relevant is less about what we can do or offer as a church and more about genuinely connecting with the people around us."

So, does the Church need to be relevant? Absolutely! Does the Church need to agree with and acquiesce to culture to be relevant? Of course not! **The church can be relevant without compromising biblical values or mirroring culture.** The gospel of Jesus Christ never changes. However, our frame of reference, our leadership lens needs to change. We need to see things differently in order to reach people.

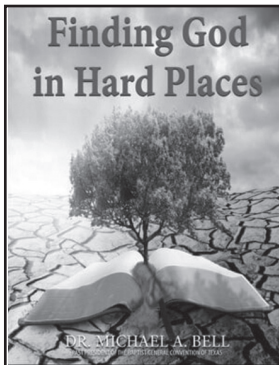
I've talked with more than a few well-intentioned pastors who are frustrated because of the push

back they've received from their church leadership team who fail to see digital technology and internet connectivity as important tools in achieving their mission. Most of them admitted that the congregations they lead were okay with Facebook and YouTube but aren't interested in expanding their tech portfolio to include X (Twitter), Instagram, mobile apps, scheduling systems and digital giving options.

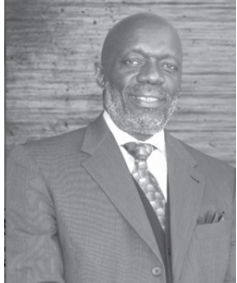
A couple of years before the novel coronavirus outbreak, I attended a worship service, and I noticed that as the pastor was preaching there were two persons on their cell phones. One was tweeting the highlights of the pastor's message, while the other person was on Facebook interacting with the on-line congregation. I thought it was a great use of social media. And around the same time, I learned about e-giving and quickly implemented it in the congregation I'm blessed to lead. This was prior to the onslaught of Covid-19.

My point is that in order to better communicate the gospel, the church, your church and my church, needs to adapt and embrace innovative strategies, even uncomfortable ones. Scott Thumma wrote, in a 2011 study by the Hartford Institute, "When technology is combined with a willingness to change...the growth potential of a faith community increases dramatically."

drmichaelbell is Senior Pastor-Resident Theologian of Greater St. Stephen First Church FtW, a seminary adjunct professor and a certified Life Coach. He conducts leadership seminars and conferences across the country. He is the author of "Finding God in Hard Places." He also contributed to the anthology "Justice Looks Like." anthology "Justice Looks Like."



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Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

Sunday
April 14, 2024
3:15p.m.

Guest: Pastor Darrel Fincher
Logos Fellowship Church
Dallas, Texas

Quincy L Randall, Sr. Pastor

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Http://thegreenwaychurch.mymobisite.us

Speak Life Thought

with First Lady & Co-Pastor Yolanda G. Butler

"A Grateful Life of Goods"

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them His goods." (Matthew 25:14)

Stewardship is the management of someone else's property, finances, or other affairs. You are not the owner; you are the manager. For example, an apartment manager, an event planner, a gardener, a CPA, etc. Biblical stewardship is the management of all resources God provides for His glory and the betterment of His Kingdom. As children of God, he has invested in each of us innate talents and spiritual gifts that He expects us to make useful for His glory. Like the Owner in the Scripture, the Father expects what He has invested into the lives of others to be well cared for.

You hold the Father's precious goods. His goods are uniquely measured to each one of us according to the gift of Christ (Eph 4:7). His goods are righteousness, peace, and joy of the Holy Ghost (Rom 14:17). His goods are the fruit of the spir-

it--love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance--His character walked out, and no law can stand against it (Gal 5:22-23).

If you walk right and live holy, He will not withhold His goods from you (Ps 84:11). His goods are a priceless treasure housed in our earthen vessel testifying to His great power (2 Cor 4:7). He said a woman is such a "good thing" to the man that finds her because her goods are loaded with favor (Prov. 18:22). His goods are so magnificent that even the angels question why humans are on His mind or that He cares for them (Heb 2:5). He made man a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor and set him over the works of His hands—His Majesty's Goods (Heb 2:7).

His goods are so powerful that it makes the devil jealous and he's doing all he can to steal, kill, and destroy the Father's goods. But Jesus said His goods are life and full of abundance (John 10:10). Therefore, since you hold the Father's great treasure (the goods) in you, show Him honor through holiness and righteousness (Rom 12:1). Work those goods and work them well (John 9:4). Do

not withhold the goods from those who deserve it when the Father has graced and blessed you to help them (Prov 3:27). Walk with integrity and conviction and avoid your good being evil spoken of (Rom 14:16).

Jesus said to let His Light in you stand out so that others can see you demonstrate good works (deeds) that honor Him (Mat 5:16). So dear hearts be determined to work the Father's goods in your life for His Kingdom.

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 www.firstladybutlerministries.net.



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CLC, Inc. YouthBuild - Fort Worth

With model educational, training, and employment services for opportunity youth who need and want them most, CLC, Inc. YouthBuild Fort Worth provides its students with the tools they need to become leaders in their industry and community.

CLC, Inc. YouthBuild Fort Worth uses partnerships with industry, business, government, schools and community organizations to provide opportunity youth with the careers and futures that they deserve.

Active since 2000, the program's mission is to help segments of the population who need most support: those disconnected from school or work, those returning from jail or prison, and more. Popular skills tracks for both men and women include welding, aero-



space, CNC machining, bookkeeping and CompTIA A+.

Sean Guerrero came to YouthBuild Fort Worth as an 18-year-old high school graduate with no clear career path. He knew obtaining a trade or skills training would pave his way to a sustainable life, so he enrolled in the welding program. An exemplary student, he enjoyed everything about the work. After graduation in 2019, Sean started an apprenticeship with the Southwest Pipe Trades Association, where he currently remains in full-time classroom instruction. He will soon be eligible to work full time in the welding industry. "CLC, Inc. YouthBuild Fort Worth gave me what I needed to change my life."

One year ago today, I was sitting in a jail cell waiting to be sentenced," said Jacquelyn Lewis, a graduate of CLC, Inc. YouthBuild Fort Worth. "Today, I am a nationally certified welder, working for one of the top companies in our industry. And it's all thanks to



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While receiving their own skills training, the students of CLC, Inc. YouthBuild Fort Worth never lose sight of the greater good, making it a priority to give back. Whether through serving at food pantries, tending to community gardens, visiting local veterans in nursing homes, distributing Thanksgiving dinners, or lending a hand at local nonprofits, the students share their skills and kindness for the betterment of their community. All of these activities and more help them become the community leaders of today and tomorrow.

Visit the CLC, Inc. YouthBuild Fort Worth website for more information.

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Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Services	
Mid-Week Prayer	6:30 P.M.
Mid-Week Refueling Hour	7:00 P.M.
Youth Bible Study	7:00 P.M.

Kingdom Covenant Ministries PRESENTS

OUTPOUR

April 26th 7pm "Night of Worship"
 April 27th 10am "The OutPour"

Keynote Speaker
 Prophetess Annette Dukes
 April 27th, 10am

Host
 Dr. Yolanda G. Butler

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Pic 1) With T&M Singer for Christ.; Pic 2) All Guest Artist; Pic 3) Deacon Bennie Sherman Sr., Guests; Pic 4) Edna Wilson-Wilkins Board Member.

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Help in Overcoming Church Hurt

Article by Josh Moody/Desiring God

Have you been hurt by a church? If so, you're not alone.

As a pastor of a church, I've heard stories from people who have found church confusing, contrarian, or even damaging. Not every church hurts people, but most churches have hurt someone at some point. Some people are hurt through their own mistakes, others because of sin committed against them, and still others because of failed leadership. This reality can leave them reluctant to re-engage, afraid of being hurt again, wanting to protect themselves, and questioning the place of church in their lives. The good news for the hurting is that God has spoken to your pain in the Bible.

Most of the writing in the New Testament about how to live in a church exists because the church has never been perfect. Most, if not all, of the letters were written to solve problems in the church:

Galatians to solve legalism (Galatians 1:6-7, 3:1-3, 4:9, 5:1).

Colossians to solve heresy (Colossians 2:4, 8).

2 Timothy to solve tension in succession (2 Timothy 4:9-16).

Philippians to solve conflict and selfish ambition (Philippians 2:3-22).

1 and 2 Corinthians to solve a whole host of problems centered around the issues of human pride in gifting and speaking that led to loveless and arrogant religious activity.

And that's not even to mention the letters to the churches in Revelation (chapters 2-3), one of which is so unhealthy, it makes Jesus want to vomit (Revelation 3:16).

And we think we've got problems.

A Broken, But Growing Church

That said, the church is the bride of Christ and the body of Christ — a people set apart to declare God's praises to the nations and called to become more like the people of God we are meant to be. We shouldn't be surprised by hurt and pain in the

church, because everyone in the church is still sinful. But while saving faith in Christ is not surprised by brokenness, it is never content or negligent with it either.

So how do we make progress in the midst of our church's flaws? Many things are outside of our individual control, but God has given us a simple formula for walking through every stage of life with every kind of challenge, grief, and disappointment. There's nothing secret or magic about these steps, except for the Father who loves to reveal his power when we give ourselves to them.

1. Stay in God's manual for our grief. Unashamedly, unshakably, and unreservedly draw your hope for life and healing from the teaching of the Bible. The more we are centered on God's truth spoken in love (Ephesians 4:1-16), the more we will grow up into maturity and the more resources we'll have at our disposal to heal from hurt ourselves and to avoid hurting one another.

The temptation will be to avoid God's word. But keep reading the Bible, even if for just a few minutes each day. It's like eating. What counts is every single day getting what we need to get through that day. Knowing God's word will help us as we process hurt and find truth to satisfy and guide us.

2. Pursue the holiness you hope for in others.

Passionately, sacrificially, and deliberately persevere in pursuing Christ-like discipleship. When you're faced with betrayal or disappointment, it will require perseverance — supernatural perseverance. Learn. Grow. Forgive. Repent. Repent some more. Fight the good fight. Urge each other on. Do not give up meeting together. Stay on the path of discipleship, knowing



it will be rugged at times. Trust that the good work God is doing in you and in other believers around you will ultimately be for the good of all who believe in him.

3. Trust that love will eventually prevail.

Love anyway. It seems impossible in the moment, but it's the call of every Christian in every situation. In the end, only love will abide (1 Corinthians 13:13). And without love, our lives will be meaningless and unfruitful (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8). Therefore, the wisest and safest way forward is always love. Love as if your life depends on it.

To love someone is to seek his best. I can love someone without even liking him. I can find someone frustrating, but still genuinely and truly want what is best for him. Love does not mean avoiding tough conversations or life-on-life accountability, but doing those sorts of things from a loving, humble, gracious, and patient position which is from a mind and heart like Christ's.

Jesus said you could tell his disciples by how they love one another (John 13:35), and so we who are loved by him love each other in turn — even through the darkest, most difficult days.

Of course, none of these steps will make your church experience or relationships perfect. But these truths will change how you process the pain you feel in the church. They will change your life. And eventually, by God's grace, they will change your church, too.

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Morning Worship Service....11:00 A.M.

Wednesday Services
Wednesday Prayer Service & Bible Study
7:00 P.M.

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SUNDAY MORNING

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Reginald Andrews, Pastor/Teacher

Sunday Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study.....7:15 p.m.

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Pastor Study: 817.826.7208

SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:45AM
MORNING WORSHIP.....11:00AM
WEDNESDAY (Prayer & Teacher's Meeting)7:00PM

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3640 Avenue F
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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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Baptist Church**

ED JUSTICE (Senior Pastor - CCMBC)

5200 David Strickland Rd. Ft Worth, TX. 76119
817-330-3774
eddukejustice@sbcglobal.net

Sunday School.....9AM
Worship Service.....10:00AM
Wednesday Prayer.....6:30PM
Bible Study (Wed).....7:00PM

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Baptist Church**

3507 Crenshaw St. Ft. Worth, TX 76105
817.534.5131 www.freshlyanointedbc.org

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Sunday School.....9:45AM
Morning Worship.....11:00AM

Wednesday Services
Mission and Brotherhood.....6:00PM
Prayer and Teacher Meeting.....7:00PM

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Acts 1:8

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Wed. Bible Study (Classes for all ages).....7:15pm

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BIBLE STUDY (Wednesday).....7:00 pm
PRAYER MEETING (Wednesday).....6:30 pm

7101 Wichita St - Forest Hill, TX 76140
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**Chimney Rock
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www.chimneyrockministries.net

1916 Everman Parkway
Fort Worth, TX 76140
(817) 720-6771

**Rev. Gilbert Tezeno,
Senior Pastor**

Weekly Services

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
(Participation also available via Zoom)
Sunday Morning Services.....11:00 a.m.
Comunion Service.....Monthly
Bible Study (Wednesday via Conference Call).....7:00 p.m.

**GENESIS UNITY
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817.536.2936
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**WORSHIP & STUDY
SERVICES**

Sunday School.....9:00 AM
Morning Worship.....10:30 AM
Bible Study (Sun).....5:00 PM
Youth Classes.....Saturday

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Sunday School
9:00am - 9:45am

Sunday Service
10:15am - 12:30pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

Prayer Line 8:00am - 1:00pm
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Patrick & Jeannette Gratts, Pastors

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SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30 AM

SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP
10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY PRAYER
MEETING &
BIBLE STUDY @ 7:00 PM

Mark S. Fitz, Pastor

The Church at Philadelphia

4716 Wichita Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76119

Service Times

Sunday School (In-Person or Virtual) 9:00am
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Tuesday Night Bible Study (Virtual) 7:00pm

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Sunday Morning Worship.....10:45am
Wednesday Bible Study (at the church).....12:00pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting.....6:30pm

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Morning Worship.....10:45am
Wednesday Night Bible Study....7:00pm

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817.457.4362 mfbchurch@netzero.com
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SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:45AM

MORNING WORSHIP
11:00AM

WEDN BIBLE STUDY
7:00PM

**DR. C. L. PERKINS.
PASTOR**

**SAMARIA
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4000 E. Berry St.
Fort Worth, TX 76105
Phone: 817-536-6421

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Sunday School.....9:30 am
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Sunday School.....9:30 am
Morning Worship11:00 am
Prayer (Tuesday & Friday mornings).....11:00 am
Bible Study (Tuesday Night).....7:00 pm

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817-923-5431 www.elmgrovembc.org

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Sunday School.....9:45am
Worship Service.....11:00am
Wednesday Service.....7:30pm

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work of the ministry, for the edifying of the
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Morning Worship Service 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday Prayer Service & Bible Study
7:00 P.M.

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City seeks master developer for Evans & Rosedale urban village

The City of Fort Worth has launched a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) to find a new master developer for the Evans & Rosedale urban village in Fort Worth's Historic Southside.

This is an opportunity for an experienced mixed-use developer to work on a multiblock, six-acre greenfield site, located five minutes from downtown Fort Worth – the urban core of one of the fastest-growing large cities in the U.S.

This infill site has already benefitted from more than \$30 million in public investment over the past 20 years. It's located next to I-35 South, has already been zoned, and is ready for development.

The Evans & Rosedale properties are part of the Historic Southside – a former hub of Black commerce that has been home to many renowned Black entrepreneurs, as well as prominent Fort Worthians both past and present. Notable figures include William Madison McDonald, the first Black millionaire in Texas, and modern icon, Ms. Opal Lee – the "grandmother of Juneteenth." This neighborhood and the adjacent commercial district are an extremely important part of Fort Worth's history, and the City of Fort Worth is hoping to attract new development that supports and honors that legacy.

Interested developers can visit the Evans & Rosedale webpage to learn more about the project and how submit their proposals. Responses are due by 5 p.m. Monday, April 22.

Go deeper: The selection of an Evans &

Rosedale master developer will be informed in part by 86 responses to a recent community survey, in which a little less than 70% of responses were from individuals who live or work in the Historic Southside area, or both.

The survey's top priorities for a developer included continued engagement and communication with the neighborhood, a focus on the neighborhood's history, strong experience in local retail concepts, and a focus on new jobs and commercial spaces. There was also a strong desire for local Fort Worth contractors to be included in the construction of the project.

Additionally, the Historic Southside Neighborhood Association has provided a letter expressing their vision for this project, as well as a designation letter highlighting many of the historic Black-owned businesses and organizations that have contributed so much to the community's vibrant culture.

Robert Sturns, director of Economic Development for the City of Fort Worth, stressed the need for a project that does credit to the Historic Southside's legacy at a recent public meeting, while also reflecting its goals for the future.

"Over the years, we could have done any number of things at this site, but it is important to get the fit right," Sturns said. "We understand the history of this area and its long legacy of Black-owned business development, and we want to make sure anything we bring out here is a complement to that history and a complement to the community."

What's next: Following an initial internal re-

view and selection refinement, the City of Fort Worth anticipates interviews with finalists in May and announcing the new master developer soon afterwards.

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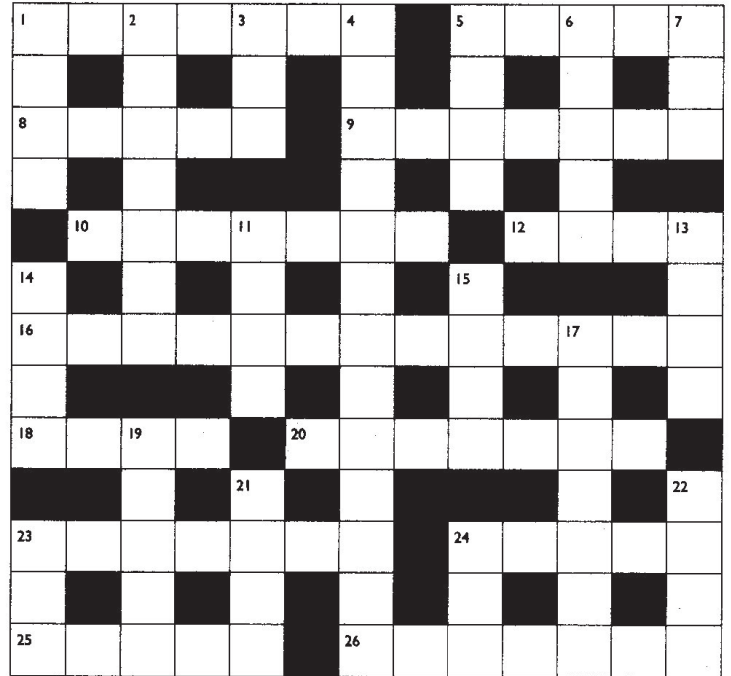
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Topic: BIBLE FILL-INS



ACROSS

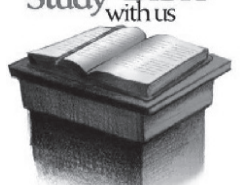
- 1 Contemptible, base people (Ps. 35:15, kv)
- 5 Of the 12 Hebrew spies, only Joshua and ___ were allowed to enter the Promised Land (Num. 14:38)
- 8 "Don't envy the wicked. Don't ___ his riches"; desire enviously (Prov. 24:19)
- 9 "The Prince of the bottomless pit whose name in Hebrew is ___, and in Greek, Apollyon [and in English, the Destroyer]" (Rev. 9:11)
- 10 Warned; informed beforehand (Judg. 16:2)
- 12 "Obey your father and your mother, for their advice is a ___ of light directed into the dark corners of your mind to warn you of danger and to give you a good life"; ray (Prov. 6:20, 23)
- 16 "God gave Paul the power to do unusual miracles, so that even when his ___ or parts of his clothing were placed upon sick people, they were healed"; small pieces of cloth (Acts 19:11, 12)
- 18 "A happy ___ means a glad

DOWN

- 20 "During the night some of Paul's converts let him down in a basket through an ___ in the city wall"; gap (Acts 9:25)
- 23 Welcome hug (Prov. 5:19)
- 24 Recurring round of events (Song 6:13)
- 26 "You constantly ___ the hunger and thirst of every living thing"; fulfill the desires or needs of (Ps. 145:16)
- 1 "The stone rejected by the builders has now become the capstone of the ___"; top part of a doorway (Ps. 118:22)
- 2 Light spear (Job 39:23)
- 3 Sever with a sharp edge (Exod. 35:33)
- 4 "The land is mine, so you may not sell it permanently. You are merely my tenants and ___"; farmers who work another's land for produce (Lev. 25:23)
- 5 "As the ___ is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand"; moist soil for shaping (Jer. 18:6)
- 6 Shelllike projection (Exod. 27:5)

- 7 Word meaning "son" in Hebrew (Gen. 35:18)
- 11 Long-handled garden tool with a row of projecting teeth at one end
- 13 "I've blotted out your sins; they are gone like morning ___ at noon"; visible water vapor (Isa. 44:22)
- 14 Head cook (1 Sam. 9:23)
- 15 Part of face below mouth (Lev. 13:29)
- 17 Castrated men (2 Kings 9:32)
- 19 Living compartment on a ship (Ezek. 27:6)
- 21 Infant (Exod. 2:6, kv)
- 22 Large group (Esther 2:19)
- 23 "Proud men ___ in shame, but the meek become wise"; finish (Prov. 11:2)
- 24 Small, portable bed

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SERVICE TIMES

Sunday School.....9:00am

Sunday Service.....10:30am

Wedn. Bible Study....6:30pm

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Zion Missionary Baptist Church

4100 Horne Street Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-737-6264

www.thezionbaptistchurch.org

REV. K.L. HAWKINS, Pastor

SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:00 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP.....10:30 a.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY - BIBLESTUDY.....6:30 p.m.

1ST, 4TH, 5TH WEDNESDAY - PRAYER SERVICE...7:30 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY - YOUTH MEETINGS.....7:30 p.m.

2ND & 3RD WEDNESDAY - SMALL GROUPS.....7:30 p.m.

3RD SATURDAYS - EVANGELISM.....10:30 a.m.



West Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

5325 Bonnell Street Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-731-3502

www.westmountmoriah.org

Dr. W.L.D. Campbell, Pastor

Sunday School - Sunday 9:00am


Morning Worship - Sunday 10:05am

Prayer Meeting - Wednesday 7:00pm

VISION STATEMENT

To share the Light of Christ to a world in Darkness, beginning at home.

Hab. 2:1-4 Matt. 28:18-20



Zion Rest Missionary Baptist Church

3733 Ave J Fort Worth, TX 76105 817-534-8327

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9:30am Sunday School

11:00am Morning Worship

Wednesday 7:00pm Prayer Meeting

7:30pm Bible Study, Mission Youth Bible Study



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Sharon Ford-Turner, Overseer
3252 Oak Timber Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76119
817.614.6808

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

Sunday Services:

In-Person & Conference
Call Services.
9:00 amSunday School
10:00 am. Worship Service

Village Creek Nursing Homes Minister
following Pandemic guidelines
11:30 am 1st & 3rd Sunday

Prayer and Bible Study
Tuesday9:00 am

Conference Call Service
Mon-Sat.....6:00 am
Intercessory Prayer.



SHARON FORD TURNER

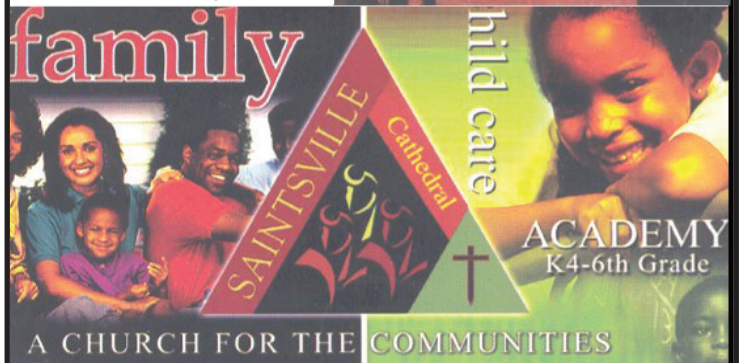
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"Loving the Lord with all our hearts
as we care for one another."
- Luke 10:27

Early Worship - 7:45am
Study Fellowship - 9:00am
Worship - 10:30am

Pastor Milton Pace

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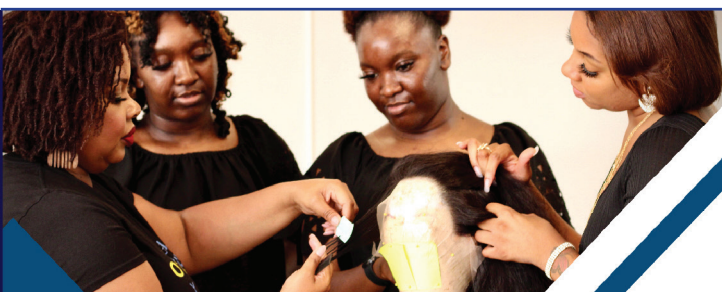
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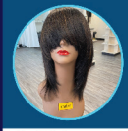
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