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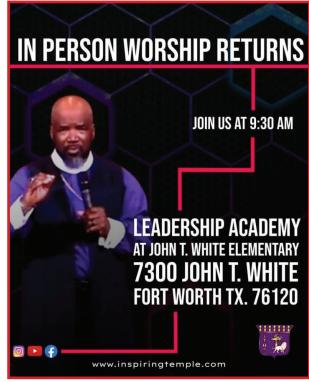
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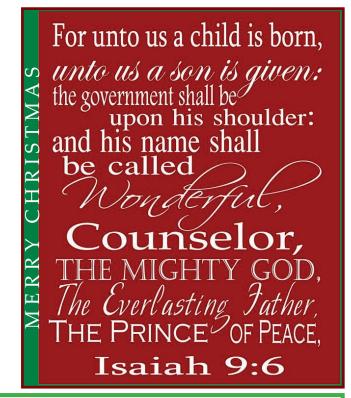
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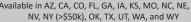


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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Most of us live by or are informed by the mantra "more is better." A representative sample of my pastor friends have talked with me about cutting back on the number of weekend services their church has. During the thick of the global pandemic (which, by the way, is still in effect), some pastors may have done like I did, that is, have multiple worship services. The two Sunday morning worship services were necessary due to social distancing and other Covid-related protocols. I mean, pre-Covid, if the church you attended, supported financially and served with had two or three weekend worship services it was a sign that your church was prospering and reaching people for Jesus Christ. For years, the conventional wisdom has been that increasing the number of worship services is the best path to go. You rarely heard leaders advocating decreasing the number of services. The concern is that the reduction of choices results in lower overall attendance.

But, there is substantial evidence that the "more is better" rule doesn't always hold. In fact, I've discovered that more than a few churches have actually increased their attendance when they decreased the number of services. After the Covid pandemic slowed down a little bit, I talked with a pastor friend on the East Coast who had three Sunday services pre-Covid and asked him about the wisdom of going from three worships to one and his answer was simple. He said, "Michael, the attendance dynamics have changed significantly and all we were doing was spreading the faithful over the multiple services and through prayer I chose to have one service that everyone could attend." I listened to his counsel, cut the number of weekend worship services to one and that has revived my church.

Now, there's something here I don't want you to miss: not all losses in attendance are bad. Here are a few ways the decline in attendance can be healthy for the church.

First, the rescheduling to fewer weekend worship services provide



an opportunity to re-focus. Historically, the church has wagered almost everything on gathering people in a building.

But now, growing churches are focusing less on gathering and much more on connecting.

Second, the pandemic has given many church leaders a clear picture of who the healthy and contributing church members are. We now know more than ever those upon whom they can depend. They know who their "go-to" members are. I've found that there are a good number of congregants who are hearers of the Word and not doers.

Number three: The simple church is being discovered or re-discovered. Many pastors and other church leaders have dared to eliminate many church activities. And, in doing so, they have led their churches to develop a clear and robust process of discipleship. Plus, the more services a church has, the greater the challenge to secure volunteers.

To be clear, I'm not advocating that the decrease in the number of Sunday morning services is best for all churches. But I am suggesting that it might indeed be the best option for a number of churches whose leaders have been reluctant to move in this direction.

*dr. michael bell is Senior Pastor 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 has just released a new book, "Finding God in Hard Places."



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Speak Life Thought

with First Lady & Co-Pastor Yolanda G. Butler

The Gift of Life

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

Jesus Christ, the precious gift of life given to all of humanity. As we reflect on this year, the world as we know it shall never be. We have seen such disaster, destruction, and devastation to such an elevated degree it is mind-boggling. The heart of man seems deceitful and spitefully wicked. Elevated prices in groceries, rent, interest rates, and the gas pump, just to name a few, have brought about an economic recession. Senseless mass shootings at retail stores to schools make vou wonder if it is worth it to even walk out the door.

While we may live in a hostile world, it is not without hope or life. The Bible declares that "God so loved this world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The hope for all of mankind is found through the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Living a life of sin and unrighteousness leads to a path of destruction for "the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). As a bornagain believer in the death, burial. and resurrection of Jesus Christ, I and all believers are mandated to share the love of God with everyone. For the Gospel is the Good News, the Power of God that leads to the saving grace of the Father (Romans 1:16). The greatest gift given to us was salvation. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ this Christmas season, let us try not to place so much emphasis on the tangible gift as we should on the eternal gift. Gifting giving is indeed a joy, but we should avoid overextending ourselves to where our intentions lead us to unneces-



sary debt.

My dear hearts, let us be creative in our giving to others in the tangible but ever so freely be determined to share the Good News of the Gift of Life. Merry Christmas to you and your family and I pray a prosperous and purposeFULL New Year be your portion in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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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Enrollment is Open at the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts in Fort Worth BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With a vision of solving a crisis of educational opportunity equity and fine arts-based education, the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts is now enrolling students for the 2023-2024 school year. In its inaugural year, AVPA is enrolling 6th and 7th graders and will add grade levels subsequently to all high school grade levels. Nestled into the south side of the city, AVPA seeks to serve students for whom attendance at private or fine arts schools remains an impossibility due to proximity or economic disadvantages.

Students will experience arts-integrated, project-based learning across subject areas and conservatory programming in dance, digital media arts, literary arts, music, theatre, and visual arts. The middle school program is an exploratory opportunity for students to learn and develop pertinent skills to make informed decisions about AVPA's high school conservatory programs for which they'll audition in the Spring of their eighth-grade year.

Another hallmark of AVPA is its dedication to personalized learning. This is bolstered by a commitment to provide a safe, challenging learning environment that cultivates, sustains, and promotes academic and artistic excellence. AVPA culture focuses on five tenets of well-being by addressing the needs of students enrolled. By addressing physical, psychological, social, emotional, and economic needs AVPA students are more apt to succeed academically and artistically.



Several community meetings have put residents and prospective students in direct communication with AVPA founder, Superintendent, and Principal, Stephanie Love. With enrollment opened, Dr, Love seeks to spread awareness of the school with faith and community leaders and the residents they serve. If you wish to learn more about the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts or wish to speak with Dr. Love, visit the school on the web at: www.avpaschools.org.

Some of the world's foremost entertainers the likes of Kirk Franklin, Major Attaway, Sedrick Huckaby, Leon Bridges, Tatiana Mayfield, Ornette Coleman, Dewey Redman, Channing Godfrey Peoples, and several others hail from Fort Worth, a city without a major school for the performing and visual arts in their home communities. Though proximity is not always the immediate crisis, opportunity equity, and impedances to fine arts-enriched programming, yet abound. AVPA seeks to fill this void and make futures in visual and performing arts a possibility for more students with the opening of their school.

We mourn the loss of Supt E. Charles Barrett, Pastor of Rising Star Church of God in Christ, Fort Worth, TX



Supt. E. Charles Barrett was born in Palestine, Texas a small town in East Texas. He is the 8th child of eleven children born to the union of Bishop Tyree and Queen Esther Barrett. Supt. Barrett was brought up in a very strict home, where he attended a Methodist church and was taught the word of God.

Supt. Barrett received his diploma from Neches High School in 1970. After finishing high school he came to Fort Worth, Texas, where he worked for a blueprint Company for over 23 years. He later enrolled in air condition and electrical classes, where he received his certificate in air condition

In 1971, Supt. Barrett married the love of his life, Ida M. Busby and they have been married 39 years. To this union, the Lord has blessed them with two precious children, Kathy and Charles. They have been blessed with a beautiful daughter -in-law (Annie) and five precious grandchildren.

The Lord saved and filled Supt. Barrett with the Holy Ghost under the leadership of the late Supt. Robert L. Macklin, who was the pastor and founder of The Rising Star Church of God In Christ. Supt. Macklin became his spiritual father and mentor and trained him for the great task that was ahead of him.

After serving as a Junior Deacon for a short time, the Lord called Supt. Barrett to preach the gospel. After Supt. Macklin observed him and the love he had for the people, Supt. Barrett was appointed the Assistant Pastor of The Rising Star Church of God In Christ.

Under Supt. Macklin, he served as the Y.P.W.W. president for over 25 years. He organized the video ministry and as the Assistant Pastor, he served in numerous capacities of the church. In the Starlight District under District Supt. Macklin, he served as the District Sunday School Supt. and treasurer. In 2004 the Lord saw fit to call Supt. Macklin from labor to reward. Before his demise, Supt. Macklin let it be known that he wanted Supt. Barrett to succeed him as pastor of this great church. After Supt. Macklin's demise, Supt. Barrett was installed as Pastor of The Rising Star Church of God In Christ by the Jurisdictional Bishop. Bishop James Edward Lee, prelate of The Texas East Jurisdiction. Souls have been added to the church, and Gods' favor continues to be upon the church. God told Joshua. "So I was with Moses, I'll be with you". The church has advanced to the next level under the leadership of Supt. Barrett.

After being installed as Pastor, the Lord has steadily exalted Supt. Barrett. As we all know Promotions come from God. He was promoted and installed as an Assistant District Supt, under the District Supt. Johnny Castleberry and after Supt. Castleberry resigned as District Supt. Supt. Barrett was promoted and installed as District Supt. of The Starlight

In 2009, he was promoted and installed as a Special Assistant to Bishop James E. Lee, Prelate of The Texas East Juris-

Supt. Barrett and the Rising Star COGIC is one of longest tenure supporters of CHURCHIN' Monthly and he will truly be missed. We continue to lift the family up

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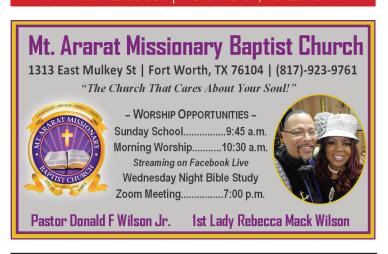
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Around the Community with **Pastor Sharon Ford-Turner**







Pic 2) Celebrating of Life for Pastor Supt. Special Adm. Assist. to Bishop E. Charles Barrett with Missionary Joanne Macklin and Missionary Robin Macklin Anderson at Holy Tabernacle COGIC in Ft. Worth.TX.: Pic 2) With Min. James Christopher and Sis. Preshawn Ford at Celebrating of Life; Pic 3) At TCC South Campus Faith Based Community Engagement Dinner with Dr. Gwen Morrison TCC Board Trustee

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Gospel Musicians...Who are they?

can Americans began to fuse traditional African sounds with Christian

Gospel musicians play a form of religious music to express their personal Christian beliefs or those of the Christian community. They use a variety of instruments to try to generate intense feelings in those who listen to the music. Gospel music is played as part of the regular Sunday worship service or for the personal enjoyment of the musician. Since its inception, gospel music has become increasingly popular, and an entire genre is devoted to it within the music industry.

Gospel music may be played as part of a regular Sunday worship service.

The lyrics of the gospel songs they sing are written in a call and answer manner where the singers call out a line and wait for the audience to repeat. Gospel singers often have strong vocal chords and an ability to harmonize with various instruments or other vocalists. They may perform solos, in small groups, or as a part of a choir. Some gospel quartets and groups perform without the aid of backup musicians. Others, like the Blind Boys of Alabama, perform with only one or two other instruments.

Country music has been influenced by gospel music.

In other gospel groups, the melody is played by pianists, organists, drummers, and guitarists. Gospel musicians focus their energy on the feeling behind the musical notes and strive to play more than just what is written on the page. These musicians attempt to create emotion in their audience with the sounds emanating from their instruments. They may play the note louder to create excitement and urgency, or they may play softer to

Gospel music originated when Afri- create a feeling of sadness or de-

Gospel musicians may perform as part of a church choir.

Gospel musicians and singers are taught various chord progressions to enhance the feeling of the worship service. They may use shouting and praise chords to encourage parishioners to sing, clap, or dance while shouting praise to God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. Musicians may use worship chords to infuse feeling into the ceremony. Preaching chords are taught to musicians so that they may use their instrument or voice to enhance the preacher's

Traditionally, Gospel musicians were of African-American descent. but they now include people of all backgrounds. The music originated in the early 1800s as a means for African-American slaves to learn the Christian faith. It was also used to reinforce the doctrine of slavery. The music progressed through the holiness-Pentecostal movement, and from there, it was played on the radio. Traces of gospel music are found in a variety of musical genres such as blues, country, jazz, and rock and roll.



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4500 S. Riverside Dr. Ft. Worth, TX 76119 817-534-1600 817-534-1612Fax www.newbreedchristian.com Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday. 9am - 4pm

Weekly Services
SUNDAYS MORNING GLORY.....

NEW HARVEST

SERVICE TIMES

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

le Study: 7:00 p Wednesday



...7:00 am

..10:30 am

Precious orners one Missionary Baptist Church

4916 Ramey Avenue Ft. Worth, TX 76105 817.413.8771 Email: cornbapt02@aol.com



-- Service Times -- SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM SUNDAY MORNING 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY @ 7:00 PM

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Sixth Avenue

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PASTOR WILLIAM MCKINLEY JACKSON

Sunday School..... Sunday Morning Worship.. Wednesday Prayer..... Wednesday Bible Study....

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> REV. DONALD F. WILSON . JR. PASTOR



1313 E. Mulkey Stree Fort Worth, TX 76104 Church: 817.923.9761 Pastor Study: 817.826.7208



Church of God in Christ

SUNDAY SERVICES Sunday School9:30 am Moraning Worship....11:00am

FRIDAY NIGHT

"If you go with us, we will do you good!

The Church at Philadelphia 4716 Wichita Street Fort Worth, Texas 76119 Service Times Sunday School (In-Person or Virtual) 9:

>

3909 Reed Street Fort Worth, TX 76119

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tastebud Ministries Church



"Where the Word of God is Food for the Soul"

SERVANTS/PASTO Gea & Kim

A	lucison
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)	

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"The Work Lives On" 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
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Services at Village Creek Nursing Home
Bible Study - Tuesday @ 6:00pm
3252 Oak Timber, Forest Hill, TX 76119

Prayer / Spiritual Counseling / Teaching Visitation of Sick & Shut In Helping Hand Food Distribution Ministries College Scholarship Foundation



West Mt. Moriah **Baptist Church**

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

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 Missionary Baptist Church

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

REV. K.L. HAWKINS, Pastor

STINDAY SCHOOL



Zion Rest

Missionary Baptist Church Fort Worth, TX 76105 817-534-8327

PASTOR RUFUS HUCKABY

11:00am Morning Worship

7:00pm **Prayer Meeting** 7:30pm Bible Study, Mis



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We Must REFUSE by Michael Edwards

We must REFUSE doubt, fear, worry, anger, jealousy, covetousness, bitterness, resentment, offense ... REFUSE!

The enemy's constant temptation is to get us to walk in the flesh. He does this by getting us to doubt God's word as he did with Eve, to fail to fully trust God's promises of provision and care in this life. When we walk by faith, believing God's word all out, we walk in the Spirit and the enemy cannot touch us. When we walk in the flesh, he can devour us.

Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in your faith... 1 Peter 5:8-9a ESV

We can tell if we are in the flesh or the Spirit by our symptoms. Every symptom I have listed above is of the flesh. These are all warning signs that we are walking by sight and not by faith. In themselves, they are all sins that lead to more visible outward acts of sin.

For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. Rom 14:23b ESV

When we are in the flesh it is as if we are standing on a slippery slope, one wrong step and down we go into more sin. So, do you understand why the enemy wants you in the flesh?

Thankfully, in Christ we are protected from sins condemnation, we are under grace and no longer under the law (Rom 6:14). But God does not want us in turmoil that leads to outward acts of sin that can hurt us and others. He wants us walking by faith in the Spirit. This is the only way to defeat the flesh and naturally produce the fruits of the Spirit.

The only permanent solution is to stop doubting and believe God's promises all out. We must trust our heavenly Father. His peace and power are ours; we just need to believe and trust Him completely.

Dear Father, help us to stand firm in the faith, forever refusing the enemy's temptations to walk in the flesh. Help us to believe your promises as if our life depends on it, because we know it does.

Jesus poured out His blood for the New Covenant of grace and truth, replacing the Old Covenant law of Moses. Believers are exclusively under the New Covenant, the last will and testament of Jesus that began after

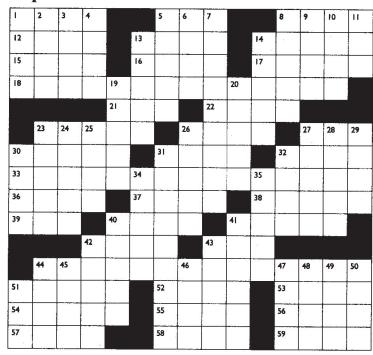
And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood." Luke

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BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Topic: ISAIAH 53



ACROSS

I A pinch of a recipe ingredient

5 Atlantic City casino

8 Humane org.: abbr.

12 Armbone

13 Bill of fare 14 Musical exercise

15 Armor

16 Auto pioneer

17 More unusua 18 What the "man of sorrow

was acquainted with (Isa. 53:3)

21 Tyrannosaurus or Oedipus 22 One of the plotters of (2 wds.)

23 Sandwich salads

26 A long way off

27 "A ____ of sorrows" (Isa. 53:3) 30 Veins

31 French rulers 32 "Yet it was our grief he ___

(lea 53.4)

33 "He was lashed-

_" (Isa. 53:5)

36 Appropriate, formerly

37 The backs of boats

38 Slimfast and Weight Watchers

39 Exclamation of a cold person

40 Jazz singer Fitzgerald 41 Sign of life

42 Transaction

43 Pouch 44 "But in our eyes there was no

at all" (Isa, 53:2)

51 Spook

52 Musical sound 53 Hebrew letter

54 Vocally

55 Operator of a RR train: abbr.

56 A word on Belshazzar's wall 57 What man was made from

58 Expires

59 Being (Lat.) **DOWN**

> I "As a sheep before her shearers is _

ers is _____, so he stood silent" (Isa. 53:7) 2 lai-

3 Dither

4 Desist 5 Electronic communique

6 Companion of ifs and buts

7 Makes right (Isa. 53:11)

8 Spot

9 Clean

10 B-G filling

11 ____ Lingus (Irish airline) 13 Customs

14 Gaffe

19 Wipe out

20 Grind teeth

23 Photocopier supply

24 Where milk comes from

25 Fft

26 Major artery

27 Spies on the inside

28 Sharp ridge 29 Beatty and Rorem 30 "He was brought as a ____ the slaughter" (Isa. 53:7) 31 Sent back light

32 Bond

34 ____ Walla, Washington

35 Draw out 40 Like some vases

41 Cement workers 42 March ostentatiously

43 Burn slightly

44 Human rights watchdog: abbr. 45 New Mexico town

46 Home permanent 47 Handle

48 "In God's_ he was like a

tender green shoot" (Isa. 53:2) 49 "But he was wounded and

bruised for our " (Isa. 53:5)

50 Dirk

51 Depressed

The National Domestic Violence

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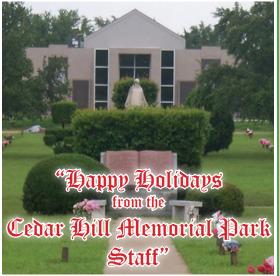
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Glorify your Father in Heaven MATT 5:16







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

Sunday Services: Conference Call Services.

9:00 am



Sunday School SHARON FORD TU

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

Mon-Sat

6:00 am Intercessory Prayer

