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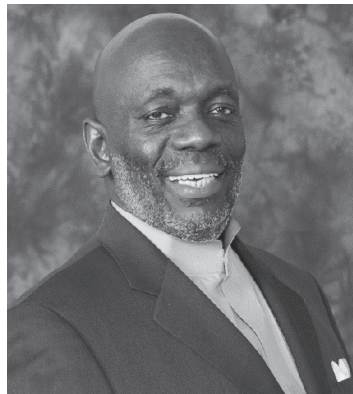
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**“The LEADER’S EDGE”** by drmichaelbell

I’ve been in church leadership, in some capacity, for a minute or two and I’ve discovered that there’s a truckload of truth in the adage that goes “What got you here won’t get you there.” We’re barreling, seemingly at warp speed, to the end of 2021 and, as a church leader, you probably (hopefully) have already done about 75% of the planning for 2022. And I know at least some of you reading this are asking “How on earth do I/we plan in an environment like this?”



rapidly evolving contexts. It requires leaders to have a learning posture - learning from God, learning each other and learning from some unfamiliar resources in other arenas.

Here’s what goes on under my thinking cap as I think about what got me here not getting me there:

- The strategies I used in the past appear to have had some traction...can’t those same strategies just work again?
- Do I have the energy or even want to rethink everything again?
- If I can get incremental results doing what I’m doing now, why can’t I just continue to “ride on the horse I rode in on?”

As soon as I hear myself think along these lines I immediately realize that what helped the church or ministry I lead make progress in the past won’t work as effectively in the future. We’re still in the vise grip of a global pandemic with a mounting body count. There are seismic social and economic shifts occurring at the same time. With these and other pressing issues intruding on and frequently disrupting the rhythm of our daily lives, it’s almost a given that the years ahead will be years of big change for almost everyone: church leaders and business leaders alike.

So what adjustments do church leaders need to make to meet the challenges ahead?

For one thing, you have to be open in the midst of change, stagnation, dislocation and decline. Stay open to new ways of thinking, new approaches, different perspectives, and new processes. Let’s call this “leadership agility.” Leadership agility is the capacity and capability to take effective action in complex,

Another adjustment you, a leader, have to make is that you have to cultivate your ability to recover quickly from difficulties. In other words you have to develop buoyancy, which is another word for resilience. Resilience is the ability to adapt and bounce back in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, and/or distress. To become a resilient leader you must:

- Stop your negative thought cycles.
- Know your strengths and use them.
- Embrace change.

This is not an exhaustive list, just a primer to get you started.

One more thing. Effective church leaders, whether clergy or laity are big picture thinkers who can rise above the day-to-day and see things from a more expansive perspective. Big picture thinkers have the ability to get people excited about where they’re going and how to get there; they are innovative, perceptive, and creative.

I hope these thoughts will get you started in the right direction as you make church/ministry plans for the new year.

*\*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.*

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**A Life of Enduring Love**

*“Three things will last forever: faith, hope and love—and the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor. 13:13 NLT)*

December is a month we have opportunity to demonstrate love as we reflect and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We endeavor to shower others with gifts such as food, clothes, toys, etc. We endeavor to sow seeds of kindness upon the homeless, orphaned, sick and shut in, bereaved, widowed, etc. We all know that the greatest, most cherished gift we could ever give anyone is the gift of Christ. Because of the celebratory aspect this month is supposed to bring, we endeavor to try to do a little extra to spread that Christmas joy and love.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that without love all that we do, whether in word or deed is meaningless. Holy Spirit spoke to me to unite with a local ministry that serves the homeless and provide tents as the winter season approaches. After speaking with the founder, we made a projected goal of sixty. The public support was amazing. Even while at the checkout purchasing some tents a precious lady behind me offered to pay for half. As I delivered the tents to the founder, she shared that sometimes people give to be seen or get something rather than from the heart. It brought to life the verse that says if we give to the poor without love we gain nothing! (1 Cor. 13:3) I did not take a single picture of myself but only the tents so the sponsors could see the fruits of their seed. I said “yes” to this assignment, not to boost my ministry but rather because of the Father’s love.

Paul identifies fourteen predications of the “love-way,” seven are in the negative and seven in the positive. Love gives and gives in the right manner and with the right motive. Our Heavenly Father demonstrated this through His Son. Jesus lived the love-way to show us how to do the same. We have such a wonderful opportunity to give every day especially during the last two months of the year. Why not do it in such a way that honors God’s love? Whether you are giving to your family, your church, or a local mission, examine your heart to make sure your giving is genuine, not pressured, and motivated from a place of love and not obligation. (2 Cor. 9:7, 13:5)

Faith in God and hope (expectations) in Him are manifestations of love. (1 Cor. 3:13) Every be-

liever that is characterized by the love-way carries that mark eternally. Prophecy, tongues, and other spiritual gifts will one day cease but the love-way will remain forever. The Father expects His children to be givers. During this month, challenge yourself to address any pride or unforgiveness that may be lingering in your heart blocking your ability to give from a place of love. Forgive and love yourself and then forgive and love others. (Matt. 22:39) By endeavoring to daily walk in God’s love, it becomes natural for you to keep no record of being wronged and to live in the spirit of love. So dear hearts, be determined to live in such a way that honors God through enduring love.

*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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# AMERICA, GET BETTER NOT BITTER. A Texas Pastor and Wife Create Coffee Project To Help Stimulate The Inner-City Economy and Help America Get Better Not Bitter

FORT WORTH, TEXAS | Pastor Kyeve Tatum and his wife Tonya of the New Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas have been on a mission since May 2018 to help change the trajectory of life expectancy in the 76104 community of his birth.



In April 2019, researchers from UT Southwestern in Dallas discovered that these historically black neighborhoods of East 76104 have the lowest life expectancy in the entire state of Texas at 67 years, with black males with the lowest life expectancy rate at 64 years. Since then, the Tatum have been gathering community leaders, elected officials, and subject matter experts to help identify, isolate and increase services to eliminate the problem areas.

Then in February 2020, the Coronavirus Pandemic hit the world and like everyone else the Tatum were moved with compassion and duty, created the New Mount Rose Bowl, a public, private, faith-based outreach distribution hub to provide fresh food, personal protection equipment, medical support for Covid-19 recovery including boosters, flu shots, testing, vaccinations, and the latest and up to date accurate information from Health and Human Services and the Center for Disease Control.

By February 2021, the New Mount Rose Bowl had distributed over 10 million dollars in complimentary pandemic supplies and services to over 100 churches, social clubs, childcare facilities, and other community organizations seeking support during this unprecedented time.

On February 15, 2021, the winter storm hit Texas hard and devastated the church building. The entire church

was impacted and a major renovation was set to begin.

While the church was under repair, Pastor Tatum received a call from the Biden Administration's Region 6, Health and Human Services asking if our church could help improve the awareness and education to increase vaccination rates in isolated communities of color that have a historic mistrust of the government. Since then, Pastor Tatum and the GodSquad have been traveling across the city spreading confidence and encouragement to help build confidence back into the community.

In June 2021, in collaboration with USA Drug Testing of Plano, the New Mount Rose Bowl created the Faith At The Plate COVID Recovery Popup Hubs at several different churches in isolated communities to increase vaccinations for isolated under vaccinated communities This model is gaining national traction and is currently seeking funding to continue the work.

To help build economy capacity for these exciting initiatives, Pastor and Sister Tatum created the Inner-City Coffee Exchange and Ballpark Coffee in collaboration with the Texas A&M University Center for Coffee Research and Education, Texas Rangers Baseball Club, and What's the Buzz Coffee. This new economic stimulus strategy has created a coffee cooperative and coffee festival designed to stimulate the economy, percolate possibilities, and cultivate conversations within confrontations as we promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the specialty coffee industry.

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## INSIDE THE MUSIC

with Elder Judy Neal



### HYMNFEST, A CELEBRATION OF THE HYMNS

I recently experienced an amazing and heart-warming musical right here in Fort Worth that made me smile, become nostalgic, wave my hand and thank God for His Grace. This melodious event, "The METROPLEX HYMNFEST", was created 15 years ago by Dr. Glenn Nixon. Dr. Nixon is a major musical personality known throughout the DFW church and civic communities as well as nationally within the Baptist Convention and Gospel Music Workshop of America. Now

in its 15th year, Dr. Nixon once again pulled together some of the area's most dynamic gospel music veterans to present the songs that many church-raised Black folks grew up hearing and singing, the hymns. Years ago, a discussion about the significance of hymns with Baker Funeral Services owner Mrs. Cookie Baker, motivated Dr. Nixon to create this annual fellowship to showcase and preserve the hymns. Programs like HymnFest are critical to ensure that future generations will learn, play, sing and appreciate these beloved songs of the church.

Dr. Nixon called on the well-respected cohort, Minister of Music Cornelis Wells to secure her church Shiloh M.B.C. to host the 2021 HymnFest. The night would be



filled with adoring comments from singers and attendees who Sis Wells had mentored to sing, play and pray with power. The audience was filled with other impressive gospel musicians and pastors even who simply came to enjoy the service and hear the treasured songs they grew up on. The program switched between individual solos to congregational singing led by various choir directors. Dr. Nixon took us back to church in the 50's and 60's with the standard choir processional "Marching to Zion". (Suddenly I was 5 years old in the Sunbeam choir). Dr. Patrick Bradley, Min of Music at West B.C. in Lewisville reminded us how the 'devotional service' used to include "Sweet Hour of Prayer", "Breathe on Me" and "The Lord in His Holy Temple". From there, Dallas' Rev Brent Polk ignited the atmosphere with a medley which included "Fill My Cup Lord", "Is God Satisfied with Me" and "Only a Prayer Away".

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The half ended with the very accomplished St. John BC Minister of Music Dr. Clark Joseph leading and teaching the congregation "Count Your Blessings" and "Count On Me".

We got a special treat with greetings from Fort Worth's own Juneteenth Holiday advocate, Ms. Opal Lee. She encouraged us to do our part to make the world better. Enthusiastically she insisted that for her, "it's not a Me thing, it's a We thing". Other surprises included 91 year old Bro Lewis Joseph from Michigan, former singer with Mahalia Jackson, singing "I Made It" in a sweet yet strong tenor voice. Rose Hill BC Pastor Joe Foster directed the audience in "My Faith

Looks Up to Thee". He said this song made him remember his 13 year old self. Other singers included Samaria BC Pastor Dr. McKinley Jackson, Rev Eddie Smith, Bro Larry Bradford, Sis Carlas Brown. Shiloh Pastor Kraig Pullam greeted the audience and Dr. Dwight McKissic shouted us out the building with a snippet of his sermon series entitled "Melodies of Heaven". He also announced that HymnFest Arlington will be held at Cornerstone BC in early 2022! Of course it will be! Hope to see you there!

*May Peace be Your Journey*  
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judy@360wisemediam.com Holla

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4

## Let's Talk About Worthiness!

By Pastor Taylor G. Martin

Let's talk about worthiness. I grew up in church and I am the result of both the many benefits and the drawbacks of traditional church teaching. I am successful. Another truth: I suffer heavily from impostor syndrome. Impostor syndrome is a phenomenon in which a high-achieving person (by most standards) feels that their successes in life occur by chance or happenstance. A person that suffers from impostor syndrome feels like a fraud, like they are living a life they do not deserve, like all the amazing things they achieved have absolutely nothing to do with them or anything they have done.

Saved people are too often taught that they are undeserving of the good that comes their way. Some traditional church teachings portray Christians to be these unworthy beings. I grew up in church believing that every single good thing that happened to me had absolutely nothing to do with me. I felt like the wins in my life were by happenstance, or "God-magic" and not the result, even if just in part, of God intentionally creating me to be amazing and capable, and that he had given me the ability, or authority, to put in the work and reap the benefits of all of that.

Faith isn't really much at all without work. Merely just believing in God does not really amount to much. The New Testament is



filled with instances of people being healed by their faith, but for most of them, it was never really just their faith. Their faith fueled them to make moves outside of what ordinary people would do. They had to put in work. They had to take a few steps towards what they were asking God for. The woman with the issue of blood had to press through a crowd and grab the hem of Jesus' garment. The mother whose child was demon-possessed had to beg and plead her case as to why, as a Gentile woman, she and her daughter deserved Jesus' time, attention, and blessing. John 4 tells the story of Jesus curing a nobleman's son after he was the noble man begged Him. He put in work by finding out where Jesus was and then refusing to take "no" for an answer.

God expects us to put in work in expectation of something amazing happening. We work toward what we want knowing that (i) God is working on the inside of us; (ii) God is working around us; (iii) at the very minimum we will get what we asked for because we worked toward it, and (iv) God will do more than what we expected because he does exceedingly abundantly above what we ask or think according to the God's authority working inside of us. Thus, the amazing things happening to us are not by happenstance. They are the result of our work, and God's work in us.

Hopefully the takeaway is that unworthiness is not what God desires for us to feel. You are worthy. Your hard work matters. Your effort matters. Your faith matters. You matter. You are chosen. You are royal. You are part of a holy nation. You are salt. You are light. You are the head and not the tail. You are above and not beneath. You are a lender and not a borrower. You are more than a conqueror. You are an overcomer. You are a child of God. You are a friend of God. You were made with fear and wonder. You were made in the image of God. You are God's workmanship. You are forgiven. You are redeemed. You are a joint-heir with Christ. You are a new creature. You are blessed. You are whole. You are complete. You lack nothing. You are worthy of good things. You are alive. You are beautiful. You are precious. MOST IMPORTANTLY, you are LOVED!

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



Pic 1) Attending The 85th Birthday Celebration of Missionary Pauline Walker of Ft. Worth, TX; Pic 2) Turners Chapel COGIC of TX Children with Pastor Remembering Domestic Violence Awareness. OCT. 2021 with Outside Prayer and Balloons Release Program.

## Christ-Centered Missionary Baptist Church

**Sunday Morning**

Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM

**Wednesday Evening**

Prayer 6:30 PM  
Bible Study 7:00 PM

**Edward Justice**  
Pastor

5200 David Strickland Rd. Fort Worth, TX. 76119 817-969-5390

## The Rising Star Church of God in Christ

3909 Reed St. - Ft. Worth, TX 76119 - Ph: 817.534.6963  
www.therisingstarogic.com

**Supt. E. Charles Barrett, Pastor**  
**Mother Ida Barrett, First Lady**

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

**Sunday Services**

Sunday School	9:30 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
YPWW	6:30 PM
Night Service	7:30 PM

**Tuesday Services**

Morning Prayer	11:00 AM
Bible Band	7:00 PM

**Friday Services**

Morning Prayer	11:00 AM
Night Services	7:30 PM



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

*"Reaching Out To You Ministry"*

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 KNON 89.3 FM "Just Believe Broadcast"  
 Thursday Morning 4am-7am  
 Community Cable TV Channel 28  
 Sun 7:30-8:30p; Wed 12n-1p, Sat 4:30p-5:30p

**Tastebud Ministries Church**

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

SERVANTS/PASTOR Gea & Kim Anderson

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

**Turner Chapel COGIC of Texas**

Supt. James Turner Memorial Ministry

Evangelist Sharon Mason-Turner, Overseer  
 P.O. Box 330401 Ft. Worth, TX 76163 . 817-294-2443  
 Email:slford@academicplanet.com

*"The Work Lives On"*

9:00 am.....Sunday School  
 10:00 am.....Worship Service  
 7:00 p.m.....Bible Study

EVERY 2nd Sunday at 10:30 am  
 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 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 Missionary Baptist Church**

4100 Home 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.

**Zion Rest Missionary Baptist Church**

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


**PASTOR RUFUS HUCKABY**

Worship and Study Services

9:30am Sunday School  
 11:00am Morning Worship  
 Wednesday 7:00pm Prayer Meeting  
 7:30pm Bible Study, Mission Youth Bible Study

**COMING EVENTS**

**Special Christmas Love Day of Giving** for the Residents of Village Creek Wellness and Rehabilitation Center, Ft. Worth, Tx. on Sunday, December 19th @ 12 noon. Following Pandemic guidelines.



**Tastebud Ministries Church**

7101 Wichita Street, Forest Hill, TX 76140. Needs Help to purchase 40+ Winter Coats (Sizes: Youth X-Small, Medium, Regular-Large) for needy elementary children, boy & girls. You can Cash App (\$tmc7101) or call (817) 446-9408 to make arrangements. Servants Gea & Kim



**Fort Worth Alumni Wiley Club "Meet and Greet"**

December 18, 2021 @ 2pm - 4pm  
 Reby Cary Youth Library  
 3851 E. Lancaster (This is a new library) Fort Worth, TX 76103  
 Come out and join the fun.  
 More Information and RSVP: Contact Darlene @ 817-500-1121

**The National Domestic Violence HOTLINE**

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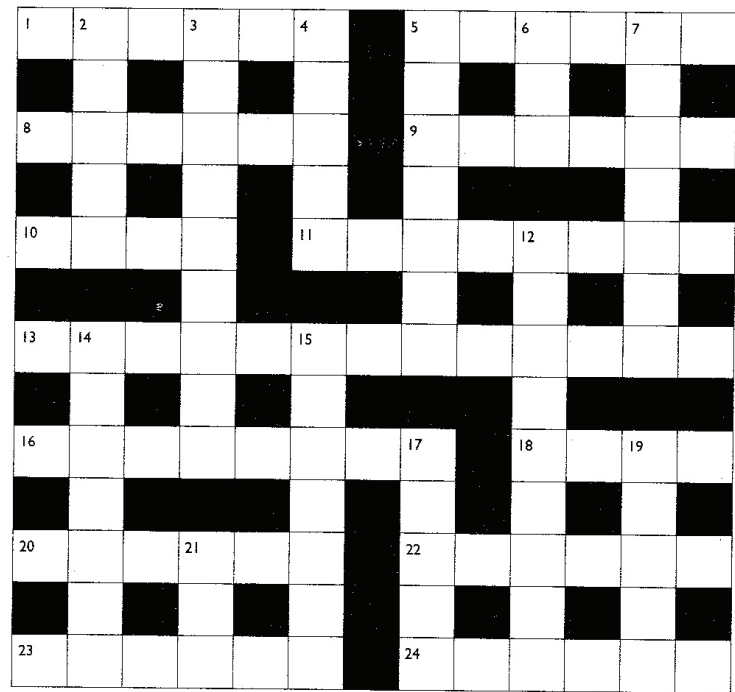
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## BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Topic: ATTITUDE CHECK

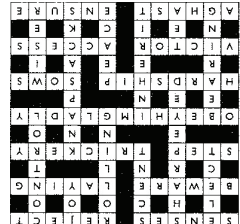


**ACROSS**

1 "They will come to their \_\_\_\_ and escape from Satan's trap of slavery to sin" (2 Tim. 2:26)  
 5 "Some will come to me—those the Father has given me—and I will never, never \_\_\_\_ them" (John 6:37)  
 8 "\_\_\_\_ that your hearts do not turn from God to worship other gods" (Deut. 11:16)  
 9 Placing; putting (Lev. 16:21)  
 10 "The love of money is the first \_\_\_\_ toward all kinds of sin" (1 Tim. 6:10)  
 11 Deliberate act of deception (Acts 13:10)  
 13 Quote from Psalm 100:2 about our response to God: 3 wds.  
 16 "We patiently endure suffering and \_\_\_\_ and trouble of every kind" (2 Cor. 6:4)  
 18 "A man will always reap just the kind of crop he \_\_\_\_" (Gal. 6:7)

**DOWN**

2 Choose by vote (2 Sam. 3:21)  
 3 "Wisdom is hid from the eyes of all mankind; even the \_\_\_\_ birds in the sky cannot discover it" (Job 28:21)  
 4 Distinctive odor (Song 4:11)  
 5 "Having started the ball \_\_\_\_ so enthusiastically, you should carry this project through to completion just as gladly" (2 Cor. 8:11)  
 6 "When the Holy Spirit controls our lives he response to God: 3 wds.  
 7 "Anyone who says he is a Christian but doesn't \_\_\_\_ his sharp tongue is just fooling himself" (James 1:26)  
 12 Strapped, back bag to carry supplies: pl. (Mark 6:8)  
 14 "They are like trees along a river bank \_\_\_\_ luscious fruit" (Ps. 1:3)  
 15 Come into possession by legal succession (Luke 20:14)  
 17 "I am leaving you with a gift—\_\_\_\_ of mind and heart" (John 14:27)  
 19 "Your words make me \_\_\_\_ than my enemies because they are my constant guide" (Ps. 119:96, 98)  
 21 Beverage made by steeping dried leaves in boiling water (Hos. 4:12)



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Supt. James Turner  
Memorial Ministries  
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:  
Conference Call  
Services.  
9:00 am  
Sunday School



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

Tuesday ....10:30 am  
Prayer and Bible Study  
Conference Call Service

Mon-Sat  
6:00 am Intercessory Prayer

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