

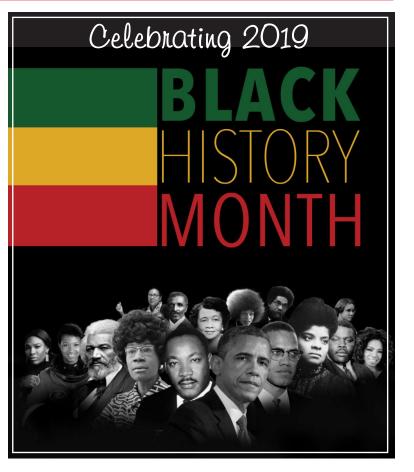
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Sunday, February 10, 2019

dr. m.a. bell, Pastor/Teacher



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Anniversary Dinner after 10 A.M. Worship

6 P.M. FRESH FIRE Elder Dwalunda Alexander Preaching

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



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MICHAEL W. JORDAN, Sr

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From the Publisher...

"Thank you Lord for all you've done for me'

God has truly blessed my life and I recognize that He is the source of all things good and perfect and it is He that has made me and and not me myself.

If it had not been for the Lord on my side, I hate to think about where I would be. Like many of us, I've done things in my life that perhaps should have and could have ended my life. Things that I acted on in impulse and some things I planned. I haven't always made the best choices. But, the grace of God continued to keep my eyes open and allowed me to recognize the difference between right and wrong. Once I have that guidance, then it's completely up to me to make the right choice.

One of the greatest benefits to having God in my life is that, I can never make a decision without Him speaking to me. That still quite voice, always whispering a word of encouragement when it's the right thing and that strong repremanding voice when I'm on the verge of a bad decision. He's always there, guiding me and lighting the way to a positive outcome, if only I will listen.

You see, God has never and will never leave you alone or leave you to your own understanding, if you would only listen. The catch is, we have to study and spend time with God so when He speaks, we'll know His voice.

With all the clutter going on in the world and in our lives, it's easy to loose focus or to confuse what feels right with what is right.

An intimate relationship with God, calms the clutter and gives us a different perspective on what we're facing and that's often times all we need, is a different perspective.

We are all products of our upbringing

and the things we've been expose to as we've journey from childhood to adulthood. These things shape our beliefs and our tendecies to the point that these things are our only reference point when dealing with life.

Well, I thank God that He has offered me a different perspective, His perspective, which I can say for myself, has always worked out for the good. I'm so thankful to my parents and those caring people along the way who would not let me do whatever I wanted to do or say whatever I wanted to say and they always led the conversation with what GOD would say or how God would feel about a situation. It took me a while to get it but now I know, with God, all things are possible and all things work for the good for them who love the Lord, if I would only LISTEN.

Once the spirit of God is in you, He will lead you and guide you along the way, to the best life, a happy life, a full life, if we would only LISTEN.

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Please join us, February 10th @ 10:30am for our Annual Brotherhood Day here at the Sixth Avenue church; also we present Revival Sunday on February 17th @ 10:30am; a couple of weeks after that we celebrate Youth Sunday, February 27th @ 10:30am. You're invited to join us, we welcome your attendance.



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Together 76134, L.S. Wilson, Pastor

"The LEADER'S EDGE" by dr. michael bell

This is the second of a two-part piece on the priority of communication.

Communication is the transmission of ideas, feelings and information which facilitates a sense of understanding and community. Effective communication empowers people for ministry. Communication within the Church keeps people informed, supports people and programs, enables marketing, sensitizes people, provides a platform for expression and concern about issues, and builds a sense of community.

Like any other entity or organization, the Church must be effective at communicating its message. Church problems and a lack of growth often emanate from ineffective communication and a lack of team work. Whether you are a Pastor, a ministry leader, a committee chairperson, etc., consider three things when communicating:

1. Your Members. Leaders, don't assume that the members of your congregation know what you're thinking or where things are headed. Things that are obvious to you may not be obvious to them. Those who involve themselves in the ministry, committee, choir or small group you lead respond better when they're informed.

2. Your Message. People want to know why you're doing things so you should just tell them anyway. Clarify your "why" upfront; it helps people "buy into" the things you're doing. Share the big picture to inspire people and keep them moving forward. Share the details to empower people and reduce their angst.

3. Your Method. Repetition. Napoleon Hill said, "Any idea, plan, or purpose may be placed in the mind through repetition of thought." Say things over and over again. You can never say things too much. People won't hear or understand things the first time you say them, so say them clearly, say them often and say them in an assortment of ways. Communicate in person, on the phone, videos, text message, on your website, in your ChMs, and on social media. Different people are tuned



into different wavelengths and leaders have to at least attempt to reach them all.

Now that you have the 3 Ms down, here are some ways you can maximize communication.

- Don't say too much! If you are trying to say everything, you'll end up communicating nothing. Make your emails, letters, texts, Robocalls, or whatever means of communication you use, short and to the point. Say less and you'll communicate more.
- Don't waste your congregant's time. Make sure that what you are bothering to say is important to the people you lead, not just to you. And try not to broadcast to everyone the things that only a small group of people need or want to hear. Don't just say things that are intriguing to you. Say things that are interesting to others and say it in a way that will stimulate their interest.
- Know your audience. Too many churches get caught only listening and catering to the vocal minority or the already-engaged. So they shouldn't be surprised when they don't seem to reach anyone else. If you want to engage the disengaged, you need to consider that particular audience.

Blessings on your ministry to the glory of God. We'll talk again next month.

*dr. michael bell is Senior Pastor of Greater St. Stephen First Church FtW, a seminary adjunct professor, and a certified Life Coach with clients. He conducts leadership seminars and conferences across the country.



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

"A Committed Life"

"For this cause, we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Colossians 1:9

Recently, I was listening to an interview concerning the Women's March happening all over the nation, and a phrase was made that sparked my spirit: "Be Committed to the Cause." I observed how the co-founder, through early childhood training and life challenges, was committed to what was invested in her to the cause of the Women's March to make a difference in the world. Does not that sound like something our Savior commissioned for the believers? Jesus mandated that as believers in Christ we spread the Gospel message everywhere there is an opportunity, teach, and make disciples all over the world (Matt. 28:18-20). It was a simple mission with a simple purpose: Be Committed to the Cause.' Committed means to be dedicated and loyal to a cause. Oxford dictionary defines cause as a "principle or movement which one is prepared to defend or advocate; something deserving of support."

The Good News is a "cause" worth defending, advocating and support. Paul was so encouraged by the faith and commitment of the Colossian Church to fulfill the Great Commission that it prompted him to pray most earnestly for them to be endowed with a greater revelation of God's will for their lives, wisdom, and understanding to perform God's Cause.

Knowing that we each have a mission to fulfill, the Father in His graciousness extended to us a measure of the gift of the Christ unique to our personality, gifts, and trait that will further advance God's Kingdom (Eph 4:7). It is that portion of "greater works" Jesus declared we must fulfill after His ascension to heaven (John 14:12). The Father has invested in you grace, the ability to accomplish His will on earth. He expects you to cultivate that investment, protect it, nurture it, and maintain it (Matt. 25:21). You and I are mandated to be committed to living a consecrated life that will give glory and honor to God's Cause (Rom. 12:1).

As you begin your journey in a new year, embrace this prayer of Paul for yourself by asking God to give you complete knowledge of His will to fulfill His Cause. Ask for His wisdom to walk in what He has invested



and entrusted into your hands to promote His Cause. And, ask for understanding and good judgment to help you stay focused and on track concerning His Cause. Paul said that if you do this, "the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better." (Col. 1:10) What a blessing! As you remain committed to God's Cause, He remains committed to make your life better all for His Glory and for His Kingdom. So dear hearts, I urge you to stay determined to be Committed to the Cause. Let's make a Kingdom impact in this world.

Co-Pastor 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, Periscope, Facebook and at www.firstladybutlerministries.com.







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mas" had the same intent, but with
more explicit language. Should these
different expressions of these talent-and jazz with contemporary gospel
music. Anita Wilson's music is called
Worship Soul and she'll perform it

at The Winery Club in NYC on Feb 9th. Other journalists have already written that Kirk's new single will make you want to get on the dance floor. Reviews on 1st Lady Lisa Page Brooks' new project calls her voice jazzy with R&B vibes. No shade here; just reporting the facts and perceptions. My prayer is that whatever we do as Believers, will not confuse the Lost who may need us to Witness about Christ. All of these artists have powerful ministries. To gain strength in mine, I'll keep John 15:16 in my heart.

Strangers Rest Baptist Church

Website: www.strangersrestbc.net

PASTOR EDDIE BROWN, SR

LADY MARILYN BROWN

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WORSHIP DAYS & TIME

Sunday School Sundays ~ 8:45 AM

Morning Worship

Sundays ~ 10:15 AM

Bible Study Wednesdays ~ 7:00 PM

ed artists shock the Saints? Should

we pull out the oil and green sheets

as we clear the altar? I must admit

I was thrown off in 1972 when I

learned (on the dance floor) that "I

Belong to You" was being sung by fu-

ture Bishop Rance Allen and that he

wasn't talking about belonging to his girlfriend!!! The song had that real

love ballad sound and it was easy to

only listen to the chorus, "I belong to

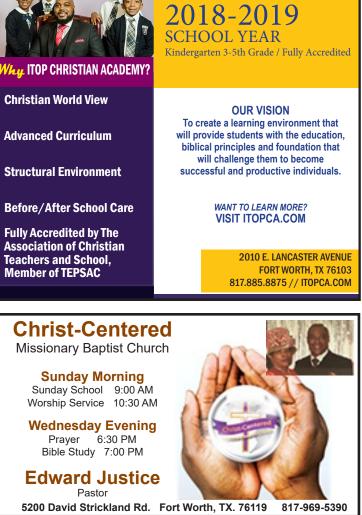
you, I'm yours all alone". He meant

Jesus Christ. Hallelujah. But my point

about reloading today's gospel is

about how blurred the sounds are becoming between funk, hip hop

May Peace Be Your Journey, judyneal@comcast.net holla!



Email: churchinnews@sbcglobal.net

was pumping Kirk up on his page.

Both Tasha and Kirk can be seen on BET, Feb 2nd at 8pm as they per-

form at the 20th Annual Super Bowl

Gospel Celebration. And speaking of

support, that's what I recognize Don-

ald Lawrence has done for Leandria

Johnson by recording her as the lead

on his second single release "Deliv-

er Me". Infamously she has revealed

her personal struggles in very public

and shocking ways as recently as last

summer. By having her sing this ad-

mission and declaration melody is

not only an offering of support, but

Donald's sincere investment in her

and faith in God to restore her from

Now in regard to gospel artists doing

new things, consider Carvin Winans'

first solo project single "Once in A

Lifetime" and The Manns (yes Dave

and Tam) singing "Good Love" on

their first CD collaboration. These

songs were released straight to Ur-

ban Contemporary Rhythm and

Blues stations and are not gospel.

They are inspirational love songs celebrating relationships. Detrick Haddon's **"Make Love on Christ**-

herself.

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The Gospel Corner with Proclaimer of the Word... Rev. J.R. Brumfield South in America, there

The Struggle to Persevere Psalms 116:12-14

1.Introduction

Throughout the span of Black American history, there have been some dark and difficult days. Yet the Lord has delivered us in various ways. When I think about the early years of the slave trade, I do believe that the Lord allowed those ships to have some survivors. As a race of people, we are survivors from the stalemate of slavery and the long nights of Jim Crow in America. During any period of oppression, many lives have been lost to the violence that plagues the human spirit. In the streets of our local cities, innocent lives are snuffed out due to the oppressive nature of racism in America. Yet the Lord has delivered us from slavery, Reconstruction, the KKK, Jim Crow, and the back of the bus. We have risen from the depths of human depravity to the delight of some of the highest offices in this land. For instance in 2009, President Barack Obama became the 44th president of the United States. His integrity is still seen as a light shining in a dark world. The Lord God can deliver us from fear mongering tactics that come from the current Republican administration. God is still in the blessing business. We still must keep hope alive!

Although we wrestle with the possibility of another government shutdown, our God is still on the throne. Our God can still deliver us from the oppressive forces that shape American culture today. I suggest to you that the Lord has brought us from a mighty long way and He is able to do exceedingly and abundantly in the lives of all people.

As I survey the canvas of American history, we find that Black Americans have suffered but we have also succeeded in this country. We have been graced with the presence of a Lewis Latimer that invented such as the carbon filament in light bulbs. Mr. Latimer drafted the patent for the telephone. One might say that he collaborated with great minds such as Thomas Edison and Alexander Bell. This American engineer is an example of many blacks that have succeeded in the face of pain and suffering in this country. The recent success of the Democratic Party saw many black men and women rise to power. Tell the Lord thank you! Another name that comes to recollection is Ms. Marie Ban Bitten Brown whose life span from 1922-1999. This young lady realized the trouble of security threats and she invented the modern closed-circuit television. Today, Ms. Brown's patent is used widely in surveillance, home security, and crime preventions. Mr. Otis Boykin developed the IBM computer and he invented the pacemaker. When one thinks about innovative medical attempts to ease heart trouble, please remember Mr. Otis Boykin. One might say that throughout American history, black Americans have helped build the infrastructure that is prevalent in society.

Our God can bless His people in spite of suffering, shame, and the sickness of the human spirit. When one thinks of the divisive nature of the current leadership, then one can also think about the possibility of good leadership. When there is despair,



then we must also consider deliverance from our current situations. Senator Kamala Harris has announced her candidacy as a democratic presidential candidate. Senator Harris represents a brighter future in light of a dismal day. As we approach the text, we will find that the Lord God can still comfort His people in spite of chaos, crime, and continued threats against our democracy.

2. The Psalmist's Dedication, v.1-

In light of some alarming experiences, the Psalmist opens these verses with a word of dedication. In verse 1, the Psalmist states. "I love the Lord." Some biblical scholars have stated that this psalm was possibly written by Hezekiah when childless, and facing death with the distinction of the Davidic line. Yet the Psalmist has the fortitude to say, "I love the Lord." Can you say, "I love the Lord" when there is corruption in the land? It is always a good start to any day when we can maintain our trust in the Lord. Calling on the name of the Lord early in the morning is like the breakfast for the soul. Have you had your breakfast? When we confess our love for the Lord, then we are in a position to receive added comfort from having a relationship with the Lord. The first verse in this text open with the words, "I love the Lord because He has heard my voice and my supplications. It is good to know that when we pray, our God hears us. There may be turmoil in your life but our God is an able God. He is not some figment of imagination that exists only in an idol god. When I think about how the Lord has brought me, my soul says "yes." Have you ever lost a love one and you thought that the world would end? In 2006. I lost my father to heart disease but when I look around, God has still been good. When we suffer in life, our God wants us to call Him. In Romans 10:13, the bible states, "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." .

It is in these verses that we have a calm assurance that God is love and therefore we should love Him as believers. When one is going through a rough place, then one must consider how the Lord has brought them through on yesterday. The Word of God informs the believer in Hebrews 13:8 that the Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

3. The Psalmist Dilemma, v. 3

Have you ever been in trouble? Did you think that you couldn't make it but the Lord brought you out? In this verse, the Psalmist is confronted with the sorrows of death and the pains of hell. Across the Deep South in America, there were times that black Americans felt that they were living in a type of hell. Rapes, lynching, and countless separation of families have occurred in our history in America. Yet, our fore-fathers and fore-mothers had a faith that refused to quit. Do you have a faith that propels you over trouble waters when you can't find your way? Nevertheless, God has provided leaders such as Ida B. Wells who led an anti-lynching campaign after witnessing a lynching in Memphis, Tennessee.

There was an early civil rights activist named Ella Baker that played a key role in some of the most influential organizations of the time. These organizations included the NAACP, Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Of course, we can never forget the sacrifice of Dr. Martin Luther King who died as a down-payment on our continued freedom efforts. Who can forget the popular slogan. "run Jesse run." Jesse Louis Jackson ran for the democratic presidential election in 1984 and 1988. He helped open doors for Black Americans and he helped freed people in other lands.

As we look at Scripture, we find that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ uttered these words, "the sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell got hold upon These words are messianic overme." tones our Lord voiced that night in the upper room. I need to suggest to you that Jesus came to fulfill the Scripture that was uttered in the Old Testament. However, he came to do God's will and die on an old rugged cross for the sins of mankind. When we are going through suffering, do we remember the Words of our Lord that He will never leave us or forsake us? No matter what we are confronted with in life, we have sufficient help!

4. The Psalmist Deliverance, v. 5-6

There is a Word about the Savior in these verses. Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple: I was brought low. and He helped me. When we look at the little gods, we find that these type of gods are cold and impassive idols. These gods cannot help the situation because they can only stare at the situation. Our God can get in the fire with us when we are confronted with trouble. Do you remember the three Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace? What a name that we can call upon when we are in trouble! The Lord God is merciful and gracious. He is longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth. He forgives and He can heal our land. As we face an uncertain tomorrow, let's remember that what the Lord has done for others, he can do for you. Keep your head up when there are adverse conditions in our land. Keep your faith in the One that can speak to the entire world!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. J.R. Brumfield
214-533-1819 Johnnie.brumfield@outlook.com

Rev. J.R. Brumfield is a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 105 S, Wood Street, Denton, Texas where Rev. Dr. M.R. Chew is the pastor.

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.





Alzheimer's Association Hosts Annual African American Caregiver Seminar

The Alzheimer's Association - North Central Texas Chapter is hosting its annual African American Caregiver Seminar Saturday, Feb. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Tarrant County College - South Campus Student Center with an opening address from Tarrant County Commissioner, Roy Brooks.



According to the Association, African Americans are two times more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease but less likely to receive an early and accurate diagnosis. Recognizing the warning signs

for dementia and understanding they are not a normal part of aging empowers families to pursue early diagnosis and begin the process of treatment and planning for the future.

The seminar, Becoming a Caregiver Champion: Rising to the Challenge, will focus on lifestyle changes that may lower disease risk factors, tips for managing daily struggles when dealing with the disease, options for senior care communities and strategies for improving self-care to reduce caregiver stress and burden.

Professionals, family caregivers and the general public will have the opportunity to connect with representatives from organizations offering resources to help individuals living with dementia.

Social workers may receive three hours of continuing education free of charge.

A light breakfast and lunch will be served and because the Super Bowl is the following day, attendees are encouraged to dress casually and wear their favorite football jersey.

There is no charge to attend but registration is encouraged. The first 50 people to register will receive Coach Broyles' Playbook for Alzheimer's Caregivers. For more information or to register, call 800.272.3900 or visit alznet.news/acareseminar19.

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

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