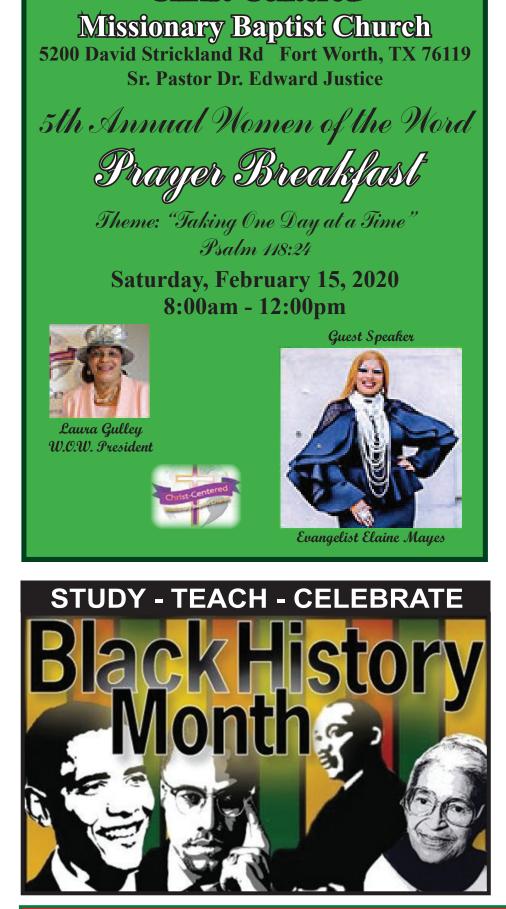


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2020

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Take One

# Turners Chapel COGIC of TX 13th Annual Women's Black History/Love Fellowship Brunch

# Saturday, February 8, 2020 @ 10am

Brunch Prayer Warrior, Leaders, Love Gifts Give-A-Ways, Black History Exhibits and Honoring Pioneer WOG

# Location: Gorman Memorial H.S. Church 2575 Highcrest - Fort Worth, Texas 76111



For more Info Call: Evangelist Sharon Ford-Turner, Pastor Please RSVP. By 1/31/2020 817-294-2443

"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



## MICHAEL W. JORDAN, Sr Publisher

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# From the Publisher...

I truly appreciate all that the Church community has done to help CHURCHIN' stay relevant and serve the area with worship opportunities each month. Our desire for 2020 is to be a bigger and stronger influence on ministry which is in fact the primary charge given to us by our Creator.

So many churches in our cities and so many people still hurting. We must do more to reach the lost and stop just meeting every Sunday with no real evidence of real differences we're making in the lives of the people. Being saved and acknowledging Christ as our Savior is only the beginning of our walk with God. Outreach and converting lives is where the real evidence of the goodness and unlimited grace of our God can be manifested.

We sometimes wonder why our churches don't grow, and for some, we're satisfied with the same faces each Sunday, the same conversations and the same lack of growth in numbers as well as in faithfulness to God. It seems sometimes that we are, as some say, just a gathering place, a social club or just what we're suppose to do on Sundays-go to church.

We have lots of programs and special days celebrating inside the walls, but how often does your church actually go out and solicit for the kingdom of God. Even if you don't, as an individual do alot publicly to help save the lost or enlighten those who are hurting, your very lifestyle can speak for you, it can be an example of the goodness and the benefits of serving a true and living God. This in itself can cause others to want to know what you know and experience the peace and love you profess in Christ our Savior.

This year, let's join together to make a concerted effort to grow the Kingdom through our Godly lifestyle, our Godly language and our Godly love for our fellowman and watch God move and change the world. We do our part and He will do the rest.

"Let your light so shine before men that hey will see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven" This will, without a doubt, draw people to God and help our communities become more of what He would have us to be.

# GOD IS our refuge STRENGTH A VERY PRESENT help trouble THEREFORE -WE WILL-NOT FEAR

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If your church is serious about ministry, outside the walls, people want to know just what you're doing. Maybe they can support it, or even benefit spiritually from it. But first, you need an outreach to let them know just what's going on with you.

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

See us on YouTube @ the Sixth Ave. Baptist Church of Corsicana, Texas, Bishop k.d. davis, sr. Listen Each Sunday 8am-9am KAND 1340AM Radio Broadcast KNON 89.3 FM "Just Believe Broadcast" Thursday Morning 4am-7am Community Cable TV Channel 28

Sun 7:30p-8:30p'; Wed 12n-1p; Sat 4:30p-5p Church Of A New Beginning, 207 N. Waco, Dawson, TX will celebrate their Sunday School Annual, February 2nd @ 4pm; Sun 2:20 State Annual, February 2nd @ 4pm;

we ate the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church in Corsicana present our Annual Brotherhood Day, February 9th @ 10:30am. Please join us for any and all of these worship opportunities.

### East Saint Paul Baptist Church

5300 Oak Grove Rd Ft Worth, TX 76134 Rev. Charles Hillmon, Interim Pastor (817) 293-5067 www.espbc.com

Sunday, February 9th @ 8:00 am Contemporary Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Diversity Sunday

Sunday, February 16th @ 8:00 am Contemporary Worship Service

<u>10:45 a.m.</u> Widow's Ministry Black History Program immediately after morning worship service

Saturday, February 29th, 2020 Annual ESPBC Dancical

Sunday, February 23rd, 2020 Annual Deacons & Deaconess Day

**CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED** East St. Paul Baptist is seeking a qualified pianist. Concerned applicants can call the church at (817) 293-5067 to schedule an appointment.

## Strangers Rest Baptist Church

Sunday Morning, February 23, 2020 at 10:15 am for our Annual Sunday School Day

School Day PASTOR EDDIE BROWN, Sr 5705 Donnelly Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76107 is the place to be. Come Celebrate and Rejoice in the Goodness of the Lord with the Congregation,

Pastor Eddie Brown, Sr.



HELP WANTED Meadowbrook First Baptist Church is looking for a Youth Minister or Youth Director part-time. To apply, please call the church for an interview. The Church phone number is 817-457-4362.





Black Musicians Association of Tarrant County The Black Musicians Association of Tarrant County membership include access to workshops, hymn sessions, vocal and instrumental training, and a kaleidoscope of musical events. The BMATC invites you, ministers of music, vocalist, choir directors, and instrumentalists to join us in this season of growth. Interested? Contact us at bmatc2012@gmail.com.





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### CHURCH MUSICIANS NEEDED

Church seeking a Christian musician. All interested applicants please dial (817) 534-5131. Leave a message and someone will return your message. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Musician needed for small church. Only one service from 10:30am to 12:30 pm. Fort Worth Northside areaFor more info please call 817-793-4848

Church Musician Needed. Contact Michael Robinson Cell & Text Phone: 817.253.6686.

East St. Paul Baptist is seeking a qualified pianist. Concerned applicants can call the church at (817) 293-5067 to schedule an appointment.

The Open Book Club

so that attendees feel comfortable sharing and asking questions.

during our book club meetings/forums

"The Open Book" Book Club is dedicated to hosting book club meetings/ forums and events that will assist in developing a passion for reading in addition to creating a platform for authors to share their individual expertise, experiences, perspectives, and testimonies that will motivate, inspire, and help to bring about change in attendees' lives! "The Open Book" also provides opportunities to showcase various arts such as comedy, dance, spoken word, etc. We like to have an atmosphere of transparency (open) Network/Business "The Open Book" also provides exposure to local businesses by having vendor spots available at each meeting. The business owners are encouraged to share information regarding their products/services. Attendees are able to network with each other during

the mixer and club meetings! We enjoy

and learn about others. For more infor contact, LaKeisha Mabry at (817) 723-6687 Email: mskeisha1297@yahoo.com

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# "The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Are you looking to generate momentum in your Church? Author and money guru Dave Ramsey is quoted as saying, "When you have momentum you look better than you are ... when you don't have momentum vou are better than you look." Sustained momentum is created by countless little things pushing in the same direction; each of those little things pushes towards the end Another momentum builder is goal of moving the Church forward.

If you've been in the ministry more than a minute, you already know that your Church will go through many seasons and cycles. There'll be times when your Church will be humming on all cylinders and there'll be times Throughout the Bible, prayer alwhen the growth of your Church is stagnant.

Many things can contribute to a decline in the spiritual vitality of your Church, and some things can influence your Church's positive momentum.

So, the first question that needs addressing is how do you build momentum? Momentum doesn't come easily or without considerable effort. Author and Let's look at one more momenresearcher Jim Collins, writing in his book, Good to Great, describes building momentum in an organization. He tells readers to imagine pushing a big, heavy metal flywheel. Lots of energy is exerted, yet because of its great weight, the flywheel only moves a few inches. But with repeated, consistent pushing, the flywheel slowly begins to move, and gain momentum. "Each turn of the flywheel builds upon work done earlier, compounding...invested effort," says Collins. "Then at some point – breakthrough!" He says that momentum will finally kick in, in your favor. The heavy weight now begins working for you.

Collins posits that it's never one big push that brings the momentum, but "all of them added together in an overall accumulation of effort applied in a consistent direction." The key word in building momentum in ministry is *perseverance*. Never give up on the Biblical principles and passion God gave you. Keep at it, like pushing on the flywheel.



prayer. The Church belongs to God. If you intend to reach new neighborhoods in your community, experience new vitality in your Church, and an increased desire for people to live and love like Jesus, then you and your Church need to pray.

ways accompanies the work of God. In Acts 4:31, we read that the people were "filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness" after they prayed. If you desire to see your Church experience revitalization, then prayer must be a priority. If your Church doesn't have a consistent time for corporate prayer, consider starting a prayer meeting.

tum builder. Leaders need to consistently share the purpose of the Church and/or the ministry they're leading. Why does your church exist? Why do you have a ministry to marrieds?

Your purpose is your why. Regularly share your "why" with your Ministry Team, your congregation, your volunteers, etc. Mention your "why" during announcements, share it during your sermons, add it to your media content. Sharing your "why" will rally people around God's call and encourage them to participate in his work. And when times get tough, reminding yourself and others of your "why" will help you to persevere.

### We'll talk about this a little more next time.

\*dr. michael bell is Senior Servant-Resident Theologian at 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.

**RESPECT THE SACRIFICES OF THOSE** WHO CAME BEFORE US AND FOR THE FUTURE **GENERATIONS** 



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

### A Life of Fear

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us." (1 John 4:18-19 NKJV)

Everything God Father enables His children to do is based on love. There is an enemy lurking whose sole purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus called him a "thief." His attacks always begin in the mind. He plants the seed of fear and when fear is fed it chokes out love. I'm here to remind you be at peace for there is no fear in love

There are several definitions of fear. God's fear, or holy fear, is a God-given deep reverence enabling a believer to reverence God's authority, obey His commandments, and turn away from evil. "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me." Jer. 32:40.

There is a fear where you dread facing up to something. Then there is the fear that torments. It is extreme, irrational fear of something. This is the one originated by satan and is the opposite of faith. It causes your behavior to change to where you become disobedient, courageless, cowardly, unfaithful and negative. Satan's fear invites and feeds off other emotions causing one to become emotionally unstable, prone to anxiety, nervousness, psychotic behavior, depression, jealousy, envy, cloudy thinking, etc. This fear torments and traumatizes. Its roots take place in the mind. It holds you in bondage. It immobilizes you, restricts you and can suck the life out of you rendering you lifeless. This spirit needs to be broken, denounced and destroyed.

But my dear hearts the cross delivered us from the bondage of fear. Natural man cannot fear God perfectly. Because of love, God through the redeeming blood of the Lamb places His fear in the hearts of all those who receive His Son into their heart. God does not torment or terror-



ize; He delights and comforts and sets minds at ease. Fear takes, Love gives. Fear cannot co-exist with love. Love, when perfected, casts out all fear. Tormenting fear makes you imperfect. God's love makes you perfect. When you accept Jesus into your heart, God's fear and His love is able to take up residence in your heart. Satan's fear therefore has to leave.

My dear hearts, don't live out your remaining days in fear. Be determined to receive the love of Christ into your heart, be free in your mind, and be at peace for there is no fear in love.

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*. *Facebook and at www*. firstladybutlerministries.com.

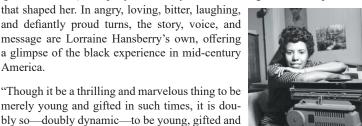


# Jubilee Theatre presents Lorraine Hansberry's "To Be Young, Gifted, and Black" on stage January 24th – February 23rd, 2020

Fort Worth, TX; (January 7th, 2020) Jubilee Theatre premieres its Black History Month production for the 2019-2020 season, "Shades of Us!", on January 24th, 2020 at 8:00 PM at the Jubilee Theatre in Sundance Square. Single tickets are priced at \$24, \$27, and \$32. All are available at the box office, by telephone (817.338.4411), or online (www.JubileeTheatre.org ). Student and Group discounts are available.

After winning fame with her play Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry (pictured below), uniquely and boldly, weaves through her life experiences

that shaped her. In angry, loving, bitter, laughing, and defiantly proud turns, the story, voice, and message are Lorraine Hansberry's own, offering a glimpse of the black experience in mid-century America.



- Lorraine Hansberry.

black."

Lorraine Hansberry is a renowned American playwright, best known for A Raisin in the Sun, which was the first play by an African American woman



to be produced on Broadway. To Be Young, Gifted, and Black is based on Lorraine Hansberry's collective writings, published 4 years after her death

This production will be directed by Jubilee's own D. Wambui Richardson, freshly returning from directing Jubilee Theatre's holiday musical. Richardson has stated a great admiration for the play: "What better way to honor Ms. Lor-

raine Hansberry then by producing To Be Young, Gifted, and Black? Here we are not only exposed to such writing as A Raisin in the Sun, What use are Flowers? The Sign in Sydney Burstein's Window, and The Drinking Gourd but also gain a deeper understanding of the woman behind the words.

Her life was a rich tapestry of experience which gave birth to her works and we are honored to tell her story in her words." The dual roles of Lorraine Hansberry will be played by local talents Alissa McCaffrey and Jasmine Shanise (pictured left).

Jubilee Theatre will present its own production of To Be Young, Gifted, and Black starting on January 24th, 2020. Jubilee Theatre is proud to announce a partnership with TCC, to bring ASL interpreters to Thursday night performances. To Be Young, Gifted, and Black will show Thursday nights through Saturday nights, with matinees on Saturday and Sunday. The production will close at Jubilee Theatre on Sunday, February 23rd, 2020.

Season tickets as low as \$100! Single tickets are priced at \$24, \$27, and \$32. All are available at the box office, by telephone (817.338.4411), or online (www.JubileeTheatre.org ). Student and Group discounts are available; please call Jubilee Theatre for more information (817.338.4411)

Jubilee's mission is to create and produce theatrical works that give voice to the African-American experience.



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#### CHURCHIN' www.churchinnews.com **INSIDE THE GREATER SAINT STEPHEN FIRST CHURCH** SAINTSVILLE CATHEDRAL SNINT STEPHA Experience The Difference! Sundays. . 9 A.M. MUSIC g the Lord with all our heart School of Discipleship Empowerment Worship Service FRESH FIRE! 10 A.M. 6 P.M. Wednesday MidWeek reCharge... 6 P.M. Family Meal 650 P.M. The REMIX (Youth & Children) 7 P.M. Pastor's Created-2-Win Class with Elder Judy Neal **Pastor Milton Pace** FEBRUARY 2020 CHURCH BIRTHDAY EMPHASIS 2200 Oak Hill RD, at Mead brook Dr. Dr. Michael Bell & The Greater St. Stephen First Church Family Black History Is Fort Worth, Texas 76112 phone: 817.451.3721 American History 3728 East Berry Street Fort Worth, Texas76105 You & Your Family fax: 817.451.5345 Mailing address: P.O. Box 51240 Fort Worth, Texas 76105 to Come Celebrate Our 39<sup>th</sup> Church Birthday "In celebrating Black History with Us Sunday, February 9, 2020 Month, we can seize the opportunity "LIKE US" on to honor the too-often neglected ac-Facebook complishments of Black Americans Phones: 817-534-2377/ 817-534-1365 in every area of endeavor throughdr. michael bell, CLC Senior Pastor-Teacher out our history". This was part of President Gerald Ford's message Dr. L. K Curry 10 A.M. Wo Service as he decreed February 1976 Black 4 P.M. A DEM Hear Dr. Bell on. . . History Month in America. I lift up A.M.-6:30 A.M. Sundays DFW Metroplex on KHVN 970 AM 4-6th Grade this sentence of President Ford's Sunday, February 16th is 2020 Black Film Festival ng Adult Takeover Sunday! 10 A.M. Worship Service message because it acknowledges 7 A.M.-7:30 A.M. Sundays Ark-La-Tex Area on KJTX 104.5 FM 4:30 P.M. that African Americans have con-A CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITIES 10 A.M. Saturdays on KWBT 94.5 FM Waco Area tributed meaningfully to American history in many capacities. And in SAINTSVILLE ACADEMY Call 817-534-2377 for a com Calendar of Events & Opportunities! my humble opinion, Music from Call 817.451.3737 African Americans has undeniably helped shape, define and express **PROVEN ACCELERATED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT** much of what is American History for over two hundred years. Gospel music has certainly been at the forefront of our creative works and it is **Strangers Rest Baptist Church** growing stronger every decade. The brilliant artists who deliver it are Church Phone: 817.738.3833 Office Phone: 817.735.8930 guaranteeing this truth. Email: strangersrbc@att.net Website: www.strangersrestbc.net

Tasha Cobbs Leonard recently sang the National Anthem at a Democratic Party Presidential Debate event. Kim Burrell was snagged to promote the main theme song for a major motion picture soundtrack. Yolanda Adams will sing "America the Beautiful" at the 54th NFL Super Bowl. Plus, the NFL continues to open its Super Bowl weekend with a star-studded gospel concert called the Super Bowl Gospel Celebration. In its 21st year, the musical gala will not disappoint with the likes of Anthony Brown and Group Therapy, The Commissioned Reunion, Marvin Sapp, LeAndria Johnson, Travis Greene and the NFL Players Choir. This just furthers my point of how imbedded Black America's gospel music has become etched into the fabric of everyday American life.

Besides enjoying the presence of gospel music in non-traditional places this February, please get ready for brand new music, period!!! First up, elder sister Jackie Clark Chisholm will release a new project on February 7 with the first single, "Feel Good" featuring Mary J. Blige. One week later, Isaac Caree's full project "No Risk ... No Reward" will be available. We've been enjoying the first single which is a beautiful tribute song to his wife entitled "Her". It is a thoughtfully scripted love song from a holy man to his highly anointed bride. Check this out just to make your Valentine's weekend even more special. But it is what's happening February 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm right here in Fort Worth, TX that will make this Black History Month a memorable one for some time to come. Our



awarded national recording artist, Bishop Marvin L. Sapp will record 'live' concert at his church Golden Vessel Cathedral. He's bringing his super music production team of Aaron Lindsey and Myron Butler together to make this an evening to remember. You WILL want to be in the sanctuary for this magnificent musical affair. I'm told that the album's title is tentatively "The Golden Vessel". Now won't that really put Fort Worth, TX on the proverbial gospel music map? Mos def!!!

So I believe February 2020 will be placed in the history books as an ex-

for African American achievements in America. We gratefully acknowledge the successful efforts of Historian Carter G. Woodson to introduce the concept; President Gerald Ford for officially establishing it as legislation; and the millions of our fore-fathers and fore- mothers who were determined to survive so we could all do Greater Works in this country, the United States of America.

May Peace Be Your Journey

Elder Judy R. Neal holla! judyneal@comcast.net



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

### We Can't Make it without Jesus Genesis 7:5-16

#### 1. Introduction

We live in a world that is clouded with bad behaviors, bad language, barbaric, and sometimes one can barely make it through. This world is corrupt, counterproductive, and has some catastrophic experiences in this life. Sometimes one may feel that they have been cast aside and forgotten but God is able to bring about a change. We live in a world that is diabolic, devilish, and sometimes people feel as if they are defeated. Yet this is the place where we must manage our lives the best way we can.

It is absolutely impossible to make it in this world without divine assistance. We cannot make it by ourselves without God. Luther Barnes said, "I've learned how to lean and depend upon Jesus." Luther said. "Will you take me by the hand because I can't make it without you." I have made it without money when my needs were so severe but I can't make it one moment without Jesus. I have made it without good clothes on my back. I have made it without good shoes on my feet. I have made it without any lights in my home. I had to wait for the rising of the sun. I have had many challenges in my life but I made it with the Lord on my side. I know that He will provide. When I've got money, I still can't make it without the Lord. Can I get a witness?

Therefore church, if we are going to fare well in this world. We must have some divine assistance. If we are going to get over it, get through it and get ahead, our God will have to help us get there. Only God can get you through some situations. Only God can make a highway out of no way (just ask Moses at the Red Sea). Only God can dismiss a Jim Crow era and ensure that it will never come back. Only God can get you through wars and rumors of wars. Only God can get you through problems, pestilence, and predicaments. Our God has a remedy for the corona virus. This is a disease that has taken the lives of approximately 80 people in China.

The bible is full of examples of how the Lord God stepped in and worked it out. He worked it out for Daniel in the lion's den. He worked it out for Joseph in an Egyptian jail. Our God worked it out for Noah and our text takes off from the performance of building the ark up to today's text in going into the ark. In today's text, we have the performance of what was foretold in the foregoing chapter (the destruction of the old world and the salvation of Noah). In Genesis 6:13-14, the Lord God told Noah that He was going to destroy the earth because of the wickedness in the earth. In Genesis 6:15-21, God gave Noah exact instructions regarding the design of the ark. We can be sure that no Word of God shall fall to the ground. If God said it then that settles it. In chapter 6, we left Noah busy about his ark and he took painful cares to get it finished in time. I must tell you that Noah's neighbors were laughing at him because Noah told them it was going to rain. How many times have people laughed at the preacher in the pulpit? Noah preached for a long time but the world was not listening to the message.

2. God's Call to Noah, v.1-3 The scripture gives illumination of a gra-



cious invitation to Noah and his family. Since the Lord God had determined that He was going to destroy the world, He wanted to have a remnant in the world. Our Lord God will always have a remnant in this world. The Lord God led Noah and his family into a place of safety. The flood waters were on their way. The invitation of the Lord God was very kind and it comparable to a loving father or mother to their children. Do you remember when mamma said, "It's time to come in the house?" "It's getting dark outside." When a storm arises in our lives then this is a dark moment in our lives.

It is important to note that Noah did not go into the Ark until God gave him the okay. Although Noah knew that the ark was designed for his safety, but he wanted God to go in front of him. He did not want to get in front of God. Noah waited for God's command to enter the ark. It is very important that we have the presence of God with us. It is the wisdom of man to ensure that the Lord is leading and guiding us along the way. Noah undertook a lot of pain to build the ark and now it was time to preserve his family's life. Many of us are blessed today because somebody prayed for us. Sometimes wicked children fare better because of their godly parents. We are not just blessed because of us but we are blessed because someone undertook the pain for us. I am reminded of Jesus who went to the cross to die in our stead. Jesus took the pains of hell and death for us by dying on an old rugged cross.

The call to Noah was a type of the call which the gospel gives to poor sinners. Christ is an ark already prepared for us. It is in Christ alone that we can be safe when death and judgment come. The word says, come.

The bible tells us that Noah lived a good life despite the world that he was in. Although we are in the world, we cannot allow the world to get inside of us. In Genesis 6:9, the bible teaches us that Noah was a righteous man and blameless among the people of his time. The Lord will keep us safe in times of turmoil, troubles, and trials if we put our trust in Him. Noah put his trust in the Lord God. In verse 4, the word states that it shall be seven days and the judgment of the world will begin. This gave Noah time to get everyone and the animals into the ark.

3. Noah Compliance with the call, v. 5 In verse 5, Noah went into the ark upon notice that the flood would come after seven days. It is quite possible that at the point of Noah's obedience that there was no visible sign of its approach. There was no cloud arising possibly at the time of Noah's obedience but he obey by faith to build the ark and he obeyed by faith to enter the ark. In every step that Noah took, he went by faith. Noah put the animals into the different compartments where they belong.

Noah took all of his family with him into the ark. I am reminded when I was coming up as a boy; I had to go to church. It was not up to debate or discussion because I knew that my parents believed in the bible way of discipline.

In verse 5, we read that Noah did all that the Lord God commanded him. It is noteworthy to say that one did all that the Lord God had commanded him. I am humbled by the fact that Noah's faith was this strong. Noah had never seen it rain but he believed that God would bring it to pass. How many times have we doubted that God would fulfill his Word in our lives? Have you ever doubted that the Lord would bring you out in a victorious way? When Christians comply with the will of God, then one can experience miracles in life. It is no secret to what the Lord can do when we choose to obey it. In Acts 5:29, the scriptures teach us that, "We ought to obey God rather than man." Noah did not listen to the contemporaries of his day but he obeyed the voice of the Lord God. If we are going to be successful on this Christian journey, we must obey God. Is there anyone in your life that you put above God's voice?

4. God's Care of His Own, v. 16

In verse 16, we find that God shut the door. The Lord God was now ready to bring the destruction of the world to pass. When our God gets ready to punish wicked people, he can also set up a wall of protection for His chosen people. He set up a partition wall to secure Noah during the Great flood. The door must be shut and shut very close lest the waters should break in and sink the ark and very fast. Once the door was shut, it was too late for the rest of the world to repent. There is coming a day when it will be too late for you to get it right. My brothers and my sisters listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and allow Him to lead you. The Holy Spirit is a mighty good leader. He can lead you from earth to glory.

It is our great duty to come into the ark. Noah must submit himself and confine himself to the sufferings and services of the ark for a season. If we are going to reign with Christ, we must suffer with God's people for a season. I am reminded that the Jesus came into this world to die on an old rugged cross for our salvation. The good news is that Jesus arose early Sunday morning and He got up with all power in His hand. Have you accepted Jesus as your personal savior?

As we close out this scripture. let's remember the words of the late Kobe Bryant, we need to put the work in if we want to be successful. Church, please work out your soul salvation with fear and trembling. When we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us on this earth, we will find that a crown awaits us in glory!!!

#### 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. H.D. Webb Jr. is 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



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# **Black History First**

### **Richard Allen**

Author, Journalist, Minister (1760 - 1831)

Born into slavery in 1760, Richard Allen later bought his freedom and went on to found the first national black church in the United States, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1816.

#### **Synopsis**

Minister, educator and writer Richard Allen was born into slavery on February 14, 1760. He later converted to Methodism and bought his freedom. Fed up with the treatment of African-American parishioners at the St. George Episcopal congregation, he eventually founded the first national black church in the United States, the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was also an activist and abolitionist whose ardent writings would inspire future visionaries. Allen died in 1831 in Philadelphia.

### **Background and Younger Years**

Minister, educator and writer Richard Allen was born into slavery presumably in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on February 14, 1760. (As with other details surrounding Allen's life, there have been some questions as to the place of his birth, with certain sources asserting that he was born in Delaware.) Known as "Negro Richard," he and his family were sold by Benjamin Chew to a Delaware farmer, Stokeley Sturgis, sometime around 1768



Allen converted to Methodism at the age of 17, after hearing a white itinerant Methodist preacher rail against slavery. His owner, who had already sold Richard's mother and three of his siblings, also converted and eventually allowed Richard to purchase his freedom for \$2,000, which he was able to do by 1783. The paper detailing Richard's freedom would in fact the African Methodist Episcopal become the first manumission document to be held as a public file, having been donated to the Pennsylvania Abolition Society.

After attaining his freedom, Richard took the last name "Allen" and returned to Philadelphia.

#### **Early Religious and Social Work**

Allen soon joined St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, where blacks and whites worshiped together. There, he became an assistant minister and conducted prayer meetings for African Americans. Frustrated with the limitations the church placed on him and black parishioners, which

included segregating pews, Allen left the church as part of a mass serted that the departure happened in 1792-93.)

Along with the Reverend Absalom Jones, who had also left St. George, Allen helped found the Free African Society, a non-denominational religious mutual-aid society dedicated to helping the black community. A century later, scholar and NAACP founder W.E.B. Du Bois called the FAS "the first wavering step of a people toward organized social life." In 1794, Allen and several other black Methodists founded the Bethel Church, a black Episcopal meeting, in an old blacksmith's shop. Bethel Church became known as "Mother Bethel" because it eventually birthed Church. Helped by his second wife, Sarah, Allen also helped to hide escaped slaves, as the basement of the Bethel Church was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

## **Episcopal Church**

In 1799, Allen became the first Afmore than 2.5 million members.

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walkout with the intention of creating an independent Methodist church. (While Allen gave the year of the walkout as 1787 in his own accounts, some scholars have as-

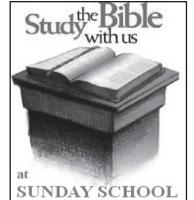
# Founding the African Methodist

rican American to be ordained in the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Then, in 1816, with support from representatives from other black Methodist churches, Allen founded the first national black church in the United States the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and became its first bishop. Today, the AME Church boasts

Understanding the power of an economic boycott, Allen went on to form the Free Produce Society, where members would only purchase products from non-slave labor, in 1830. With a vision of equal treatment for all, he railed against slavery, influencing later civil rights leaders such as Frederick Douglass and Martin Luther King Jr.

#### **Death and Legacy**

Allen died at his home on Spruce Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on March 26, 1831. He was laid to rest under Bethel Church.



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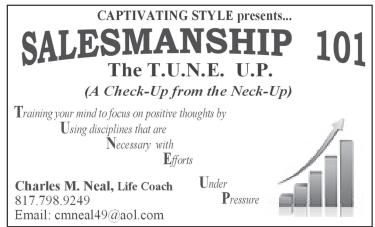
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