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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Born into slavery in Dorchester County on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Harriet Tubman (born c. 1822-died March 10, 1913), whose birth name was Araminta Ross, escaped in 1849. Tubman, known as the "Moses of her people," knew God's leading. She once said, "'It wasn't me, it was the Lord. I always told him, 'I trust you. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect you to lead me,' and he always did." She was a bold and courageous African American abolitionist in the middle 1800s. A conductor of the Underground Railroad, a vast network of people who helped fugitive slaves escape to freedom, Tubman struggled against injustice and made a difference that has reverberated up the corridors of history. How did she find her freedom from slavery, free hundreds of enslaved people and become a nurse and a spy and scout in the Civil War? She followed the Lord.

What could happen in 2023 if we followed the Lord like Harriet Tubman? I've thought about a couple of things to get you thinking that just might help you get some traction as you move the ministry you lead to the next level.

Like Kool & The Gang sang back in the day, "Let's celebrate!" One of the first and best things you can do is to celebrate what God has done over the past year, in 2022. Maybe you saw people added to your church, come to Christ or get baptized. Perhaps you recruited and helped train new leaders or organize a new ministry. Maybe you helped fund new capital initiatives. All of that is praiseworthy. Thank the Lord and those persons who selflessly gave of themselves to serve in the Body of Christ. Encourage them! Send thank you cards, gifts and texts. Celebrate what God has already done!

Another approach that will help you get some footing as you lead your ministry into "God's next" is to assess your ministry. Regularly reviewing and asking smart questions about how your church or ministry is doing is wise leadership and the new year is a great time to assess



your church's health. Churches are dynamically different from all other organizations. God calls the church the Body of Christ and a Family of Faith. All bodies and families go through ups and downs. How is your ministry doing? What areas of ministry can you improve? What are your needs for the incoming year? What are your strengths? What are your mission, vision and goals for 2023?

Here are some of the critical things that should receive regular evalua-

- Evaluate direction. If you continue in the same direction, where will you be in a year?
- Evaluate health. Just like you visit the doctor periodically for check-ups, it is important to pause and reflect on your church's health.
- Evaluate growth. Is your ministry closer now to realizing its objectives than it was a year
- Evaluate team relationships. Is the team you have the right team? Did you function as a team or as individuals in 2022?
- **Evaluate** how closely you came to accomplishing your goals and objectives.

To know where God wants you to go, you must assess where you are.

I pray that 2023 will be the year of breakthrough to an even more effective ministry!

*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

"Ruach Elohim Fill My Life"

"The Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will become changed into a different person." (1 Samuel 10:6)

January is often the motivator for the jumpstart of a new year. Often, we make commitments or recommitments, declarations and/or the like with the hopes of this being the year of fulfillment. I advocate prayerfully casting a personal mission statement for the year. This does not come easy for some, especially if you lack confidence. Such was the case of Saul when he was called out to become the first king of Israel. This was a major call, and he was quick to point out three reasons why he was not worthy of the assignment, believing that background and birthplace were vital to a call (1 Sam 9:21). However, Saul would come to learn that the Father's choice is for a divine purpose.

The word "Ruach" means breath, wind, and spirit. It also means courage. The word "Elohim" means divine, supreme, exceeding, and mighty True God. Thus, Ruach Elohim

means, "The Spirit of God." It is the Spirit of God that would fall afresh on Saul to empower him and give him the courage to fulfill the Father's divine plan. To encourage Saul's faith, the Prophet Samuel prophesied specific signs that would occur in Saul's life of which the Bible declared each one was fulfilled (1 Sam. 10:9).

Ruach Elohim understands your insecurities and fears, and knows all about your past, but looks beyond all that and sees greatness in you (v. 21; 1 John 4:4). The Father's choice is by divine will and purpose (1 Sam 10:20). Like Saul where you lack courage, Ruach Elohim will give you a drive and a desire that would enable you to be an effective witness and leader in life, ministry, and family (1 Sam 10:6, Acts 1:8). Even when you feel inadequate, Ruach Elohim will "turn" your heart of insufficiency to one who finds all sufficiency in Christ Jesus alone (2 Cor. 3:5).

Ruach Elohim is a Guide and Comforter who stands alongside you to process you, build your faith, and guide you through healing journeys and life lessons. As you yield to this process, in the Father's timing you will be released to go forth under the power of Ruach Elohim in the very plan that He birthed in your heart (Jeremiah 29:11). Ruach



Elohim will speak for Himself the remarkable and convincing sign of the Father's presence and power in your life (as He did for Saul). Saul was privately anointed king and supernaturally empowered with power and courage to do the Father's work. In this first month of a new beginning, I encourage you to enter a time of consecration and refreshment with the Father so that you might be able to prayerfully establish your personal mission statement for the year. Be determined to humble yourself in the presence of the Father and echo the prayer, "Ruach Elohim, fall afresh on me that I might have the courage to do the Father's will and pur-

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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25th Annual Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards

Organizers of top gospel award show, the Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards, will host the 25th edition of the event in February 2023

The team at the Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards, led by the passionate Pastor Larry Davies, has announced the schedule and venue for the forthcoming 25th edition of the annual event. The ballot award ceremony will be held at Houston Hobby Marriott Hotel from February 16 to 19, 2023, featuring fun and exciting activities, including performances from some of the talented artists across the nation.

Gospel music has evolved over the years, since the days of Mary and Mary and Kirk Franklin, with thousands of gifted acts using their musical talent to spread the message of Christ. Independent artists have contributed immensely to the growth of the industry, making up a sizeable part of the market. Unfortunately, there are not enough platforms for such acts to show their craft and gain appreciation for their talent. The case is not particularly different in the United States, which is where the Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards, created by Pastor Larry, is looking to make a

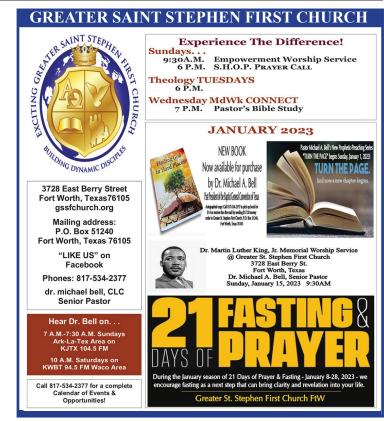
Proceedings for the 25th edition of the awards started in July 2022 with nominations, followed by voting that began in early September. Each year, artists in designated categories are recognized as the best for that year and awarded top honor. The 2023 celebration of TGMEA will feature 18 categories for Texas, 21 categories for the United States and 7 categories on the International scene. The top 5 in each category were announced on November 19, 2022, with the winners to be revealed at the award show in

The award show weekend will begin on Thursday, February 16 with an afternoon opening ceremony and evening event to pay tribute to quartet music and the legends of the industry. Other activities for the event include a Morning Glory program and Power-2Praise Educational Sessions to focus on the Business of the Music Industry, Artist Health and Wellness, Praise and Worship, Praise Dance and Mime Ministry, Ministers of Music & Pastors Coalition, and The Women of Excellence. There will also be a Media Luncheon on Friday to include a new artist exposure as well as the Founder's Luncheon on Saturday.

Winners will be announced at the award shows on each night. After the award show on Friday night, there will be a Christian Rap Show featuring local and state talent. The Red Carpet Event will be on Saturday from 4 pm to 6 pm prior to the award ceremony. The final event is ChoirMania. For the first time, it will be at the hotel beginning at 4 pm on Sunday. Local churches as well as gospel choirs from across the country will participate in this cel-

For more information about the Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards and to be a part of the initiative as a local or international sponsor as we as to provide media coverage, visit - www. tgmea.org.

Media Contact Milton Wallace @ 940.368.4886 or Larry Davies @ 281-935-3573 miltonwallace@sbcglobal.net larrydavies48@gmail.com

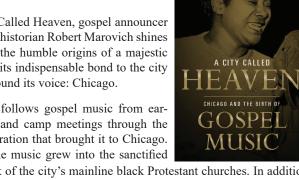


A City Called Heaven: Chicago and the Birth of Gospel Music By Bob Marovich

A book about the music that helped free a people and lift a nation

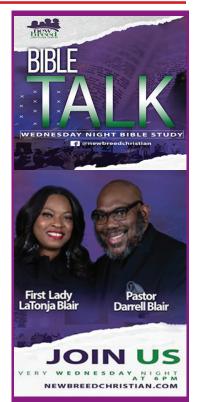
In A City Called Heaven, gospel announcer and music historian Robert Marovich shines a light on the humble origins of a majestic genre and its indispensable bond to the city where it found its voice: Chicago.

Marovich follows gospel music from early hymns and camp meetings through the Great Migration that brought it to Chicago. In time, the music grew into the sanctified



soundtrack of the city's mainline black Protestant churches. In addition to drawing on print media and ephemera, Marovich mines hours of interviews with nearly fifty artists, ministers, and historians-as well as discussions with relatives and friends of past gospel pioneers-to recover many forgotten singers, musicians, songwriters, and industry leaders. He also examines how a lack of economic opportunity bred an entrepreneurial spirit that fueled gospel music's rise to popularity and opened a gate to social mobility for a number of its practitioners. As Marovich shows, gospel music expressed a yearning for freedom from earthly pains, racial prejudice, and life's hardships. In the end, it proved to be a sound too mighty and too joyous for even church walls to hold.







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Around the Town with Evangelist Sharon Ford Turner



Pic 1) With Preshawn Ford and Children Trinity and Mason at the Atatiana Jefferson pre-trial Circle of Prayer Services: Pic 2) With Late Atatiana Jefferson Nephew Zion Carr, Atty. Lee Merritt and Pastor Rodrick McIntosh at Trial Downtown Ft.Worth, Tx; Pic 3) With Tarrant County/Fort Worth Community Activist at Atatiana Jefferson Trial down town Ft. Worth, TX

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McDonald's USA Names EGAMI Group as Public Relations Agency of Record for its U.S. African American Consumer Market

December 20, 2022

The Golden Arches Team Up with Award-Winning, Black-Woman Owned Agency for Culture-First Strategy, Insights and Storytelling

CHICAGO – Dec. 20, 2022 – For decades, McDonald's USA has been committed to feeding and fostering the diverse communities it serves, and for the Black community that means celebrating and investing in Black excellence, education, empowerment and entrepreneurship. To help maintain the legacy and deepen its commitment to this critical community, the Golden Arches named award-winning, Black and woman-owned integrated marketing and communications agency, EGAMI Group, the new public relations agency of record for the African American consumer market.

EGAMI is a boutique, purpose-driven powerhouse with experience connecting Fortune 500 brands to the multicultural majority with rich experience among Black audiences. This new partnership will help McDonald's elevate its ability to connect with consumers through food, community, culture and cause, meeting the needs of diverse audiences in innovative and meaningful ways.

"This summer, we conducted a competitive agency review to find a PR partner to help McDonald's fuel relevancy and affinity, while sharing in our values, passion and commitment to connecting with and supporting Black consumers," said Molly McKenna, Senior Director of McDonald's Global Brand Communications. "We're excited to partner with EGAMI to drive meaningful storytelling and impact that helps us build and sustain these relationships."

EGAMI participated in a highly rigorous pitch process alongside other top Black-owned agencies in the country, ultimately winning the business after being one of four finalists. Their insights-driven approach to identifying McDonald's untapped opportunity, strategic thinking and team chemistry rooted in passion, purpose and commitment made them the obvious choice for the opportunity.

"We are excited to partner with McDonald's to lead purpose-driven work that positively reflects and impacts the multicultural majority through culturally relevant and authentic programs that reach Black consumers," said Teneshia Jackson

Warner, CEO of EGAMI Group. "Driving meaningful progress for multicultural audiences is at the core of our WHY at EGAMI Group. We have assembled an account team led by seasoned communications, integrated marketing and media relations executives, and we look forward to the innovative ways we will bring this mission to life as the new African American consumer market PR agency for the brand."

EGAMI will join McDonald's and its other multicultural and general consumer market agencies to reach and engage Gen-Z and other core audiences for the brand in the U.S. They have supported recent initiatives including McDonald's 16th annual Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour Holiday Experience and Black & Positively Golden Scholarship Program, and are gearing up for 2023. Their expertise will contribute to a continued commitment to ensure McDonald's consumers feel seen, heard and supported in impactful ways.

About McDonald's USA

McDonald's USA, LLC, serves a variety of menu options made with quality ingredients to millions of customers every day. Ninety-five percent of McDonald's approximately 13,500 U.S. restaurants are owned and operated by independent business owners. For more information, visit www.mcdonalds.com, or follow us on Twitter @McDonalds and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mcdonalds.

About EGAMI Group

EGAMI Group is an award-winning, multicultural integrated marketing and communications agency founded on the belief that the brands that live, lead and operate ON PUR-POSE can change the world. The agency was named among Adweek's 100 Fastest-Growing Agencies (2019) and is the only independent, Black female-owned agency to earn a Cannes Lion Grand Prix for its work. A certified minority business entity, EGAMI Group is headquartered in New York City. For more information, visit egamigroup.com.







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Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 am
Wednesday Prayer	6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm

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Sunday School... (Participation also available via Zoom) Sunday Morning Services..... Communion Service......Month Bible Study (Wednesday via Conference Call)..7:00 p.n

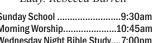


DR. RICHARD L. MONTGOMERY, Pastor



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MORNING WORSHIP.. WEDNESDAY (Prayer & Teacher's Meeting) 7:00PM

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5434 Fletcher Avenue (Lake Como) Fort Worth, Texas 76107 817/738-6854 Prayer/Sunday School......9:00 A.M. Junday Worship Service.......10:45 A.M. Sunday Night Services......2nd & 4th

Tuesday Noon Day Prayer Wednesday Prayer Adult & Children Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

Transportation Call 817/738-6854



Church 5025 Sunshine Drive

Rev. Lawrence Barrett & Lady. Rebecca Barrett

Sunday School	9:30am
Morning Worship	10:45am
Wednesday Night Bible S	Study7:00pm



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tastebud Ministries Church



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SERVANTS/PASTO Gea & Kim

	Allucison
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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9:00 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Worship Service
7:00 p.m	
EVERY 2nd Sund	av at 10:30 am
Services at Village C	
Bible Study - Tue	sday @ 6:00pm
3252 Oak Timber, Fo	

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

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 SERVIO	CE7:30 p.m.
EVERY WEDNESDAY - YOUTH MEETINGS	7:30 p.m.
2ND& 3RD WEDNESDAY - SMALLGROUPS	7:30 p.m.
2DD CATHDDAVC FUANCELICM	10.20

Zion Rest

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

PASTOR RUFUS HUCKABY

11:00am 7:00pm

Morning Worship

Prayer Meeting Bible Study, Mis



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hearing His voice in the middle of COVID. At a time when people were uncertain about if they would continue working, how they would stay safe during the pandemic and what was next for our country. Nevertheless, I obeyed God and worked overtime at my job I had at the time. I also started my business as God directed me to do. I didn't understand what God meant when he told me to get "financially fit", but I did my best to clear credit card debt and save more money.

l remember when God told me to get financially prepared. When I heard God's voice, I remember

Are You Ready? Let's Talk About Death

A month later, I learned why exactly God needed me to be financially fit. My mother passed away suddenly. God wanted me to be prepared for the financial expenses associated with mom's death. When mom passed away, she lived in Texas, and I lived in Colorado, So. although mom had life insurance, there was the expense of paying for the trip of traveling from one state to another. Upon arrival in Texas, I also had the expense of staying in hotels while both planning mom's funeral and waiting for the funeral to actually happen. God wanted to me to be prepared for those expenses. Had I not listened to God, the sad truth is I probably would have had to borrow money to get to my

Since most of our loved ones tend to pass away during holidays and other unexpected times, I want to share ways to be organized for the unexpected.

1) Prepare For the Unexpected

Gather all important documents for anyone you would need to either handle funeral arrangements for or someone you're currently providing care for. These documents range from life insurance policies, bank statements, deeds, or any important documents necessary after you lose a loved one.

2) Protect Your Loved One's Identity

After the loved one passes, be sure to block and discontinue all bank accounts, credit cards and notify all credit bureaus of your loved one's death. If necessary, also contact your local post office. Doing this will prevent scammers from using your loved one's identity.

3) Create A Team

Truth is, when loved ones pass away, we don't really know what we need when people ask, "how can I help or what can I do?" From experience of losing a loved one, the best thing you can do is create a team. When relatives and friends ask to help you during this time, LET THEM. Use someone to gather and collect food, someone to take and answer all questions about the death and funeral arrangements. Believe it or not, people will call and ask the day a person passes about funeral arrangements. Because death is so unexpected, have a list together of people you're able to trust during this time and assign them their duties now. For example: "Cheryl is in charge of food," "Barbara is in charge of all phone calls." Having a team in place for when a loved one passes will give you time to focus on gathering information required by an appointed funeral home and, in most cases, you will have less confusion.

Truth is, we will never be ready for death, but we can prepare for death. Here are scriptures I read to help me during my grieving process when my mother passed. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

A Time for Everything

- 3 There is a time for everything,
- and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- a time to be born and a time to die,
- a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- a time to kill and a time to heal.
- a time to tear down and a time to build.
- a time to weep and a time to laugh,
- a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
- a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.
- 6 a time to search and a time to give up.
- a time to keep and a time to throw away
- a time to tear and a time to mend,
- a time to be silent and a time to speak.
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for neace.



Author of "Letters To Mom", Writing Coach and Certified Grief Specialist

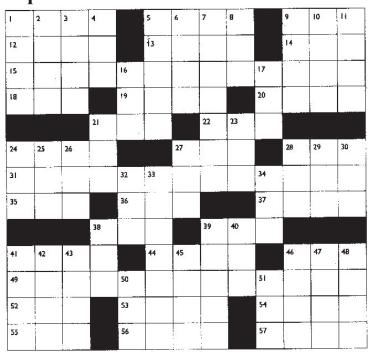
LaNette Kincaide is a Christian author, Writing Coach and Certified Grief Specialist. MARINE wife and grandma who loves hot pink, polka dots and glitter. Her favorite hobbies are writing, meeting new people and cooking. She is a Texas native currently enjoying the mountains and hiking trails in Colorado. She received my Bachelor of Science Degree from Texas Wesleyan University and Associate of Arts Degree from Tarrant County College. In 2019, she wrote and self-published four books and one of my books was noted as a top seller on Amazon in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada. Recently featured on FOX, NBC, CBS and Voyage Denver Magazine. Visit www.writinacoachlk.com to learn more about her books.

HELP WANTED

Groundskeeper Needed (Some experience necessary)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Topic: ROD AND STAFF



ACROSS

- 1 Common cooking meas
- 5 Paper currency (Luke 16:7) 9 Honest
- 2 Author of this puzzle
- 13 Amazement expressions
- 14 Home or end, e.g.
- across)
- 19 Damascus Road convert (Acts
- 21 Make uneasy
- (John 14:15) 27 Opponent
- 28 Basic
- across)
- 35 Color
- 36 Short order?
- 39 Large keg, for short
- 44 Polio vaccine inventor
- 49 Jesus' statement (con-

- 54 Forearm bone 55 Resort 56 Weapons (John 4:45)
- 57 Twirled

DOWN

I Bangkok language

2 Sacks (Mic. 6:11)

4 Yassir Arafat's org.

6 Hawaiian island

8 Mental telepathy

11 Stops (John 4:35)

16 Dots per inch

17 Ad ____ 21 "The ___ have it"

(motion passed)

25 Projecting window

28 Good ludean king

23 OT wall bldr

24 Venerable

26 Body's lamp

27 Opp. of rev.

29 Rible Lit Intl

10 Am. politician Aaron ____

9 Vicinity

___, the Witch, and the

Wardrobe (C. S. Lewis bk.)

3 Coin entry

5 Twang type

- 15 Jesus' statement (cont. in 31-
- 18 Start of enumerated list
- 9:27)
- 20 Rowers
- 22 Legal corp. designation
- 24 "If you love me, ___ me"

- 31 Jesus' statement (cont. in 49-

- 37 Placed
- 38 Teachers' org.
- 4f Oil-price controller
- 46 English ship registry
- cluded; John 10:11)
- 52 Woman, for short 53 Average grades
- 30 Massenet's composition "Le ___"
 32 Dir. of Chron. Ed.

- __ Let Me Walk with Thee" (hymn) 34 Chicago's state.
- 38 Noncom 39 Invoke divine favor (Luke 1:30)
- 40 66 in the Bible: abbr.
- (John 21:25) 41 Show-___ (exhibitionIsts)
- 42 Glance (Isa. 10:14) 43 Evang. For. Missions Assoc.
- 45 Pardon me
- 46 Cry in trouble 47 Choice list
- 48 Cross over (Job 14:5) 50 Radio Corp. of Amer.
- 51 English Reformer John



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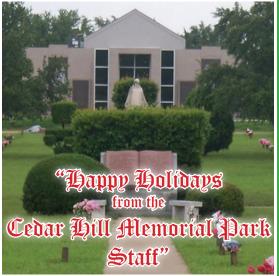
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P.O. Box 330401 Ft. Worth,TX 76163 Evang. Sharon Ford-Turner, Pastor e-mail: sharonlmasonfordturner@gmail.com

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

