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JULY
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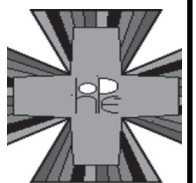
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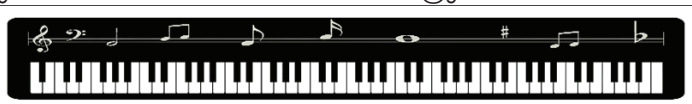
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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Bill Hybels, founding and former senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois, once said that "Christ's Church is the hope of the world, and leadership is the hope of the church." New York Times bestselling author and leadership guru John Maxwell has been saying for years that "Everything rises and falls on leadership."

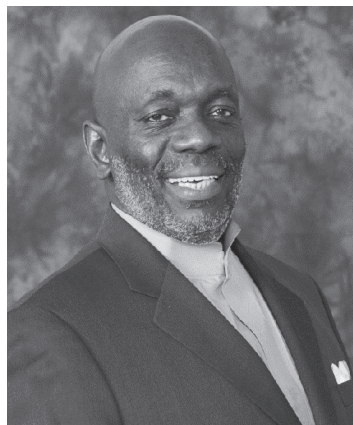
By definition, a leader is a person who others follow. But leadership isn't just a matter of a nodding acquaintance with management principles and a familiarity with leadership dynamics. It's a stewardship responsibility. A leader is responsible for the people entrusted to his or her care.

We're *slowly but surely* emerging from the deleterious affect the novel coronavirus had on the faith community, particularly the African American Church. I've mentioned in previous columns that many churches lost not only those members who were straddling the fence and idling on the periphery, but an appreciable percentage of churches lost leaders who, prior to the advent of the COVID pandemic, were active, financially supportive and very much involved in the life of their church.

When it comes to identifying and recruiting church leaders, what's the next step? Let me be grammatically incorrect and answer that question with another question. Has your congregation relied on the same group of leaders for decades? Some are burned out and in need of a breather. Others adamantly cling to their roles long past their season of effectiveness. Yet somehow this same group of usual suspects is shuffled from one key leadership role to the next. How can you infuse new energy into a leadership pipeline that has run dry?

I've been advocating that churches, mine included, intentionally conceptualize and implement a leadership development strategy and this article is another deliberate attempt to jumpstart the process!

One first step to evolving a leadership development strategy, in addition to what I've shared in a couple of previous columns, **is the need to define what leadership is.** When the conversation is leadership, is everyone on the same page regarding how



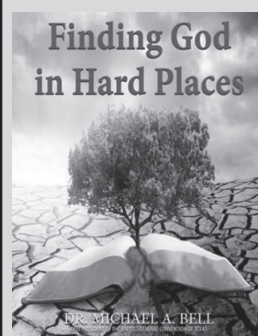
leadership is defined and what it entails? If you don't define a leader and leadership, how can you know if you're accomplishing your goal of developing leaders? So who is a leader? What's your definition? And how does that affect your approach to leadership development?

Another step is to encourage existing leaders to think development-first, not doing-first. Arguably, the best leaders raise up other leaders. But if leaders do the stuff themselves, how will opportunities for growth be made available for others around them?

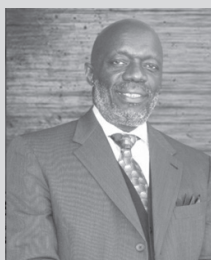
One more thing, determine who will actually develop leaders. You want to make sure you have healthy church leaders and somebody, the Senior Pastor or a staff person or a lay leader, needs to decide who will begin the development process (*especially if you don't have much leadership development going on currently*). If you're reading this and you pastor a congregation, are you sure you are the best person to develop leaders? Be careful about putting the wrong person in this very critical role. Pastor, sometimes, in our haste to get the ball rolling in the right direction, we don't bathe the leadership development process in prayer. Please take time to pray. Ask God to raise up leaders in your church, to give you wisdom on selecting leaders, and to help you train them well.

**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 is the author of Finding God in Hard Places.*

Finding God in Hard Places



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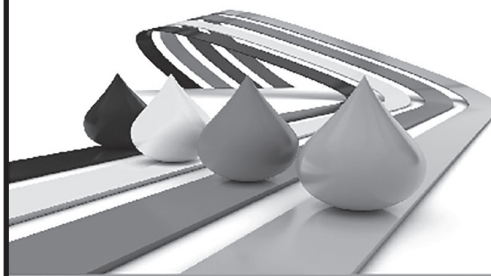
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Speak Life Thought

with First Lady & Co-Pastor Yolanda G. Butler

"A Life of Trouble"

"It is good for me that I have been afflicted that I might learn thy statutes." (Psalm 119:71)

No one likes trouble. We do not wake up in the morning and say, "Hey trouble come on over here!" Yet trouble can be unruly, rude, and annoying. Trouble is color blind, unbiased, and has no boundaries. Trouble works 24/7 and takes no breaks. Trouble is a state of distress, affliction, or need. To be afflicted means to be disturbed or oppressed, i.e., be in a state of feeling anxiety and distress.

David is no novice to trouble. He was constantly taunted and chased by King Saul because of jealousy. After committing adultery, murder, and deceit, while the Father mercifully forgave David, his penalty would be trouble in his household all the days of his life. David lived a life in which he knew while he may be the anointed chosen king, he was not exempt from trouble.

So it is with us dear hearts. We are saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Spirit. We are preachers, teachers, doctors,

nurses, workforce laborers, and servants but that does not mean we are exempt from trouble in our lives. We hurt, are in pain, worry, anxious, have panic attacks, have relationship issues, family issues, financial issues, and issues with people in the church.

Amid constant trouble, King David the worshipper, found the secret to enduring afflictions—"it's a good thing." What? A good thing! Yes, a good thing. It is a humble opportunity to draw closer to the Father through His Holy Word. The Word of God is quick and powerful, alive and active, and when applied it brings life. Comfort is not found in what a man has on this earth but in what he has in his heart. What is your heart condition? What fuels your heart? What is hidden in your heart? Trouble and stones of adversity are God's gift to the believer to draw closer to Him. He said we would endure many troubles but promised to be right there to teach and deliver us (Psalm 34:19).

Yes, afflictions cause pain and suffering and can knock you down, harass you, and weaken you. There are some afflictions that almost took you out. They do not serve a purpose to hold



you hostage in despair but fuel you to trust in a Greater Power and that is El Shaddai, the God Almighty.

The Word of God is attracted to your trouble, affliction, pain, and suffering. Use these adverse stones as stepping stones to the Father's Word. It is not your tears that move the Father, it is your faith in His Word that testifies of who He is and that He is faithful to see you through them on. So dear hearts, be determined to lean on the value of the truth of God's Word through all your troubles.

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.

WHAT IS PRAISE AND WORSHIP? A BIBLICAL DEFINITION

by DANIEL FORSTER

You've probably heard someone at church say, "We are going to have Praise and Worship."

What once began as a simple catchphrase to attract people towards Christian music has morphed into vague Christian-ese. We've tossed the phrase around without stopping to consider the meaning behind the words. The unintended result is that music, one of God's gifts to aid us in worshiping, has for many become an end in itself. The danger of overfamiliarity and of misusing biblical terms is that the purity of our praise and worship actually ends up diluted.

When I was a new Christian, having been raised Jewish, I was oblivious to the various Christian phrases being taught to me. All I knew was the experience I was having with God. As I began to grow spiritually, Christian lingo became a part of my Christian life — somehow dulling the experiences I used to have. I had become numb in a way. No longer was praise and worship an experience with God; it was just another part of the "church" experience.

So, I decided to do some research on my own and get back to the basics. Here is what I discovered.

WHAT IS PRAISE?

Praise, in the original Greek, means to sing, to tell of, to give, or to confess.* In simpler terms, it means to be thankful for God's blessings, and to declare that good news to God and to others. Here are some examples in Scripture:

Psalms 9:1-3, 18:2-3 and 28:2, & 6-7 describe how to praise God for what He has done for us.

Psalm 79:13 tells us to praise God by passing from generation to generation the knowledge of his goodness, grace, and mercy.

Hebrews 13:15 tells us that instead of using sacrifices towards God, we are to offer him praise and thanks. In other words, giving praise is a form of sacrifice.

1 Peter 1:7 explains that our faith naturally leads to our praise of God.

In Acts 16:25, we see Paul and Silas praising God and witnessing to other prisoners. It is also worthy to note that they were praising God under horrible circumstances in their lives.

Each of these Scriptures emphasize that praise is an outward expression, not just to God, but in order to tell others how good God is. This is the true foundation of praise. It doesn't have to be directly correlated with music, and it has nothing to do with putting on a show. True praise comes from deep in the heart, and the outcome is that others see God working in us.

A wonderful example of this can be found in the song Mary proclaims while still carrying Jesus in her womb (Luke 1:46-55). Filled with his Spirit and fully aware of his greatness, Mary tells of

how magnificent God is. She sings of how great he is, not only to her, but to all people of all nations.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship, in both the original Greek and Hebrew, convey the idea of: "to prostrate oneself, to bow down, to fall face down, to pay homage and to pay respect."* In other words, worship is the highest form of honor and respect that we can show towards God. While worship can be done in public, its main directive is very different from praise. Worship is a direct conversation between you and God. It is highly intimate and personal. Here are some examples in Scripture:

Luke 17:15-16, 7:36-38 explain that by worshipping, we are putting God first in our lives. This coincides with what Jesus said in Matthew 22:35-40 when he quoted the greatest commandment from the Old Testament.

Isaiah 29:13 explains the difference between worshipping by human rules as opposed to worshipping from the heart. John 4:23-24 tells us that all may worship God, and that we are to worship him in spirit and in truth.

Romans 1:25 explains how we can be deceived and worship the things God has created rather than worshipping him who is the Creator.

There is great importance to be placed on worship. The devil himself knew this, which is why he made it the final temptation for Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:8-10). What we worship is who and what we will follow. Worship goes beyond words and feelings. It is the foundation for our true servanthood

towards God. This is why worship is so intimate — it defines our relationship with him. There is nothing on this earth, or in our lives, that is more important than our relationship with God.

An excellent example of this is found in John 12:3 when Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anoints the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume. Judas, who was later to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, was quick to criticize her because he saw it as a waste of money. He claimed the money could instead have fed the poor and helped the unfortunate. Jesus saw that his statement held no true worship-value toward him, so he rebuked Judas. Whereas he defended Mary by saying she anointed him in preparation for His burial, thus showing her devotion. Basically, Jesus was teaching there is no higher value than worshipping God.

Praise and worship clearly go beyond something we do in church or at a concert.

It is not just a title to be assigned to describe an activity. Rather it is a complete way of life for one who follows Christ. Praise and worship are in fact to be the foundation on which we live our lives. Without both, we can't possibly be effective at being the hands and feet of God. To accomplish this, worship of God and of him alone must be a first priority at all times. Through our worship of him and the intimacy that comes through such worship, praise for him will naturally flow from our actions and words. In doing this our lives will be a true reflection of Christ, from the inside out.

Greater Saint Stephen First Church celebrate TATYANA TERRELL - UTA Student Athlete of the Year

Tatyana Terrell was an NCAA West Regional qualifier in three separate sprint events: 200m, 400m and the 4x100m relay. At the WAC Outdoor Championships, she helped UTA to gold in the 4x100 and claimed an individual silver medal in the 400m, setting the school record with a time of 52.79 — the third occurrence during the season breaking the record. A few weeks later, Terrell was part of another school record, this time in the 4x100 at the West Regional in Sacramento, Calif., with a clocking of 44.03. That marked the third time as well during the season the group set the school mark, and the quartet just missed qualifying for nationals by 0.12 of a second.

Along with the aforementioned school records, Terrell also established a personal record in the 100m (11.84) at the North Texas Classic in April. Additionally, she



claimed WAC Track Athlete of the Week on Apr. 26.

Terrell was awarded her MBA in May. She was also the recipient of the Optimist Club of Arlington Endowment.

Taty is the proud daughter of Elder Reginald & Mrs. Lisa Terrell and a Faithful Member of Exciting Greater St. Stephen First Church, a Member of the Music Team and the Lead Musician for the Voices of Excellence!

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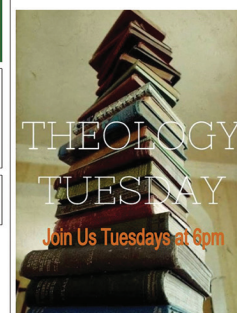
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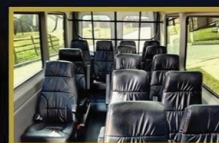
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Lil Pop Gourmet Popcorn is hoppin', wins Fort Worth Business Plan Competition

by Seth Bodine | Fort Worth Report

Shalonda and Michael Burnside started their business with a kernel of passion: inspiring the next generation of aspiring business owners. That's why they founded Lil Pop Gourmet Popcorn.

When they entered a room to develop a business plan and compete with 20 other businesses for \$10,000, Shalonda said she felt nervous.

"It started off, honestly, with me walking into the room and feeling like, do I belong here?" she said. "Like, you know, is my business something that people will see as you know, viable and marketable?"

On May 11, they got their answer. They won the City of Fort Worth's Business Plan Competition.

The competition pitted 20 businesses, 2 to 5 years old, against each other, in the development of business plans over the course of several months. The top eight finalists pitched to a panel of judges in Thursday's competition.

Now, with a \$10,000 cash prize, the Burnside's are working on building up their website and want to partner with

schools and nonprofits.

Amy Rasor, Fort Worth regional director of the Better Business Bureau and a judge, said the competition was fierce. The well-organized plan and a passionate pitch went a long way for Lil Pop.

"You want to know that they know what they're doing on paper," Rasor said. "But really, you got to see that they have that grit and that passion that's going to get them through being a business owner."

Lil Pops' logo is a girl with popcorn in her hair. It's inspired by their daughters. Shalonda Burnside said the business started when she was struggling to reenter the workforce after having a child.

"We decided to start a business because we didn't want our daughters to kind of have to go through that if they decided to be stay-at-home moms," she said.

The Burnside's make their popcorn from their home and source ingredients locally. The Burnside's developed six flavors: turtle pop, cookies and cream, cinnamon churro, crunchy caramel, kettle corn and birthday cake. They partner with local nonprofits to cater popcorn.

Two other businesses won cash prizes at the competition.

Luxury stationery company Manifest Your Purpose won second place and \$6,000, and third place went to van lifestyle manufacturer Knarly Vans, and \$4,000. A home inspection business for seniors, Lifestyle Transitions, won the audience-voted "perfect pitch" prize.

All of the finalists have access to a preapproved loan from Frost Bank, which is an event sponsor.



Michael and Shalonda Burnside, owners of Lil Pop Gourmet Popcorn, stand with a \$10,000 check after winning the Fort Worth Business Plan Competition at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth on May 11, 2023. (Seth Bodine | Fort Worth Report)

Around the Community with Pastor Sharon Ford-Turner



Pic 1) Juneteenth Soul of Sycamore Festival 2023. The Minister Derek Locke Memorial Music Scholarship Foundation gave Free Backpacks with School Supplies. With Pre-shawn, Trinity and Mason Ford helping; Pic 2) On Stage With Terry D.T. Miles M.C. at Juneteenth Soul of Sycamore Festival; Pic 3) With Dr. Cameron Director Supervisor Of Black Votes Matter at Juneteenth Soul of Sycamore Father's Day Gospel Festival.

THINK IT THROUGH:

Ft. Worth Pastor To Attend Bloomberg CityLab in Washington DC.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS - The Reverend Kyev Tatum of the New Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church of Fort Worth has been selected to participate in the tenth Bloomberg CityLab, the preeminent global cities summit organized by Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with the Aspen Institute that bring together global mayors alongside prominent city innovators, business leaders, urban experts, artists, and activists to discuss and discover replicable solutions to pressing issues.

Bloomberg CityLab was founded on the principle that the most important innovation is happening at the local level and that global impact can be achieved when cities share solutions.

A member of the Racial Justice and Religion Collective at the Aspen Institute, Pastor Kyev Tatum is the president of the Ministers Justice Coalition of Texas.

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Worship Service.....11:00am
Wednesday Service.....7:30pm

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817.457.4362 mfbchurch@netzero.com
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**SUNDAY SCHOOL
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**MORNING WORSHIP
11:00AM**

**WEDN BIBLE STUDY
7:00PM**

**DR. C. L. PERKINS,
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4000 E. Berry St.
Fort Worth, TX 76105
Phone: 817-536-6421

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Reginald Andrews, Pastor/Teacher

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Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.
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Weekly Services
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
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Sunday Morning Services.....11:00 a.m.
Communion Service.....Monthly
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After Juneteenth, what does the 4th of July mean for Black Americans?

Commentary by Reverend Irene Monroe

What does independence mean when your protests against racial injustice are called anti-American, anti-police and anti-military?

This July 4th, America will celebrate 245 years of independence from British rule. However, when President Joe Biden signed into law Juneteenth as a federal holiday, it forced Americans to take a sterner look at what this July 4th means.

More than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and two months after the end of the Civil War on April 9th, 1865, enslaved African-Americans in Texas found out they were free on June 19, 1865, called Juneteenth. Also, it's known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day.

With two wildly disparate celebratory liberation narratives about independence, America must reconcile its founding ideals with her spotty lived-reality.

In 1852, Frederick Douglass called America out on its hypocrisy in his speech, "What, to the slave, is the Fourth of July?" In it, Douglass stated that a country in the throes of slavery has to close its sizeable gap between the ideals of the United States and its dastardly deeds toward people of color. His words still resonate today.

"What have I, or those I represent, to do with your national independence.... I am not included within the pale of this glorious anniversary! Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us.... This Fourth of July is yours, not mine," Douglass said.

African-Americans have fought in every war defending this country, starting with the American Revolution in a segregated military until 1948. Crispus Attucks, a brother of African and Native American ancestry from Framingham, was the first martyr for America's independence in the American Revolution. Prince Estabrook, an enslaved man and Black Minuteman from Lexington, was wounded

in the American Revolution's first battle.

The fight for Black independence was ongoing during the American Revolution, too. Enslaved Africans who fought for the British, called Black Loyalists, were ensured their freedom. Sadly, enslaved Africans who fought against the British remained enslaved. They were reluctantly acknowledged as Black Patriots, even today in July 4th celebrations.

But Black patriotism is exhibited not only on the battlefields of America's wars but also in America's streets and sports arenas.

For example, in 2016, San Francisco 49ers QB Colin Kaepernick began to protest police brutality against Black Americans and other forms of social injustice by taking a knee during the national anthem. His action was seen as polarizing, un-American, and unpatriotic. However, when patriotism is narrowly defined, it can only be accepted and exhibited within the constraints of its own intolerance.

Case in point, former President Trump, in particular, stoked the flames of Kaepernick's expression of protest. Trump publicly criticized Kaepernick and his allies, calling them S.O.B.s and saying that taking a knee during the national anthem was against the American flag, cops, and the military.

To Kaepernick's defense, former Attorney General Eric Holder tweeted a photo of one of the first images of Martin Luther King down on his left knee in Selma, Alabama on February 1, 1965. Holder tweeted, "Taking a knee is not without precedent, Mr. President. Those who dared to protest have helped bring positive change." King said in his Montgomery Bus Boycott speech on December 5, 1955, "The great glory of American democracy is the right to protest for

right."

The controversy of taking a knee during the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner," America's beloved national anthem, brought heightened attention to the anthem's racist history. Francis Scott Key, who penned the lyrics, supported slavery and came from an influential plantation family in Maryland. The song's third verse, no longer sung after the Civil War, included the lyrics, "No refuge could save the hireling and slave / from the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave."

In depicting the mangling grip of white supremacist domestic terrorism on Black lives, Malcolm X said in 1965, "That's not a chip on my shoulder. That's your foot on my neck." The world got to see a nine-minutes and 29-second video of former Minnesota Police officer Derek Chauvin's murdering George Floyd by placing his knee on Floyd's neck.

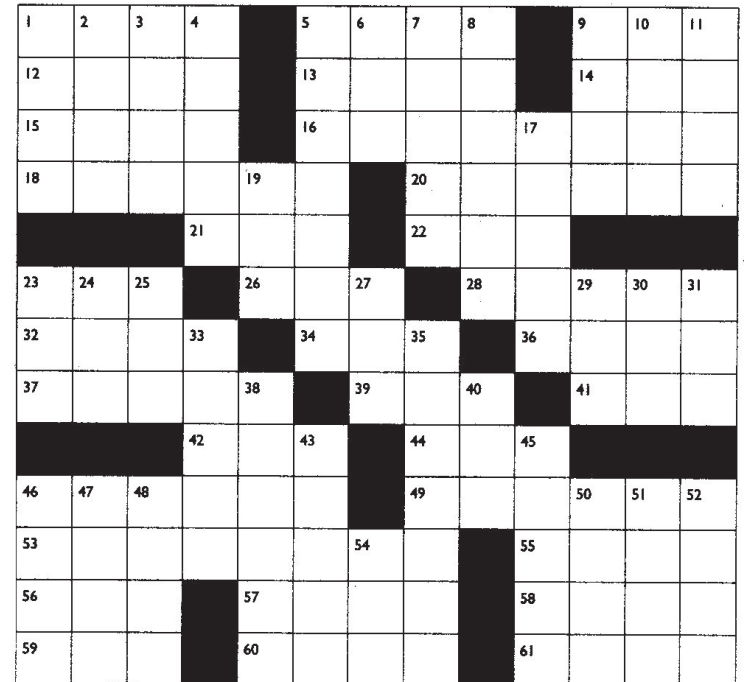
Floyd handcuffed, lying face down, and saying, "I can't breathe," Chauvin was sentenced to 22 and a half years in prison. However, the ongoing struggle against police brutality persists.

This Fourth of July, people will once again sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" or recite the Pledge of Allegiance or reenact the Continental Congress of 1776 or watch reproductions of the "rockets red glare and bombs bursting in air." America will showcase her indomitable spirit of bravery and patriotism as vaxxed or non-vaxxed citizens during this ongoing pandemic.

However, this 4th will be different from the previous ones. Juneteenth can no longer stand in the shadows of America's celebration of independence. Juneteenth highlights how independence is inextricably linked to America's core values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Topic: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



ACROSS

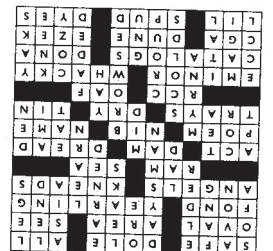
- 1 "___ am I in the hollow of his hand" (chorus)
- 5 Distribute in small portions (Lev. 26:26)
- 9 "___ the way my Savior leads me" (hymn)
- 12 President's office
- 13 Region
- 14 "___ from his head, his hands, his feet" (hymn)
- 15 "Perish every ___ ambition" (hymn)
- 16 Under two years old (Exod. 29:38)
- 18 "___ we have heard on high" (hymn)
- 20 Works dough
- 21 Battering weapon
- 22 "Deeper than the mighty rolling ___" (hymn)
- 23 Performance
- 26 Beaver's house
- 28 "No condemnation now I ___" (hymn)
- 32 Rhyming thoughts
- 34 Pen point
- 36 "There is a ___ I love to hear" (hymn)
- 37 Platters
- 39 "To write the love of God above would drain the ocean ___" (hymn)

- 41 Silvery metal
- 42 Largest religious body in USA
- 44 Awkward person
- 46 Key: two words
- 49 Crazy
- 53 Choral selection sources
- 55 Spanish lady
- 56 Computer monitor type
- 57 Sand hill
- 58 Between Lam. and Dan.
- 59 ___ Bo Peep
- 60 Potato
- 61 Colorants

DOWN

- 1 Couch
- 2 Stratford on ___
- 3 Sharp tooth
- 4 Church official (1 Pet. 5:1)
- 5 "Neither is there any ___ betwixt us" (Job 9:33, kpv)
- 6 Crater Lake state
- 7 Releases of classified data (Nah. 2:8)
- 8 Worked for
- 9 Turkish province (Acts 16:6)
- 10 "Mary, Joseph, ___ your aid, with us sing our Savior's birth" (hymn)
- 11 Broken on two crucified thieves (John 19:32)
- 17 "More about Jesus let me ___" (hymn)

- 19 Child
- 23 Fitting
- 24 Addressees of 7th N.T. letter: abbr.
- 25 Beverage from steeped leaves
- 27 "___ toil and tribulation and tumult of her war" (hymn)
- 29 "Give me to ___ and live with Thee above" (hymn)
- 30 Clan of Temple workers (Ezra 2:57)
- 31 Hangout (Jer. 7:11)
- 33 Christian singer ___ White
- 35 Casually perused 53-across
- 38 Criticizes severely (Matt. 19:13)
- 40 Informal OK
- 43 Childhood larynx disease
- 45 Diminished (Lev. 13:56)
- 46 O.T. bk. of vanity
- 47 Visited Christ child
- 48 Emphasis type
- 50 Snug and warm
- 51 "Come, adore on bended ___ Christ the Lord" (hymn)
- 52 Hairy Asian oxen
- 54 African antelope



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MORNING WORSHIP.....10:30 a.m.
EVERY WEDNESDAY - BIBLE STUDY.....6:30 p.m.
1ST, 4TH, 5TH WEDNESDAY - PRAYER SERVICE.....7:30 p.m.
EVERY WEDNESDAY - YOUTH MEETINGS.....7:30 p.m.
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Morning Worship - Sunday 10:05am
Prayer Meeting - Wednesday 7:00pm

VISION STATEMENT
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Hab. 2:1-4 Matt. 28:18-20

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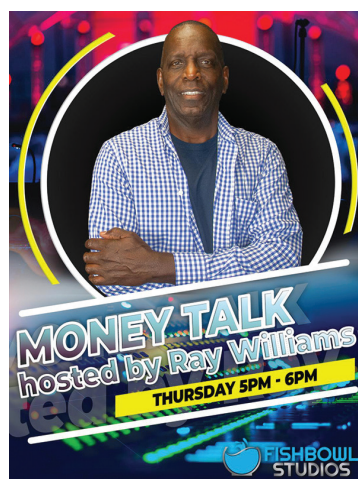
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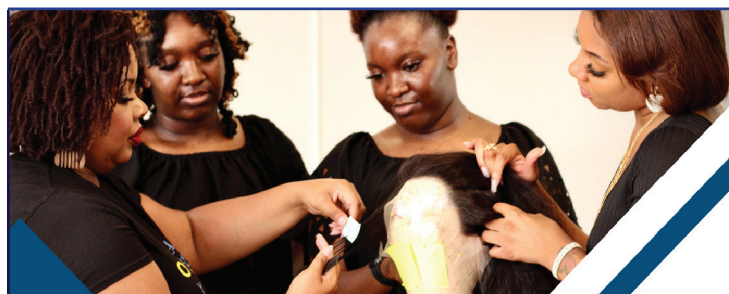
Mon-Fri 6am | Sat-Sun 7am

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-Luke 10:27

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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

Evangelist Sharon Ford-Turner, Pastor

e-mail: sharonlmasonfordturner@gmail.com

Sunday Services:

Conference Call
Services.

9:00 am

Sunday School



SHARON FORD TURNER

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

