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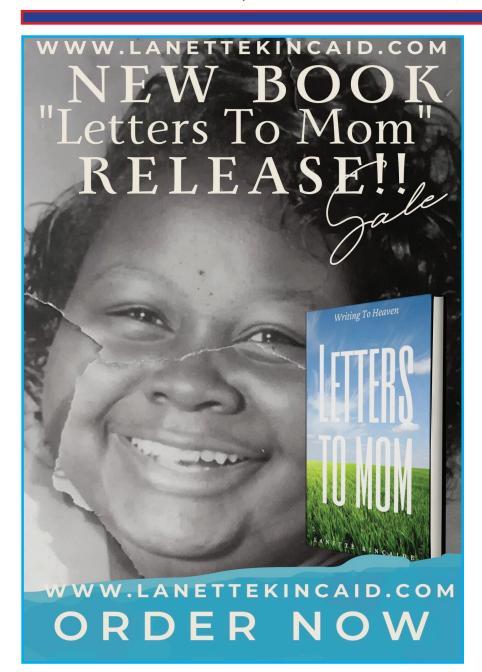
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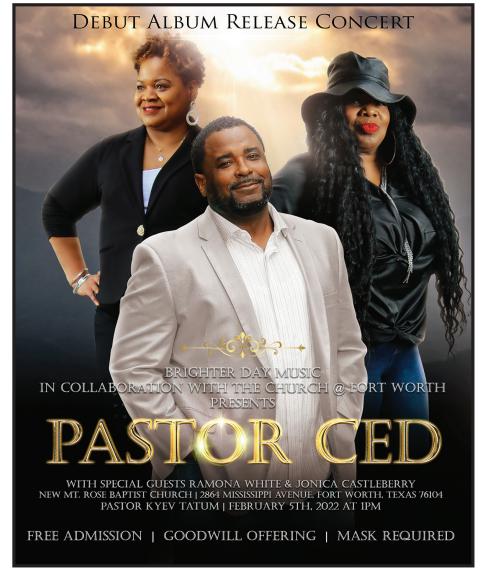
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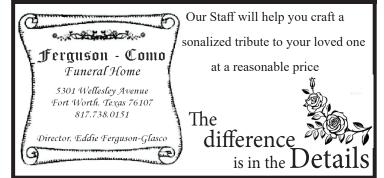
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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Church leader, 2022 is here and what steps have you taken to be ready for it and, at the same time, put 2021 in perspective. Yesterday ended last night and today is the tomorrow you talked about yesterday. As we used to sing back in old church, "time is filled with swift transition." The pandemic still has legs. We still have way more questions than answers culturally and politically. A "return to pre-Covid 19 normality" seems to be less and less likely. And you still haven't located 30-50% of your congregants. But, nevertheless, time waits for no one and the church or ministry you lead must move ahead into the new year.

Here's a short to-do list to help jumpstart your church's new calendar year.

- 1. Celebrate what God has done over the past year. Maybe you witnessed people grow in their faith and commitment to the Lord's church over the last twelve months. Perhaps you helped your church to embrace technology and expand its online footprint. These are praiseworthy. Thank the Lord and your people. Encourage them. Send thank you cards, gifts and texts. Celebrate what God has already done.
- 2. Church leaders should conduct personal checkups. The Apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthian believers to take a self-inventory (1 Corinthians 11:28). I think before, and at the onset of a new year, we should examine ourselves too. Donald Whitney's 10 Questions to Ask at the Start of a New Year is a helpful and free resource that will assist you with your assessment.
- 3. The new year is a great time to appraise your church's health. To know where God wants you to go, you must assess where you are. Churches are dynamically different from all other organizations and entities. God calls the church the Body of Christ and a family of faith. All bodies and families go through ups and downs. How is the ministry you lead faring after twelve months of going through a global health crisis? What areas of ministry can you improve? What are your needs this year?



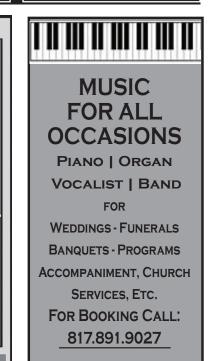
What are your strengths? What are your mission, vision and goals this year?

- **4. Make prayer a priority.** Scripture says we are to pray continually *(1 Thessalonians. 5:17).* One way to equip our people to pray is to take them through a period of corporate prayer. Start the year off with 7 days, 14 days or 21 days of prayer.
- **5.** Promote the financial health of your congregation. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). After "Hallowthanksmas," people tend to be short on funds. The new year is a perfect time to explore the topic of financial stewardship.
- 6. Discover innovative ways to keep your ministry or congregation connected. This is a new day and today's church/ministry leaders must be open to beyond-the-box methods and approaches to staying in contact with and ministering to church members and prospects.
- 7. Promote outreach. Think missionally locally and globally this new year. The church is the body of Christ on earth (1 Corinthians 12:27). How might you minister in such a way that if your ministry were to close its doors this year, the community would miss you? Think locally. Think globally as well. Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20).

*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







IF YOU'RE A MUSICIAN LOOKING FOR FULL OR PART-TIME WORK, LET US KNOW.

Speak Life Thought

with First Lady & Co-Pastor Yolanda G. Butler

"A Life of Momentum"

"And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God." (1 Samuel 30:6)

When tragedy hits, it can send you into an emotional roller coaster. You may do things you never intended to do or say things you never intended to say. The effects of your hurt launched out of others have the power to hurt others. King David and his men returned from battle to find that everything they worked so hard for and loved was tragically taken away. Rather than rally with their leader, the men attacked him, said hurtful things to the point they wanted to kill him. David was just as discouraged as they were and felt a sense of responsibility for the tragedy. He retreated to a solitary place, and it was in that place he found comfort in his faith. He regained his momentum and with the help of the Lord was favored a plan to go recover all that was stolen.

This lesson teaches us that others may not have the right words to say or be available when we need them. You will discover the best encourager lies within you. It is the power

- of faith and the word within you that brings forth life to your soul. After all that you have endured, you can regain your momentum to move forward. Make up your mind to eliminate the excuses and encourage yourself to begin to live the best life God intended. Start with a Momentum Plan with five simple steps.
- 1. **Commit.** Psalm 37:5 says, "Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him and He will help you." Rededicate yourself to the Father and trust Him to guide you in your everyday life.
- 2. **Refresh.** Just as you have to refresh your web browser to update to current information so you must do with your thinking. Romans 12:2 says that as we renew our minds through meditation of the Father's Word we become more like Christ. Every time you put the Word of God in action you literally refresh (update) your life according to His Will.
- 3. **Declutter.** Hebrews 12:2 tells us to "lay aside [strip off] every weight [sin]" that slows us down. This means endeavor to remove those unnecessary items, people, and distractions out of your life.
- 4. **Engage.** Engage has two meanings. The first meaning is found in Luke 19:13 when Jesus said to "occupy" until He returns. We are to occupy (engage) ourselves by being useful and con-



tinue with the Father's business using the gifts He has entrusted to us. (Eph. 4:7) The second meaning is to fight. Believers not only put on the armor of God, but we put it to use because we "wrestle [fight, struggle] against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph 6:12)

5. **Ignite.** Paul told Timothy to "stir up the gift of God" that lies within him. We as believers are called to keep the momentum of the indwelling gifts in us alive and do the work of God.

So dear hearts, be determined to regain your momentum in your faith in the Father and His Word and be a living and breathing masterpiece making a BIG impact for the Kingdom of God!

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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Ballpark Coffee to Help Launch New Nonprofit, the Inner City Coffee Exchange

Few things go together like baseball and a cup of coffee. Well, very few things do, actually — but the unlikely pairing spurred by an even unlikelier partnership is all part of an initiative to stimulate the economy on the east side of 76104, using the power of caffeine.

The initiative involves the launch of a new coffee brand called Ballpark Coffee, spearheaded by Kyev Tatum, pastor of the New Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church. He's working with Texas A&M University's Center for Coffee Research and Education to produce each bag through College Station roaster What's the Buzz. Throwing a curveball into the mix is Rob Matwick — Texas Rangers executive vice president of business operations — who's lending his business acumen to help grow the initiative.

While Ballpark Coffee isn't directly affiliated with the Texas Rangers Baseball Club, its red and blue branding serves as a subtle nod to the home team. Ballpark Coffee officially launched in October during the Fort Worth Coffee Festival, which Tatum organized downtown to help draw attention to the brand.

Mind you, Ballpark Coffee isn't meant to be a business. It's the funding mechanism that will help launch a nonprofit Tatum's envisioning called the Inner-City Coffee Exchange — a coffee academy, if you will, meant to teach underserved members of the community about the science and business behind a cup of joe. Tatum says the hope is that residents on the east side of Interstate 35, particularly in 76104, will become inspired to join the coffee industry and help stimulate the economy in their neighborhood.

Or, as Tatum likes to say, make the community "better — not bitter"

"Not with charity or handout but with dignity and a hand up, that's what we want." he says.

So how exactly did a Fort Worth pastor, Texas Rangers executive, and A&M come together?

The partnership began a few months ago, when Tatum and Matwick met and later worked together during an event honoring pastor and civil rights advocate Floyd S. Moody back in August. They hit off well, which eventually led to Tatum inviting Matwick to a Texas A&M presentation about its coffee program.

"I'm thinking, 'Now why would I go to this?" Matwick recalls. "But I tell Pastor sometimes, it must have been divine intervention because I had time on the calendar that day, and I said, 'You know what, I've really enjoyed getting to know Pastor Tatum. I'm just going to go see what this is about."

So Matwick went, becoming rather intrigued by the science behind coffee — and Tatum's idea to utilize it as a way to help build up his side of town.

Granted, neither Tatum nor Matwick consider themselves coffee aficionados. Tatum admits he doesn't even drink coffee (his wife does).



But he's driven by a desire to help his neighborhood, and Matwick just came along for the ride.

"If you spend more than five minutes with Pastor Tatum, it's hard not to get caught up in his enthusiasm," Matwick says. "What he's trying to do to support his community, it's a cause we can all certainly get behind."

The mission of Ballpark Coffee aligns with the mission of A&M's Center for Coffee Research and Education, says assistant director Eric Brenner. Part of Brenner's day job is to work with coffee farmers around the globe, helping improve their agricultural practices while also ensuring they're getting paid appropriately. But the Center has also been looking for ways to plug in at home, and when the idea for the Inner-City Coffee Exchange came about, the Center was quick to jump onboard.

Brenner worked with Tatum to produce the coffee bags through College Station-based roaster What's the Buzz, so sales from the coffee benefit not only the Inner-City Coffee Exchange but also the farmers who are growing the beans.

"In all the world, [coffee] produces jobs for over 100 million people. It creates a lot of revenue," Brenner says. "One of the things that we discussed with Pastor Tatum is maybe there's a way we can infuse some of these coffee ideas into an inner-city community to help them grow."

Brenner also helped develop the plan of execution for the Inner-City Coffee Exchange. Next steps for the project include evaluating the coffee academy's future space (which will be at Tatum's church), conducting a community assessment to determine the neighborhood's needs, and of course, raising funds through the sale of more bags. The coffee is currently being sold at the Texas Christkindl Market at Choctaw Stadium — a vendor booth that Matwick helped secure — which will run through Dec. 23.

Another way to purchase coffee — or simply get involved — is to contact Tatum directly at 817-966-7625. He's looking to create a website for the Inner-City Coffee Exchange and find more opportunities to sell Ballpark Coffee as the project progresses.

"[Kids in the community] will become the best ones for [the academy]. They'll see something outside of working at McDonalds or working somewhere else. You can literally open a oneman bistro, and we can show you how," Tatum says. "We've got A&M, the Rangers, What's the Buzz coffee, the church — who else do you need? Come on, baby. Let's do this."

24th Annual Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards To Hold In February 2022

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 24th edition of the annual event. The ballot award ceremony will hold at Houston Hobby Marriott Hotel from February 24 to 27, 2022, featuring fun and exciting activities, including performances from some of the most 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,

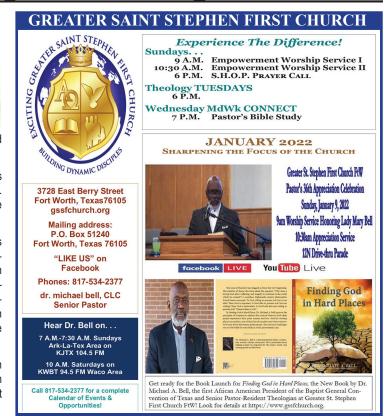
there are not enough platforms for such acts to show their craft and get appreciated. The case is not particularly different in the United States, which is where the Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards, as put together by Pastor Larry, is looking to make a difference.

Proceedings for the 24th edition of the awards started in July 2021 with nominations, followed by voting that began in late October. Each year, artists in designated categories are recognized as the best for that year and awarded the top honor. The 2021 edition of TGMEA will feature 17 categories for Texas, 23 categories for the United States and 7 categories on the International scene. The top 5 in each category will be announced during the week of De-

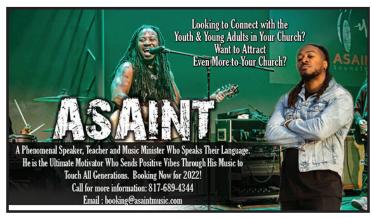


cember 19, 2021, with the winners to be unveiled at the award show in February.

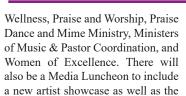
The award show weekend will begin on Thursday, February 24 with an afternoon opening ceremony and evening event to pay a tribute to quartet music and the legends of the industry. Other activities for the event include a Morning Glory program and Power2Praise Educational Sessions to focus on the Business of the Music Industry, Artist Health and







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Winners will be announced at the award show on Friday night and Saturday evening, with Red Carpet from 4 to 5:30 pm and an after-party Gospel concert to follow, featuring

Founder's Luncheon.



power-packed performances by an organization out of Florida. The final event is ChoirMania, to hold at one of the churches in Houston to be determined, with choirs from across the country participating in this celebration.

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.

Gospel Artists Give \$50,000 to Ronald McDonald Houses

On Sunday, December 12 at 8 p.m. ET, McDonald's USA delivered the gift of music to McDonald's fans through its Inspiration Celebration® Gospel Tour Holiday Experience. You can watch the tour HERE on BET's YouTube Channel. In partnership with BET, award-winning and emerging gospel artists including Yolanda Adams, Kurt Carr, James Fortune, Stephanie Summers, The Walls Group, and Brian Courtney Wilson, and featuring BET's Sunday Best winner Stephanie Summers, graced the virtual stage to ring in the season with some of their chart-topping hits and holiday carols and gospel music many love. Recently, Pastor Mike Jr. of Birmingham, AL visited the Ronald McDonald house to present a monetary donation and surprise families with Christmas gifts.

Show performers came together to premiere "Christmas Spirit," a feel-good song written and produced by chart-topping gospel artist, Sir the Baptist. Written exclusively for this Holiday Experience, the tune merges traditional gospel music with contemporary hip-hop

Inspiration Celebration® Gospel Tour tradition of supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC®) and its mission to improve the health and well-being of Donald House Charities families."



children and their families. Because 'tis the season, virtual concert-goers can donate to RHMC live at RMHC org/ICGT2021. Since 2012, The McDonald's Inspiration Celebration® Gospel Tour has raised more than

it's a time for celebration, it's a time to reflect and give back to others around us," said Yolanda Adams, Gram-This special holiday concert continues the long-standing my-nominated singer-songwriter. "I am proud to join this talented group of artists to usher in the holiday spirit for gospel fans nationwide while supporting Ronald Mc-

\$1M to help families with ill or injured children stay close when they need it most. "The holidays are such a special time. But as much as

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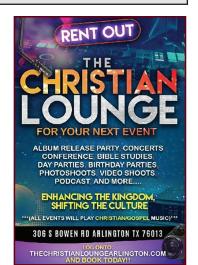
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Around the Communnity with Pastor Sharon Ford-Turner





Pic 1) Turners Chapel COGIC of TX Christmas Sunshine Band Program; Pic 2) Como Loins Heart And Richelle Heart Christmas Event At Como Community Center





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Wednesday Services

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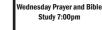
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School.... Morning Worship....10:30 AM Bible Study (Sun).....5:00 PM outh Classes.....Saturday





HARVEY AVENUE Baptist Church

1257 E. Harvey Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76104 PASTOR JACK TEELER

ing Worshin rvice 10:30am



NEW BREED Christian Co

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

"The Church Where Ministry Med

Darrell W. Blair, Senior Pastor Ft. Worth, TX 76119 817-534-1612Fax 4500 S. Riverside Dr. 817-534-1600 Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday. 9am - 4pm

Weekly Services SUNDAYS MORNING GLORY...

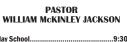
Promises Church

6182 Ridge Avenue Philadelphia. Pennsylvania 19128

> Taylor G. Martin, Pastor www.promiseschurch.org

SAMARIA **Baptist Church**

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rayer/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. World Intercessor Prayer 1st Thursday Monthly @ 6:30 P.M.

Transportation Call 817/738-6854



INSPIRING HIGHER Greater Eleazer

Lady. Rebecca Barrett Sunday School ... 9:30am10:45am Morning Worship..... Wednesday Night Bible Study....7:00pm



Mt. Ararat Missionary **Baptist Church**

Fort Worth, TX 76104 Church: 817.923.9761 Pastor Study: 817.826.7208

SUNDAY SCHOOL ...9:45AM MORNING WORSHIP.. ...11:00AM WEDNESDAY (Prayer & Teacher's Meeting)7:00PN

> REV. DONALD F. WILSON, JR. **PASTOR**

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THE RISING STAR Church of God in Christ

3909 Reed Street Fort Worth, TX 76119 Phone: 817-534-6963 ww.therisingstarcogic.com



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

SUNDAY SERVICES
aday School9:30 am
rning Worship....11:00am
VW6:30 pm
ht Service7:30 pm TUESDAY SERVICES

ning Prayer....11:00 am Band 7:00 pm

Tastebud Ministries Church

"Where the Word of God Gea & Kim is Food for the Soul"



SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:15 am
SUNDAY SERVICE	10:30 am
SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE	4:00 pm
(Every 2nd & 3rd Sunday)	
BIBLE STUDY (Wednesday)	7:00 pm
PRAYER MEETING (Wednesday)	6:30 pm

Office: 817.446.9408 / Cell 817.675.3402

Turner Chapel COGIC of Texas

Supt. James Turner Memorial Ministry

Evangelist Sharon Mason-Turner. Overseen P.O. Box 330401 Ft. Worth, TX 76163 . 817-294-2443
Email:siford@academicplanet.com
"The Work I ives On"

THE WORK LIVES ON	
9:00 amSunday School	
10:00 amWorship Service	
7 :00 p.m Bible Study	
EVERY 2nd Sunday at 10:30 am	
Services at Village Creek Nursing Home	
Bible Study - Tuesday @ 6:00pm	
3252 Oak Timber, Forest Hill, TX 76119	

Prayer / Spiritual Counseling / Teaching Visitation of Sick & Shut In
Helping Hand Food Distribution Ministries
College Scholarship Foundation



West Mt. Moriah **Baptist Church**

5325 Bonnell Street Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-731-3502 www.westmountmoriah.org

Dr. W.L.D. Campbell, Pastor		
Sunday School - Sunday	9:00am	
Morning Worship - Sunday	10:05am	
Prayer Meeting - Wednesday	7:00pm	

VISION STATEMENT beginning at home.

Matt. 28:18-20

COMING EVENTS

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is an IRS-supported, free income tax preparation program for low- to moderate-income individuals and families. Community volunteers, certified by the IRS, help taxpayers prepare their tax returns at no cost and make sure they claim valuable tax credits for which they're eligible, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC).

VITA helps taxpayers who make less than \$60,000 per year and need to file a return for the prior or current tax year.

VITA helps individuals keep more of their hard-earned money and brings millions of dollars back into the local economy through refunds and tax credits.

There are three ways to apply for VITA services: in-person at select locations, curbside drop-off and online.

In-person Help

Traditional, in-person service will be offered at three locations. Taxpayers must have an appointment; no waiting rooms are available. Schedule an appointment online or by calling 682-428-2939. Do not call the centers directly, you will be redirected to the appointment line.

MLK Community Center, 5565 Truman Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76112

Community Enrichment Center 6250 Northeast Loop 820, North Richland Hills, TX 76180

Southside Community Center 959 E. Rosedale St., Fort Worth, TX 76104

Curbside Drop-off Service

Curbside drop-off allows taxpayers to drop off their tax documents beginning in early January at a choice of several VITA locations. Schedule a drop-off appointment online or call 682-428-2939.

Taxpayers will be given a cell phone number to call upon arrival. Remain in your vehicle at all times; no one will be allowed inside facilities to wait. A staff member will come to your vehicle, copy your documents and return them to you. No originals will be kept

Online Tax Assistance Program

Apply for VITA Online Tax Assistance (Visit the link below for instructions) https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/neighborhoods/cap/vita

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.

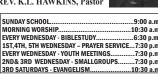


Zion Missionary Baptist Church

4100 Horne Street Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-737-6264

.thezionbaptistchurch.org

REV. K.L. HAWKINS, Pastor



Zion Rest

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

PASTOR RUFUS HUCKABY

11:00am Morning Worship

7:30pm



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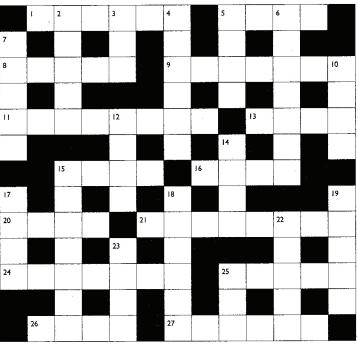
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BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Topic: JACOB and ESAU



ACROSS

- I His body was bound on an altar by his father (Gen. 22:9) 5 To make an effusive display of sentiment (Ps. 104:10)
- 8 "There will come a time when your limbs will tremble with age, your strong legs will become weak, and your will be too few to do their work" (Eccles. 12:3)
- 9 "Where is the ___ King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in far-off eastern lands and have come to worship him" (Matt. 2:2)
- 11 Desire for food (Job 33:20) 13 Masticate; grind in the mouth (Lev. 11:26)
- 15 "When a good man leaves an inheritance to his grandchildren" (Prov. 13:22) 16 "Don't eavesdrop! You may _your servant cursing
- you" (Eccles. 7:21) 20 Lacking hair on the head (Lev. 13:40)
- 21 Unintentional mishap (Num. 16:29) 24 "The devil who had betrayed

them will again be thrown

into the Lake of Fire burning

cal element (Rev. 20:10) 25 Group of church singers (Rev. 14:2) 26 Jaw part (Lev. 13:29)

_"; nonmetallic chemi-

27 People between childhood and maturity (Isa. 40:30)

with

2 "If you love ____, you will end in poverty. Stay awake, work hard, and there will be plenty to eat" (Prov. 20:13) 3 Cremation remains (Exod. 27:3)

DOWN

- 4 Soundness of mind (Dan. 4:34) 5 Woman's loose, flowing outer garment (Prov. 31:22) 6 Kill by depriving of air
- (| Kings 3:19) 7 "A dry crust eaten in peace is better than ____ every day along with argument and strife"; thick slice of meat
- 10 Reports of recent events (Gen. 32:6)

(Prov. 17:1)

- 12 One Philistine giant had six of these on each foot (2 Sam. 21:20)
- 14 Jesus' grandfather (Luke 3:23) 1.5 Samson's girlfriend and betrayer (Judg. 16:19)

- 17 Wanes, such as life; declines slowly (Lev. 26:16) 18 Vitamin-deficiency disease
- (Deut. 28:27) 19 Absolute, such as naked
- (Ps. 55:4) 22 First person who didn't die (Heb. 11:5)
- 23 Lean or slender (lob 33:21) 25 Hospital ward for heart patients: abbr.





CAPTIVATING STYLE presents...

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(A Check-Up from the Neck-Up)

aind to focus on positive thoughts by

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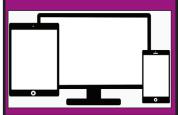
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Supt. James Turner Memorial Ministries

Sharon Ford-Turner, Overseer 3252 Oak Timber Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76119 817.614.6808

P.O. Box 330401 Ft. Worth,TX 76163 Evang. Sharon Ford-Turner, Pastor

Sunday Services: Conference Call Services. 9:00 am Sunday School



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

Tuesday10:30 am Prayer and Bible Study Conference Call Service

Mon-Sat 6:00 am Intercessory Prayer

