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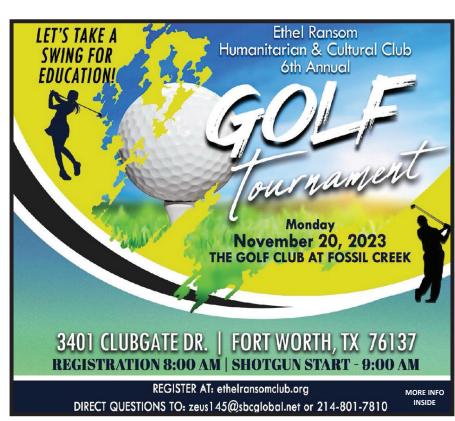
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# CHURCHIN' CHURCH NEWS MONTHLY **MWJORDAN PUBLISHING**

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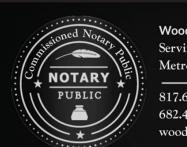
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Join us November 12, 2023, Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, 119TH Church Homecoming @ 3:00 pm, Corsicana, Tx.; November 15-17, 2023, Open Door C.O.G.I.C. Church, Revival @ 7:00 PM Nightly, Corsicana, Tx.; November 19, 2023, True Lee Baptist Church, Dallas, Tx. @10:00 AM & Bethany Baptist Church, Corsicana, Tx. @ 3:00 PM.

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# "The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

By now, you've heard all the talk and read survey after survey, research article after research article about how the novel coronavirus pandemic accelerated the decline of the church, particularly in America. Survey data suggests that church membership, church attendance and belief in God all declined during the pandemic years and continue dwindling to date. According to *Lifeway Research*, "typical church attendance is only 85% of pre-pandemic levels."

Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. writes, "no pillar of the African American community has been more central to its history, identity and social justice vision than the Black Church." Nonetheless (partly because we failed to teach our history to our posterity), since the virus outbreak, Black Church attendance and participation have been on a severe downswing. Some former mega-churches have experienced up to an 80% drop in worship attendance. Other local bodies of Christ had to cut back from as many as three weekly Sunday services to one. The wonderful congregation I serve is averaging 48% of our pre-pandemic. in-person attendance. Not unlike many of our sister congregations, a good number of those who no longer attend worship and participate in ministry were ministry leaders.

Church leadership in its various iterations is what this column is about. This month I want us to think about what your strategy and my strategy ought to be in light of a limited leadership pool. A relative number of ministry and committee team leaders are no longer engaged post-pandemic. What are our next steps?

One of the obvious answers is that we recruit new leaders. I agree. And that leads us to the fact that we must do a better job in defining what "leadership" is and isn't.

In its simplest form, leadership is influencing other people to follow. I read somewhere that leadership "is the leveraging of abilities and influence to facilitate accomplishment and change." Leadership isn't a title. Leadership isn't merely a position. Leadership is a function. Effective,



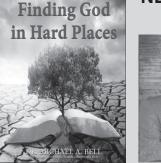
game-changing leadership sets direction, builds a vision and adopts as circumstances require. Leadership is about and mapping where your ministry needs to go.

Truth is, most people holding leadership positions in churches often don't have leadership skills. This is perhaps one of the most common leadership issues in the church. Leaders who don't lead but hold a position. A few years back I led a Church Leadership Workshop in a city in another state. The workshop was four-hours long and, throughout that time of engaging with the lay leaders and pastor of that congregation, I couldn't help but notice how the atmosphere was noticeably tense. There were a few hints of dissatisfaction with the pastor's leadership. Afterwards I discovered that the majority of those who attended the workshop attended only because the pastor made it mandatory. As a result, some of them were upset because all of a sudden the pastor wanted the leaders to lead. They were content just holding the position and wearing the title.

Leaders Lead. During this time of resetting, rebooting and redirecting, it's imperative that those who are in church leadership lead. We've already delineated what leadership is and isn't. Next time, let's think about "How To Recruit New Ministry Leaders From A Limited Leadership Pool."

\*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* and a chapter in the recently published book. *Justice Looks Like* 







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# Speak Life Thought

with First Lady & Co-Pastor Yolanda G. Butler

# A Life of Thanksgiving

"Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good! For His Mercy endures forever." (Ps. 107:1)

The month of November holds what is considered one of the most precious holidays and that is Thanksgiving. Dating back to as early as 1612, it was intended as a time of thanksgiving prayers, food, fellowship, and games. Over the years, the tradition and culture of Thanksgiving varies. For the Christian, Thanksgiving is often a time set aside to express thankfulness for the merciful hand and kindness that the Father has so graciously bestowed upon us. Some churches open their doors for worship followed by a feast, especially for those who have no family. Some ministries cater to the homeless or the indigent as an expression of the Father's love. Then many families will travel on the busiest day of the year far and near to sit at the Thanksgiving family table.

While Thanksgiving is indeed a day set aside for gathering the family and loved ones to indulge in some good old-fashioned homecooked meals and

watch football games, let us not neglect to take the time to be thankful. Thank the Father for salvation, health, breath, strength, and a sound mind. Let us use this holiday as a time to teach our little ones the power of being thankful as well. Consider reaching out to those who have supported you this past year through good and rough days. Tell them "thank you" for just being there. As you prepare a plate for yourself, consider preparing a plate for someone else who is not privileged to sit at the family table. As you say a personal prayer of thanks, consider calling someone (not text) and pray a thanksgiving prayer over them. Let us cherish family traditions and also create new ones that express a heart of thankfulness.

But most of all, let Thanksgiving serve as a reminder to always thank our Heavenly Father just for being Elohim our Creator, Adonai our Master, Jehovah our Lord, El Shaddai the Almighty, Yahweh our Lord, and the many personal names that He is to you. Why? It is because of His mercy that we have not all been wiped out from this earth (Lam 3:22). That is a reason to be thankful. It is because of His love towards us that He sent His Son into the world, not to condemn us, but through Him to save us



(John 3:17). That is a reason to be thankful. He demonstrated His love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom 5:8). That is a reason to be thankful. Great is His faithfulness towards us; every morning new mercies rest upon us (Lam 3:23). That is a reason to be thankful. It is because of Him we live, breathe, move, and have our existence (Acts. 17:28). That is a reason to be thankful.

So dear hearts, be determined to give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, and His mercies endure forever. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.

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.

musician himself served as Master

# **Legends of Gospel Commemoration Concert**

by Troy Nell Edmon

The magnificent sanctuary of the Carter Metropolitan CME Church was the setting of the 5th biennial Legends of Gospel (LOG) Commemoration Concert hosted by the Black Musicians Association of Tarrant County Inc., (BMATC) on Saturday, October 14, 2023. The sanctuary was filled with worshippers and well-wishers who witnessed the spiritually enthralling, eventful and exquisite praise permeated presentation.

The LOG event honors musicians whose extraordinary musical and spiritual contributions to church music have prolonged over the course of their careers. Longevity, significant contributions, distinguished service; coupled with exceptional musical and professional ethics are the evidential virtues of the LOG honorees. The recipients of the LOG award included:

Dr. Darrell W. Blair, Mrs. Shelia Kaye Brice, Ms. Julia Cathey Steptoe, Mrs. Veronica Levingston-Fulton, Mrs. Gwendolyn McWilliams and Mrs. Shirley Pace. A total of 300+ years substantiated their decades of experience, knowledge, expertise and service in gospel music. Posthumously honored LOG included: Mrs. Catherine Louise Breedlove, Mrs. Wanda Jean Bowie Eddington and Apostle Dr. Isaiah Thomas who will be remembered for their legendary service and contributions to church music.

The celebration began with the grand honoree reception catered by Texas T's BBQ and Grill prior to the concert. Fort Worth native Dr. Alvin L. Pope, a celebrated pastor, preacher and proficient

of Ceremonies for the concert. After the red-carpet entrance of the LOG honorees, Dr. Wm McKinley Jackson, pastor of Samaria Baptist Church set the tone for worship with an anointed prayer petition invoking the presence of the Holy Spirit. Dynamic singer and worship leader, Brittany MeeChel Stevenson opened with Praise and Worship. The awe-inspiring BMATC Choir mesmerized the audience with "Blessed Assurance" an arrangement by Dr. Darrell Blair, conducted by Mr. Demetrius Ethley, Choral Director at David W. Carter High School, Dallas, TX. The choir was accompanied by a superb band under the musical direction of Mr. Carl

The concert continued to spiral to spiritual heights with the vocals of Singer, Songwriter, Consummate Artist, Ms. Sue Roseberry and "The Texas Power House," Ms. Carolyn Traylor. During the ceremony the honorees were presented and acknowledged with a level of respect and accolades that would rival any award presentation. Special thanks to the Forest Hill Ushers Union for their immaculate service and Mr. David Washington, photographer.

The BMATC Board of Directors extends sincere gratitude to our sponsors, souvenir book donors and all who purchased tickets. The proceeds of this event will be used to fund scholarships for students who are pursuing degrees in music education or music performance



Dr. Darrell W. Blair



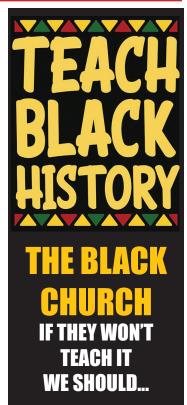


Mrs. Veronica Fulton Mrs. Gwendolyn McWilliams Mrs. Shirley Pace



Ms. Julia Steptoe











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### Coach Prime That Spiritual Spark by Mike Ramey

I wanted to put in my .02 on the continuing adventures-and critics-of Coach Prime. I will be doing so, though, from a historical viewpoint that many have overlooked—and I will be more than happy to lay out.

I find it highly amazing-but not shocking-that Coach Prime (aka Deion Sanders for those who have been hiding under a rock during his twin careers in football and baseball) has been named the Head Coach of the Colorado Buffaloes, Lalso am NOT shocked to see that he has been having a rough time of it during his first football season at the university.

This is how REAL Christians are tested for naming the name of Jesus Christ.

Mark it, men. Folks are NOT going to like you because you name the name of Jesus and identify on the Lord's side. The KJV Bible informs us that testing, trial and temptation are going to 'pop up' in the Christian life-and it is to be expected. Also, there IS an antichrist spirit alive and well throughout our current societyas the Bible proclaims. Those critics who 'hate' on Sanders are doing so MORE for his faith and stand in Jesus Christ that for his actions on the football field.

Let me throw in another reason for the critics dumping on the Buffaloes. A few decades ago, there was another Christian Head Football Coach by the name of Bill McCartney who was the man on the field for the Colorado team. McCartney, because of his faith, work ethic, and being blessed by the Lord, coached the Buffaloes to national prominence.

However-according to Internet sources--the first four years coaching the Buffaloes saw the team's gradual improvement. Yep, I did say FOUR years...with the first year of McCartney's coaching



had the team...at 2-8-1. The second season saw the team rise...to 4-7. The third season mark...was 1-10. McCartney's contract was extended...and in season four, Coach Mac made some changes and the team rose to 7-4, got a bowl bid—and lost. But this marched them onward to national prominence.

Let me also mention that Promise Keepers was founded by Coach Mac during this period. Full disclosure here: I used to cover Promise Keepers when I was a reporter, and I worked for the organization as a Volunteer Evangelism Trainer who presented the program to local churches in my area.

Deion Sanders is part of this great football program—not by accident but by

Coach Prime has handled victories humbly and defeats gracefully. He's the coach. Not the team. McCartney. Lombardi. Dungy. Rockne. Prime is on his way. Any great football coach at the college or pro level lets you know up front that it is the team that gets the iob done under good, solid coaching. Further, a coach that has faith in God is

carrying a double load and must possess the 'strength' and 'spiritual spark' to be patient while his team comes together-Likeness—for which college athletes can rests on a team of individuals coming toteam. In the words of Michael Jordan: "At the end of the day, the team has to go out and play."

let all know that he LOVES the process!

Coach McCartney had the 'spiritual spark' to get that team going in his day, plus he listened to the Lord and gave our nation Promise Keepers which ushered in needed pockets of revival in our land during a VERY dark time. Coach Prime seems to be heading in the same direction, with that same 'spiritual spark' from Jesus Christ! It will be interesting to see how this plays out over the next few years—regardless of what the critics have to sav.

Colorado is ripe for a miracle from the Lord. All Colorado—and the nation should do is let God work it out in his own good time and season, and Coach Prime is in the 'overflow' so the speak. The Lord is the one who puts the pieces in place. Once the miracle unfolds, expect crickets from the critics, and a big smile from Deion Sanders and the Colorado Buffaloes football program.

Keep those prayers flowing folks. This is just year one for Coach Prime. National revival COULD again START in Colorado and run through a football coach and a college program.

# and waits for the team to 'gel'. It's a marathon-not a sprint. It's a process-not resting solely on NIL (Name, Image, and make money while in college sports). It gether and playing as a team. The coach is the one responsible for bringing the individuals and supplying the equipment needed for them to play (or work) as a

Sanders, in social media interviews, has



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**Wednesday Services** Wedn<mark>esday Prayer</mark> Se<mark>rvice & Bible</mark> Study 7:00 P.M.

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### 35,000-member Triumph Church welcomes Brent Jones as Artist-In-Residence for October

### Named #1 Fastest Growing Church in USA by Outreach Magazine

Triumph Church, 35,000 member Detroit, Michigan-based megachurch with eight campuses and fourteen weekly services, welcomes Grammy & Stellar Award-winning artist Brent Jones as Artist-In-Residence for the entire month of October!



Named the "Number 1 Fastest Growing Church in America" by Christian publication Outreach Magazine, Triumph Church was founded in the Fall of 1920 originally as Triumph Missionary Baptist Church. In 1998, Pastor Solomon Kinloch, Jr. accepted the call to Pastor at Triumph. At the beginning of Pastor Kinloch's tenure. Triumph's membership was less than 50 people. Under Pastor Kinloch's visionary leadership, Triumph Church has now blossomed into a multi-site phenomenon with more than 35,000 members (and counting) with no signs of slowing down, as the church welcomes nearly 400 new members each month!

"When I received the call from Triumph Church I was blown away! Triumph's music department is world renown and to be able to come share my music ministry with Pastor Kinloch, Jr, First Lady Robin, and the entire Triumph family, what an honor! 2023 has been such an exciting time for my career - from "Nothing Else Matters" going #1 on Billboard, my song's movie debut on the Hallmark Channel, Stellar Award win for Choir of the Year, my new radio show on Las Vegas' Power 88.1 FM, my 100-City 'Nothing Else Matters" Tour, and Artist-In-Residence at Stanford University, I am reminded once again that 'God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think!' says Brent Jones

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Pic 1) Breast Cancer Awareness at Turners Chapel COGIC of TX with Trinity Ford; Pic 2) National Night Out in Community with City Councilman Chris Nettles and NPO Tenorio and Supervisor; Pic 3) Judge Clifford Davis with Daughter, Judge Maryellen Hicks and Atty. Bobbie Edmonds at Book Signing at The Doc Book Shop.

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Wednesday Prayer	6:30PM
Bible Study (Wed)	7:00PM

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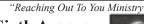
### SAMARTA **Baptist Church**

Mark S Fitz Pastor

4000 E. Berry St. Fort Worth, TX 76105 Phone: 817-536-6421

Sunday School	9:30 am
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SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAY SERVICE. .9:00 AM WEDN. NIGHT PRAYER...6:00 PM - 6:30 PM INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

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### **Tastebud Ministries** Church





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BIBLE STUDY (Wednesday)......
PRAYER MEETING (Wednesday).....

7101 Wichita St - Forest Hill, TX 76140 Office: 817.446.9408 / Cell 817.675.3402

### The Church at Philadelphia 4716 Wichita Street Fort Worth, Texas 76119

Service Times



### The Rising Star Church of God in Chris 3909 Reed Street Fort Worth, TX 76119 817-534-6963 ~ Fax: 817-413-742 Email: therisingstarcogic@att.n Morning Worship .... ...11:00 am Prayer (Tuesday & Friday mornings).....11:00 am Bible Study (Tuesday Night).... ....7:00 pm "If You Go With Us, We Will Do You Good!"

### **Furner Chapel** COGIC of Texas

Supt. James Turner Memorial Ministry

Evangelist Sharon Mason-Turn P.O. Box 330401 Ft. Worth, TX 76163 . 817-294-244 Email:slford@academicplanet.com "The Work Lives On

0 p.m.....Bible S 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

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-- Service Times --SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM

SUNDAY MORNING

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING &
BIBLE STUDY @ 7:00 PM

PASTOR WILLIAM McKINLEY JACKSON

### What is a Church Budget? by Bob Santy

Imagine the chaos if your church was still trying to figure out if it was having a Christmas Eve service on December 23. Without even touching on divisive theological issues like Carols vs. contemporary songs, real candles vs. battery-powered, or a family service vs. children's ministry, it is clear that without planning, one of the most highly anticipated days for a Christian church would be a disaster. The same is true when you attempt to operate a church without a budget – it is a disaster. Ministry leaders face multiple opportunities and challenges every week; most require money. As an Executive Pastor with over 15 years of experience, I understand the importance that a thoughtful, prayerful, and well-planned budget makes for a church of any size. John Maxwell says it best, "A budget is telling your money where to go, instead of wondering where it went." While some may see a church budget as restrictive and limiting, intentionally creating a church budget provides a plan, accountability, and a means to an end.

### A CHURCH BUDGET IS A PLAN

According to the legend, in 1884, Sarah Winchester, heir to the Winchester rifle fortune, bought an unfinished farmhouse in San Jose. Construction on the farmhouse began in 1886 and continued until 1922. Sarah did not use an architect or plan. In the end, the Winchester Mystery House has approximately 160 rooms, stairways that lead nowhere. doors that open to blank walls, skylights that are not on the roof, and one functional toilet. Think of a church budget as a blueprint that guarantees you don't wind up with a Winchester Mystery house. A church budget is a plan that helps navigate from point A (the beginning of the fiscal year) to point B (the end of the fiscal year). An overly simplistic view is that a church budget is similar to a personal budget, but for someone with an irregular income. A church budget determines the annual income, and then it allocates the revenue to the expenses based on the mission, vision, and values of the organization. Churches and other non-profit organizations want to fulfill their mission, and doing that requires resources, especially financial resources. Most donors want to know that they are not funding the next Winchester Mystery house of ministry. Show them that your church budget is the blueprint that will use each dollar wisely to accomplish the mission

### A CHURCH BUDGET PROVIDES ACCOUNTABILITY

There is usually a level of trust required before someone decides to donate to a church or non-profit organization. When someone donates, it means the donor bought into the vision, has seen your organization in action and wants to support the effort financially. Nothing will erode that trust faster than mishandled donations. Rollie Demos at ECFA wrote in his article, Why Accountability Matters, "Accountability and transparency of financial operations aren't meant to constrain leaders; instead, they are meant to protect leaders and the reputations of their organizations." One of the easiest ways to assure your donors that their financial gifts are valued is to present the budget annually.

A budget provides accountability and transparency, clearly showing how their donations support the mission. Embrace every opportunity to dialog with donors about how your church or organization spends donations to further the mission. In my experience, these interactions often increase giving as the level of trust grows, and it all starts with a church budget.

### A CHURCH BUDGET IS A MEANS TO AN END

No matter how well planned and transparent your budget is, the budget is not the goal of your church or non-profit organization. The budget is a means to accomplishing your mission. Sometimes managing the finances can take on a life of its own, and the focus shifts from mission-minded to money-minded. One way to stay focused is to keep asking the question; does the budget reflect the mission, vision. and values of the organization. Since a budget is a means that tells the money where to go, it is the perfect tool to ensure that the mission, vision, and values resource the top

A church budget is a plan that brings clarity, order, and structure to the organization. It provides accountability to the church and gives donors peace of mind that their gifts further the mission. Often this kind of accountability builds trust and can increase donations. Remember, a church budget is not the ultimate goal, but it is a necessary tool to eliminate chaos and bring focus and clarity to the allocation of



### Walls of Jericho **Deliverance Church**

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### West Mt. Moriah **Baptist Church**

5325 Bonnell Street Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-731-3502

Dr. W.L.D. Campbell, Pastor

Sunday School - Sunday 9:00an Morning Worship - Sunday 10:05am Prayer Meeting - Wednesday

VISION STATEMENT ing at home

# **Zion Missionary Baptist Church**

Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-737-6264



SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:00 a.m.
WORNING WORSHIF	10.30 a.iii.
EVERY WEDNESDAY - BIBLESTUDY	6:30 p.m.
1ST,4TH, 5TH WEDNESDAY - PRAYER SERVI	CE7:30 p.m.
EVERY WEDNESDAY - YOUTH MEETINGS	7:30 p.m.
2ND& 3RD WEDNESDAY - SMALLGROUPS	7:30 p.m.
3RD SATURDAYS - EVANGELISM	10:30 a.m.

### Zion Rest Missionary Baptist Church

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

### **PASTOR RUFUS HUCKABY**

orship and Study Services

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**Prayer Meeting** Bible Study, Mi Youth Bible St





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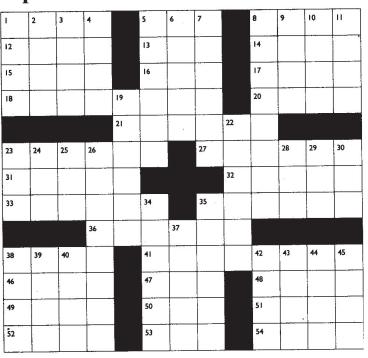
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# **BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**Topic: PEOPLE AND PLACES** 



### **ACROSS**

1 1.760 yards

5 Hang downward

8 "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not \_\_\_\_" (Ps. 23:1, KJV)

12 Grandfather of David (Ruth 4:18) 13 Father of Solomon's tax offi-

cer (1 Kings 4:18) 14 Stench

15 One-man band?

16 Artificial manner 17 Come alive again

18 Revered 20 Leg joint

21 Healed paralytic (Acts 9:34) 23 Blueprint

27 One of David's heroes (2 Sam.

23:37, KIV) 31 Levite ark mover (1 Chron. 15:11)

32 Caesar's empire

33 Feeds on

35 Top course of stone (1 Kings 7:9, KJV)

36 Son of Dishon (Gen. 36:26) 38 Endure 41 Joshua's grandfather (1 Chron

7:26) 46 A priest who married foreign

women (Ezra 10:26) 47 Outlaw

48 lewish returnee from Babylon (Neh. 10:26)

49 Bushed

50 Son of Ithran (I Chron. 7:38)

53 Chicken

2 Large wading bird (Lev. 11:17)

4 Fringe 5 Mariners

6 Foreigner 7 Eden's description

10 Snout of Conscience (Gen. 2:17)

25 Temple assistant (Neh. 7:47) 26 Clan descended from Gilead

cessor: comp. 29 Left home

51 Encryption 52 \_\_\_-i, city of Bashan (Deut. 3:10)

54 Realized

### DOWN

I "\_\_ love to thee, O Christ" (hymn)

3 Gave temporarily

8 "Idle hands are the devil's 9 Jewish captive subclan (Ezra 2:15)

19 High flyers 22 Miriam's brother's (Num. 12:1)

23 Excavated 24 Make mistake

(Num. 26:30, NIV) 28 Popular Windows word pro

30 Present participle former 34 Well named by Jacob (Gen. 26:33, KIV)

35 Son of Arphaxad (Luke 3:36) 37 Sound loudly

\_ Ruth 39 Father of Gaal (Judg. 9:26) 40 Twelfth Hebrew month

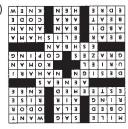
(Ezra 6:15) 42 Writer for hire

43 Soon: arch.

44 Fashioned 45 Once more



SUNDAY SCHOOL



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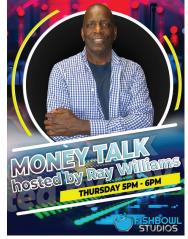
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Glorify your Father in Heaven MATT 5:16







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 e-mail: sharonlmasonfordturner@gmail.com

Sunday Services:

In-Person & Conference Call Services. 9:00 am ....Sunday School

10:00 am. Worship Service Village Creek Nursing Homes Minister following Pandemic guidelines

> 11:30 am 1st & 3rd Sunday Prayer and Bible Study Tuesday ....9:00 am

Conference Call Service Mon-Sat.....6:00 am Intercessory Prayer.

