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#### "The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

November is planning month for some local congregations. 2025 is no longer around the corner; it's just up the street. Where is God leading us in the New Year? What are the next steps for the ministry I've been tagged to lead?

Saddleback Church Founder and executive director of the Finishing the Task mission coalition Rick Warren writes, in a Pastors.com article, that "Good leaders are planners. They always think through where they're headed, and they don't waste time worrying about failure. Effective ministry leaders start with prayer, and then they plan what God wants them to accomplish." It true. Almost every task that's done well is done twice. It's done, first, mentally in the minds of those who have leadership roles. This process of thinking through what is to be done is what we call planning.

In the dynamic landscape of church leadership, the significance of planning shouldn't be downplayed or overemphasized. Effective planning serves as the backbone of a thriving ministry, allowing leaders to navigate challenges, allocate resources wisely, and fulfill their mission with clarity and purpose. Unfortunately, too few churches have a *great planning process*. Truth be told, even in the 21st century, most congregations don't even have a good *planning process*, if they have a process at all.

I'm not sure why this isn't a bigger priority. Planning is certainly biblical. From the very beginning, the Sacred Canon highlights the significance of planning. In Genesis, God meticulously orchestrated creation, establishing order amidst chaos. This blueprint sets a precedent for church leaders. To be effective stewards of their ministries, your church leadership team must approach their work with intentionality and foresight. Planning is not merely a logistical necessity; it is an act of faith, reflecting the understanding that God operates within a framework of time and purpose.

At the heart of effective planning is a clear vision, which is indispensable for any ministry. Proverbs 29:18 reminds us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Biblical vision is seeing what God wants you to see.



Our God is a God of order and not chaos, so our ministries should have a clear plan of where they're going and how God is going to take them there.

As you look ahead to God's future for your church and/or arena of ministry, what are some of the particulars of wise planning?

You should start with a good understanding of where you are now. Make an assessment. Where is your "Here" and what resources needed for you to reach your "There?"

Second, clarify and focus your vision; define where you're going and how you're going to get there. Promote alignment by involving ministry leaders from all of your departments to get on the same page about what you're trying to accomplish. Ask and answer the question, "Are the right people in the right roles?" This will help prevent ministry silos and conflicting agendas.

Then, periodically evaluate how you're doing and what, if anything, needs to be tweaked or changed. Your planning process needs to incorporate timelines, deadlines and appraisement. It needs to be a living, breathing thing that gets refreshed regularly as God leads your church into the future.

drmichaelbell is Senior Pastor-Resident Theologian 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 is a contributor to the book "Justice Looks Like."

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#### Speak Life Thought

with First Lady & Co-Pastor Yolanda G. Butler

#### A Life of Thankfulness

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another: (John 13:35)

Here we are once again upon the close of another year. November houses one of my favorite holidays and that is Thanksgiving. For the next thirty days, would you join me in a challenge to extend thankfulness by doing one thankful deed each day? Jesus said that people will know true love by the way we demonstrate it. So, I have set out 30 ways that you can implement to demonstrate a life of thankfulness towards God. yourself, and others. As always, each day should be approached with prayer for Holy Spirit's leading. Create a gratitude journal and write down each action accomplished for the next 30

- 1. **Text** someone and tell them how thankful you are for them.
- 2. Call someone and tell them how thankful you are for them.
- 3. **Send** someone a card and let them know how thankful you are for them.
- 4. **Tip** your server more than normal.
- 5. **Do** a random act of kindness.6. **Write** a letter of thankful-

ness to the Father.

- 7. **Compliment** someone.
- 8. **Give** a small gift that expresses thankfulness
- 9. **Hug** someone
- 10. **Post** a thankful note on social media
- 11. Thank the cashier.
- 12. Visit someone sick or shut-in
- 13. **Volunteer** at a local charity or outreach program
- 14. **Celebrate** a milestone in someone's life.
- 15. **Step aside** and allow someone else to go ahead of you in line.
- 16. **Share** your skills and talents freely.
- 17. **Support** someone who is going through a tough time
- ing through a tough time.

  18. Pay it forward. Pay some-
- one else's bill behind you in line.

  19. **Be positive and thankful**
- ALL day. No complaining, murmuring, shouting at the drivers, talking under your breath, yelling, growling, etc.
- 20. **Help** someone who is overwhelmed.
- 21. **Meditate, reflect, and appreciate** the small things in life in a BIG way.
- 22. **Declutter** your closet and donate to a local charity.
- 23. **Be** present, actively listen, connect, and engage.
- 24. **Show up** ON TIME for that appointment, that service, engagement, etc.
- 25. **Slow down** and exhibit patience even if you are in a hurry.



- 26. **Make time** for yourself. Treat yourself to a massage, pedicure, day of rest, etc.
- 27. **Touch and agree** with someone in prayer.
- 28. **Express** gratitude to your leaders (spiritual and in the workforce).
- 29. **Smile** and **be kind** to someone even if they are rude and ugly.
- 30. **Keep** your promise.

If you join me in this challenge I would love to hear from you. Email me at firstladybutler84@ gmail.com or Facebook messenger. Until then, be determined to demonstrate a life of thankfulness.

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 www.firstladybutlerministries.net

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## BRAVE/R TOGETHER Is Raising Life Expectancy and Expectations with 2024 Phoenix Festival

Fort Worth, TX----Come experience the fun. food, fascination and exhilaration when BRAVE/R TOGETHER's 2024 Phoenix Festival takes flight. This year's theme is "Prosperity and Progress, a reflection of the rebirth, rejuvenation, and renewal, BRAVE/R TOGETH-ER seeks to impart into Fort Worth's historic south side." The all-day festival in Evans Plaza happens on Saturday, November 9, 2024, from 10 AM until 6 PM. BRAVE/R TO-GETHER seeks to actualize and unleash the spirit of the phoenix in the blighted community which according to a 2019 UT Southwestern report, has the lowest life expectancy of all Texas citizens. Tickets to the Family Festival are FREE and tickets to A Taste of 76104 are \$20. To purchase tickets to the taste or claim your free ticket to the Family Festival, visit www. bravertogether.org/phoenix.

Segments of 76104 are in a food desert, and many residents live well below the poverty level. Meanwhile, the health and dietary dilemma is exacerbated by the lack of accessible healthcare, well-paying jobs, and the epidemic of affordable housing. Because of inequities promulgated by structural and systemic racism, BRAVE/R TOGETHER strives to harness the community's great growth potential and create equity in education, fight for fairness in job opportunities, champion accessibility to healthcare and affordability in housing. This festival provides a beacon of hope by and brings joy to a community once again on the rise.

"Phoenix Fest" affords residents of the historic Southside, Hillside and Morningside communities the chance to witness firsthand the renewal, revitalization and rebirth of the once bustling corridor of entrepreneurship, economic expansion and cultural expression at Evans Avenue. The 76104 Phoenix Festival Is inspired by a community on the rise, not through flames but through justice and joy. The two-part festival amplifies their everyday commitment to the community with a dynamic "Family Festival" of arts, entertainment, information and inspiration from 10 AM-2 PM and a food festival, "A Taste of 76104" from 3 PM- 6 PM. The Family Festival



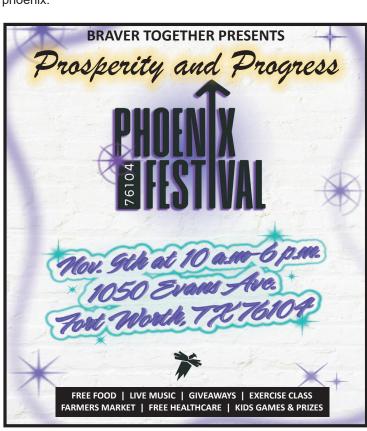
features several interactive areas designed to engage and promote healthy living.

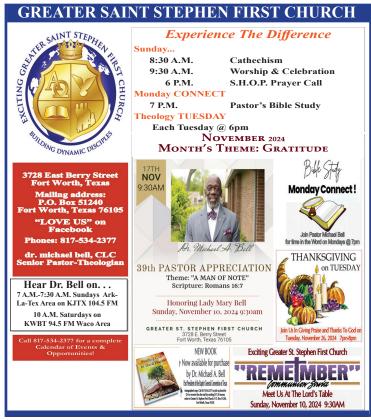
- The Grove- Workout and Healthy Lifestyle Activities Featuring Fitness Classes and Wellness Workshops
- **Kidz Korner** Our Dedicate Space for Children with Arts and Crafts, Games and Educational Activities
- Market Plaza- Fresh Produce, Handmade Goods and Local Products from Farmers and Other Local Vendors
- Resource Row-Connecting Citizens to Information About Community Services, Job Resources and Social Services
- Healthy Avenue- Health Resource Providers Conducting FREE Health Screenings, Wellness Checks and Other Health Related Information

A Taste of 76104 Consists of four Featured Chefs, a Drink Specialist and a Dessert Chef. Tickets to the Taste of 76104 are \$20 and can be purchased at www.bravertogether.org/phoenix.

Residents who desire a more robust role in the rising of 76104 are invited to join BRAVE/R TOGETHER at Evans Plaza for 2024 Our Table: Southside Dreams, Thursday November 7, 2024 6 PM- 8:30. This outdoor dinner honors 76104 change agents who continue to transform our community. BRAVE/R TOGETHER dreams of a brighter future for 76104 that revives the legacies of the past and continues efforts toward a future for equity for all of us at the table for our community. Our Table is where our dreams can meet reality and your seat at Our Table brings our dreams to life!

This annual benefit dinner helps pour directly into the dreams, hopes, and efforts of community organizations leading transformative work in the zip code as all proceeds from the dinner will be directed towards the 76104 Community Grants Program, BRAVE/R TOGETHER's direct reinvestment in 76104 organizations who are pursuing the dream to serve community. The semi-formal dinner will feature cuisine and a special curated menu for Our Table from local chefs: Chef Reggie Robinson of Little Boy Blue BBQ, Chef Z Williams of LGL Hospitality, Chef Carl of Cravings Gourmet, Chef Victoria Woods of Castle Top Treats. Tickets are available at www. bravertogether.org/phoenix.











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## DOE'S YOUR CHURCH NEED STREAMING LICENSE? Which Streaming License is Right for your Church?

Christian Copyright Solutions

You have options when deciding which streaming license your church needs. Christian Copyright Solutions (CCS) and Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) both offer church streaming licenses that provide coverage for your church-owned website (churchname.com). Not sure which one is right for your church or ministry? The answers to a few key questions may help guide your licensing choice.

- 1. What type of performances, services, or events will you be streaming?
- 2. What types of songs or music will you play during the streaming session?
- 3. Does your church use sound recordings during your streaming service?

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The WORSHIPcast Streaming License covers live and archived performances of your worship services, allowing your congregation to worship whenever and wherever; it does not cover podcasting. The CCLI Streaming License allows podcasting and streaming of worship services only. So, if you plan on streaming just your worship services, the CCLI Streaming License has you covered. However, for the flexibility to engage your congregation by streaming worship services, special events, and guest performances, your church will need the WORSHIPcast License.

#### **Songs Covered**

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#### **Sound Recordings or Multitracks**

Many churches enhance their streaming service with master recordings, backing tracks, multitracks, or stems. If this is your church, CCLI's Streaming Plus can provide you with over 150,000 recordings that can be used anytime throughout your service stream. The WORSHIPcast Streaming License can not provide coverage for sound recordings. Licensing is available from the master recording owner.

#### **Other Considerations**

The CCLI Streaming License provides coverage to show lyrics for the songs in the CCLI catalog and to stream on social media or other third-party platforms. Unfortunately, no blanket lyric reproduction streaming license for secular music is currently available.

Questions about streaming? Give us a call at 1-855-576-5837 or email



"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Dather through him."

Colossians 3:17

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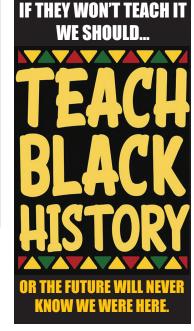


Pic 1) Breast Cancer Awareness and Balloons Release at Turners Chapel COGIC of TX; Pic 2) At Appreciation Banquet for Rev. Hornsby at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Mansfield, Tx.; Pic 3) At Harambee Festival in McDonald YMCA in Ft. Worth, Tx with Robert Ashley and Madame Sherron.

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.....7:30pm

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9:00an

7:00pm

Dr. W.L.D. Campbell, Pastor

Sunday School - Sunday Prayer Meeting - Wednesday

VISION STATEMENT To share the Light of Christ to a world in Darkness, beginning at home.

Matt. 28:18-20

#### **Zion Missionary Baptist Church**

4100 Horne Street Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-737-6264 thezionbaptistchurch.org REV. K.L. HAWKINS, Pastor



SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:00 a.m.
INDRINING WORSHIF	IU.JU a.III.
EVERY WEDNESDAY - BIBLESTUDY	6:30 p.m.
1ST,4TH, 5TH WEDNESDAY - PRAYER SERV	ICE7:30 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** 3733 Ave I Fort Worth, TX 76105 817-534-8327

**PASTOR RUFUS HUCKABY** 

nd Study Services

9:30an Sunday School 11:00am **Nednesda**v 7:00pn

**Morning Worshi** Prayer Meeting Bible Study, Mi

Youth Bible Stu

#### Sixth Avenue Baptist Church

Listen Fach Sunday 8-9am KAND 1340AM Radio Broadcast NON 89.3 FM "Just Believe Broadca Thursday Morning 4am-7am Community Cable TV Channel 28 Sun 7:30-8:30p; Wed 12n-1p, Sat 4:30p-5:30p

Dr. Darrell W. Blair, Senior Pastor

4500 S. Riverside Dr. 817-534-1600 817-534-1612Fax

ch Office Hours: Monday - Thursday. 10am - 3p

Worship Services SUNDAYS MORNING. WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE.... ....7:00 pn www.churchinnews.com

#### Everything you need to know to safely dispose of used batteries | CITY NEWS

Although batteries are essential for a variety of household items, they can also be dangerous once they have reached the end of their

Why it matters: Used batteries that are not properly discarded can lead to human and environmental health hazards. Batteries can damage the ecosystem by leaking harmful chemicals into soil and waterways. They can also start fires in collection trucks, at recycling and garbage processing plants, and even in collection carts.

Ways to prevent battery disposal hazards:

Do not put batteries in the blue recycling cart or brown garbage cart. Drop off batteries at any of the City's four drop-off stations or the Environmental Collection Center (ECC).

Return used batteries to retailers



that accept battery returns for re-

After disposal: Once residents have dropped off their used batteries to a drop-off station or the ECC, batteries are separated by size and are safely placed inside storage drums. The batteries are then taken to a battery recycling facility.

For more information about garbage and recycling, visit www. fortworthtexas.gov/solidwaste or call the 311 Fort Worth Contact Center at 817-392-1234.





**The National Domestic Violence** 1.800.799.SAFE - 1.800.787.3224(TTY)

#### Needs not Wants by John Puckett

Which is more important?

How many of us wake up in the morning and focus on what we want?

No doubt in coming to God in prayer, some of us tell him what we want. But is there any place in God's word where he listens to what someone wants and gives it to them? I can't think of such an exam-

God loves us. And he is so deeply concerned about what we need, not what we want.

Therefore, through the apostle Paul who suffered so much, he gives us this glorious promise - "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19, NKJV.

So let's be more careful to come to the Lord with our needs and not our wants. He is beautifully faithful to his promise.

Praise the name of Jesus.





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#### **BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE Topic: BEING NEIGHBORLY**

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#### **ACROSS**

I Facts, for short 5 Goblin or fairy 8 Christian Business Men's Com

mittee 12 Bound (Ps. 29:6)

13 Sticky substance 14 Cookie brand

15 Second great commandment

(pt. 1: cont. in 42-across) 18 Sleeper's sounds

19 lesus as divine and human 20 Sprinted

21 Skirt length 22 Raised platform

24 Green-eyed (Ps. 10:3, KJV) 28 Sternward

29 Children of Crisis author, Robert

30 Capture game

31 Gifts (Gen. 24:53) 33 Disrespectful

34 Adi, modifiers 35 Foot: Lat.

36 Female Shaker founde

39 Baptist preacher \_\_\_ Rogers 42 Second great commandment

(pt. 2; Lev. 19:18) 44 Taken back, in brief 45 OT bk

46 Corporate name pt. 47 Cry of despair (Num. 24:23) 48 Cyclinder thickness: abbr. 49 Small amount: 2 wds. (Gen. 50:10)

DOWN

Afflictions (Ps. 35:13) 2 Lighted sign

3 Preferred (Gen. 25:28) 4 Dramatic musicals

5 Psyches 6 Costello or Gehria 7 Pardons (Ps. 103:3)

8 Revise a manuscript togethe 9 Periphery (1 Kings 7:23)

10 Precedes phone or polis II Al, Ferdinand, or Mindy 16 lapanese currency

17 Computer network workstations

21 Sloughs 22 Skip

23 Cont. so. of Eur. 24 Transmitted (Esther 1:12)

25 Compliant (Deut. | 3:18) 26 Egypt-Syria alliance

27 Pepper's prefix (Beatles title) 29 Relinquishes 32 Tossed or garden

33 Iran's ancient name (Ezra 1:2) 35 Drug compendium; abbr. 36 \_\_\_ cadabra

37 "The First \_\_\_\_," (carol) 38 \_\_/AARP Bulletin (magazine)

39 Ecuador Indian tribe: formerly 40 Opp. of baja 41 St. John's island

43 Overseas Crusades, Inc.





#### **BAKER CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH** Food Pantry is Open **Every Wednesday and Thursday** @ 10:00 am to 12 noon

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#### Turner Chapel C.O.G.I.C Of TX

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

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

Sunday Services: In-Person & Conference Call Services 9am ......Sunday School 10am....Worship Service

10am....Worship Service
Nursing Homes Ministry
SHARON FO

Love in Action: 11:30 am 1st Sunday ....Village Creek Nursing Homes Ministry following Pandemic guidelines.

10:00 Am 3rd Sunday....Coral Rehabilitation and Nursing Center of Arlington, TX

Mother's Day Love Celebration with Gifts for Mother's at both Locations

Tuesday 9:00am Prayer & Bible Study Conference Call Service

Mon-Sat. 6:00 am Intercessory Prayer

