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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Change is a reality of life, and if you're a church leader then leading change in the church will be something you are familiar with. Because the church is people, and people change, it's inevitable. Change really means transition — a move from one state to another. In that sense, there is always change happening around us — or even within us!

There are at least four types of change churches deal with and each has its own challenges. According to those who analyze church trends, the four most common types of change are: (1) Missional change - a change of purpose or re-examining of the "why" that you exist; (2) Directional change - a change of vision or the "where" you're on your way to; (3) Cultural change - a change of values, priorities and "who" you are; (4) Structural change - a change of people or activity or "how" you do things.

Proposing and implementing change are some of the hardest things a leader can do. How do we lead change well? How do we do it wisely? How can we manage change to be effective and as manageable as possible?

Pray first. In our rush to make changes and see results, we often ignore the most important step in leading change: prayer. Healthy, lasting change isn't something you can bring about in your own power and wisdom, no matter how good of a leader you are. You need God to do what only God can do. Pray for God's wisdom, God's courage, and God's strength. Pray for the congregation, and pray for those who oppose and criticize you.

Delineate the essential from the expendable. What is essential? What I would define as essential is the DNA of the church. What might need to change is your strategy. What's expendable? In the church I'm blessed to lead, we've decided to repurpose an annex on our campus and do some of our spiritual formation online.

Depersonalize conflict. When you step into the space of leading change, you become a magnet for conflict. Stop taking "push back" personally.



It's not about you. If you love God and you're trying to represent Christ as you ought, you're still going to get resistance. If you don't have the tenacity or the ability to live in your own skin and face conflict, then leadership probably isn't for you. Leadership is about moving people into change. If Jesus spent his entire ministry making people happy, he never would've gotten to the cross.

Cultivate next practices while excelling at best practices. There's a basic idiom related to organizational change—yesterday's solutions are today's problems. What were you solving yesterday that created a problem for today? If we keep doing the things we were doing yesterday, they're likely not going to get us to the new place we want to go. Take time to evaluate your strategies. As you think about best practices, ask: What is it that we're good at? What needs to begin to change?

Effectuate and consolidate change. Effectuating and consolidating change requires over communication, transparency, dealing with success, dealing with dissenters, and dealing with complacency.

Many of our congregations need to change in one area or another. It can seem impossible or overwhelming. But our churches need courageous leaders. The first step is to pray for God's help. No matter the circumstance, that is a right place to begin, so let's start there now.

*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 a new book, Finding God in Hard Places.

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"A Life Not to Worry"

"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today. (Matthew 6:34 NLT)

Worrying is an aspect of life that has the potential to hijack your thought life. The word "worry" means to feel troubled over actual or potential difficulties, express anxiety, or feel annoyed or disturbed. Worry is often the culprit behind anxiety. Jesus explains in Matthew Chapter 6 the importance of why not to worry. He gives us the solution to prioritizing our life when He said to "to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." This means to turn to God first for help, to fill your thoughts with His desires, to take on His character, and to serve and obey Him in everything. You must ask yourself, "What is really important to me?" People, objects, goals, and other desires all compete for priority. Any of these can quickly become bumpers cars that bump God out of first place if you do not actively choose to give Him first place in *every* area of your

From this passage we can note at least seven reasons not to worry:

1. Because God said so (Matt. 6:25), The same God who created life in you can be trusted with

the details of your life.

2. Worrying shackles your efforts for today (Matt. 6:26).

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- 3. Worrying is more harmful than helpful (Matt. 6:27).
- 4. God does not ignore those who depend on Him (Matt. 6:28-30).
- 5. Worrying shows off your "but." The word "but" is a conjecture, an opinion or conclusion based on incomplete information. Worrying demonstrates lack of faith in and understanding of God (Matt. 6:31-22)
- 6. Worrying keeps you from pursuing Kingdom Principles (Matt. 6:33).
- 7. Living one day at a time keeps you from being consumed with worry (Matt. 6:34).

Planning for tomorrow is time well spent; worrying about tomorrow is time wasted. Sometimes it is difficult to tell the difference. Careful planning is thinking ahead about goals, steps, and schedules, and trusting in God's guidance. When done well, planning can help alleviate worry. Worriers, by contrast, are consumed by fear and find it difficult to trust God. They let their plans interfere with their relationship with God.

To counteract worry, consider meditating on Philippians 4:6-7: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which



exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

Recognize when you are worrying, capture it, and counteract it with prayer and Scripture. Tell God what you need and create your own formula of worship as a cure-all by giving Him praise for answered prayer. Finally, cover yourself with the Father's peace. True peace is not found in positive thinking, in absence of conflict, or in good feelings. It comes from knowing that God is in control. Our citizenship in Christ's kingdom is sure, our destiny is set, and we can have victory over sin. So dear hearts, be determined to allow the Father's peace to guard your heart and live a life that chooses not to always worry but always pray.

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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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

September is our Women's Month

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"Answering the Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20)

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INSIDE THE MUSIC

Elder Judy Neal



A Good Month to **Sing the Good News**

It is September, the first month of autumn and a time to remember the summer vacays. Not so much for Texas, but most of the country will feel some relief from the scorcher temps, June through August brought. Regardless to where you vacationed or what the temperatures are now, September simply signals a new season is upon us. I love the fact that in 2008 the U.S. Congress officially legislated September to forever be the month when Gospel Music is recognized nationally. As a result, September 2022 will be the 14th year of Gospel Music Heritage Month in America. The goal is to host local, state and national celebrations during the month to educate and entertain diverse audiences with the rich history and legacy of gospel. In this article, I will align gospel songs with the Gospel (the written good news of Jesus Christ) to emphasize why the music was created in the first place. Sing along with me.

Colossians 3:16 has always been the scripture theme for the music ministries where I have served. Apostle Paul encouraged the people to "let the message of Christ dwell richly as they admonished one another with wisdom through songs from the Spirit singing to God with gratitude". I think singing Donald Lawrence's **Encourage Yourself** would be appropriate after that Word. Ephesians 5:19b says "sing and make music from your heart to the Lord". Now Richard Smallwood's $\underline{\text{I Will Sing Praises}} \ \text{goes right there}.$ When we quote James 5:13b, "Is anyone happy: Let them sing songs of praise", just start singing Pastor Mike Jr.'s **Amazing** and Vincent Bohanan's We Win.

Keep singing reader cause this is our celebration of Gospel Music, Bible scholars know that Psalm is the cornerstone book for SINGING the good news, so let's go there. Quote Psalm 95:1 "come let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation", then sing Ricky Dillard's All of My Help. Glorraay! Continue with Psalm 147:1 "How good it is to sing praises to our God" then sing Anthony Brown

and Group Therapy's Testimony or Tasha Cobbs' Put A Praise On <u>It</u>. Psalm 104:33 strongly declares "I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live". Now sing Forever by Jason Nelson and Always by Kirk Franklin. Whew! Read Hebrews 2:12, Psalm 18:49 and Romans 15:9 about singing praises to God's name. Now follow those with Your Great Name by Todd Dulaney, Wonderful Is Your Name by Hezekiah and Names by Elevation Worship. "Spring up O Well! Sing about it" states Numbers 21:17. Link that with I Made It Out by John P. Kee and We're Blessed by Fred Hammond. Now finally these next scriptures proclaim the promises that we know God will keep. First sing CeCe Winans' Believe For It, then read the following: Psalm 96:1-2, Psalms 98:1, Psalm149:1 and Revelations 5:9. End your personal Gospel Music Heritage Celebration joyfully singing Tye Tribbett's All Things New, Better Than Good by Todd Galberth and New Day by Blanca and Jekalyn Carr. Great job! Congratulations on spreading the Good News in a creative and timely mannerl

May Peace Be Your Journey Elder Judy Neal judy@360wisemedia.com Holla!

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF **CHURCHES IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS**

Many churches want to know how they can engage the culture during the elections in the right way. First, they need to understand the difference between endorsing candidates and influencing public policy. These are two very different activities for churches. Churches must engage in affecting public policy, to ensure it is informed by the tenants of our beliefs.

In addition to influencing public policy, churches should motivate their congregations to vote according to the principles in God's Word. Christians have the freedom as American citizens to vote people into office who share their beliefs and values. Often, Christians choose not to vote, however, because they feel their votes do not matter. Imagine the powerful influence Christians would have if all church members showed up to vote!

Policy Influence

America has lost the mooring of God's Word in legislatures across the country. Christians need to re-engage in public policy debate in order to influence laws at both the state and federal levels. We can do this in the following ways:

- Educate yourself and your members on issues being considered and bills being debated at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Work to build relationships with legislators in your area, at the state capital, and in Washington, DC.
- Encourage your congregants to call or write their representatives and urge them to vote according to biblical values.

Election Involvement

Of concern to pastors and churches is how to engage people during the election cycle without risking their 501(c)(3) status? People of faith must be involved in the political process, but political activities are limited for churches due to their IRS tax-exempt status. It is essential to know what your rights are.

- As a pastor, you have the right to speak personally concerning elections and particular candidates. Your 501(c) (3) status cannot be threatened by your right to personal freedom of speech in these areas.
- Your church may educate congregants, helping them understand what individual candidates believe about various issues, including distributing voting guides that score the majority of candidates on the issues.
- You may ask particular candidates to speak at your church, to give their testimony or present themselves as a candidate, as long as an official endorsement from the church does not follow the appearance.
- Pastors may advocate a certain position from the pulpit on relevant issues.
- As Christians, our influence on elections is vitally important. We must do our part to elect leaders who abide by the principles of God's Word. What a blessing it would be to see more Christians at the polls this year than in

Voter Registration Drives

As you think through how to encourage and motivate your congregants to vote, point them to https://vote.gov/ to register. This is an easy process and can be completed online. And consider a voter registration drive or voter registration Sunday event to promote voter participation.

As pastors, it is important to ask God to put principled leaders into elected office and to encourage our people to do their part. By following the guidelines listed here, your church can positively impact local, state, and federal elections without compromising your tax-exempt status. God's Word says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." God is looking for His people to participate with Him in the task of bringing healing to our

Let's pray that God will do a mighty work this election season and begin to bring real healing to our land.



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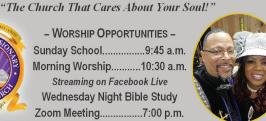
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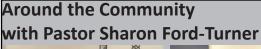
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Pic 1) 21 Annual Minister Derek Locke Memorial Music Scholarship Foundation Award Presentation Ceremony at Faith Tabernacle Christian Church with Board President Sha ron Mason Ford-Turner and 1,000.00 Award Recipient Alyssa Jeane White; Pic 2) Par ents Pastor Jason White and 1st Lady Janneice White, Recipient Alyssa Jeane White Board President Sharon Mason Ford-Turner and Board Secy. Preshawn Ford

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The 142nd National **Missionary Baptist** Convention of America Annual



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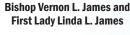
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817.413.8771

Tuesdays Bible Study on Zoom 7:30 Call for Info

Precious



POB 60087 Ft Worth TX 76115 | 817.361.8860

orners one

4916 Ramey Avenue Ft. Worth, TX 76105

Missionary Baptist Church

Email: cornbapt02@aol.com

-- Service Times -- SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 AM

SUNDAY MORNING

10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY PRAYER

MEETING & BIBLE STUDY @ 7:00 PM

Christ Centered Missionary Baptist Church



ED JUSTICE (Senior Pastor - CCMBC)

5200 David Strickland Rd. Ft Worth, TX, 76119 817-330-3774 eddukejustice@sbcglobal.net

9AM
10:00AM
6:30PM
7:00PM



Christ Lifters COMMUNITY OF FAITH 2820 East 1st Street, Fort Worth, TX 76111

Loving, Laughing, Lifting

Sunday Morning Worship - 9:30 AM Vednesday Word Conference Call - 8PM (Call In (267)507-0240 Participant Code 730763)

stor Montreal & Lady Edwina Dukes www.Christlifters.net

Chimney Rock Ministries Church 1916 Everman Pkwy. Ft Worth, TX 76140 www.chimneyrockministries.net

(817) 720-6771

Bishop W. N. Dillon, **Senior Pastor**



unday Morning Services dnesday Bible Study......7:00 p.m. Wednesda ildren's Ministry.....2:00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Saturda

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CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Pastor Randie & Lady Brenda Boyd

5434 Fletcher Avenue (Lake Como) Fort Worth, Texas 76107 817/738-6854

Prayer/Sunday School.......9:00 A.M. Sunday 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



DR. RICHARD L. MONTGOMERY, Pastor

Greater Eleazer Baptist Church

5025 Sunshine Drive Fort Worth TX,76105 817 536-9237



Rev. Lawrence Barrett & Lady. Rebecca Barrett

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

'O come, let us worship and

GREATER SWEETHOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

7312 Forest Hill Dr. Forest Hill, TX 76140 817.293.8774 Web: gsmbcfamily.org Email: greatersweethome@sbcglobal.net

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

7:00 PM WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK

PERCY L. THOMPSON, Pastor

GREENWAY

CHURCH 1816 Delga Street - Ft. Worth, TX 76102 817.714.4680

Sunday Bible Study (Classes for all ages)	9am
Sunday Morning Wors	ship	10:45an
Wednesday Intercess	ory Prayer	6:30pm
Wed. Bible Study (Cla	asses for all ages)	7:15pn
		-
1900mm	Come and Be A	Part of

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Weekly Services
SUNDAYS MORNING GLORY..... ...7:00 am EMPOWERMENT... MORNING WORSHIP ..10:30 am

NEW BREED Christian Center

Darrell W. Blair, Senior Pastor

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

SAMARIA **Baptist Church**

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

BISHOP K.D. DAVIS, SR.

125 S. 5th St., Corsicana, TX

PASTOR WILLIAM MCKINLEY JACKSON

Sunday School..... Sunday Morning Worship.. Wednesday Prayer..... Wednesday Bible Study....

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Community Cable TV Channel 28 Sun 7:30-8:30p; Wed 12n-1p, Sat 4:30p-5:30p

Mt. Ararat Missionary "Reaching Out To You Ministry **Baptist Church** Sixth Avenue **Baptist Church**



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

PASTOR

Inspiring Temple of Praise

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Sunday Morning Worship 9:00am

> Tuesday Bible Study 7:00pm

'The Church That Truly Cares About Your Soul. 1313 E. Mulkey Stree Fort Worth, TX 76104 Church: 817.923.9761 Pastor Study: 817.826.7208

REV. DONALD F. WILSON . IR.

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



THE RISING STAR Church of God in Christ 3909 Reed Street Fort Worth, TX 76119

Phone: 817-534-6963 www.therisingstarcogic.com



SUNDAY SERVICES Sunday School9:30 am Morning Worship....1:00am

FRIDAY NIGHT

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

Bishop Reginald D. Jordan

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Tastebud **Ministries** Church



"Where the Word of God SERVANTS/PASTOR Gea & Kim

is rood for the Soul	Anderson
SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:15 am
SUNDAY SERVICE	10:30 am
SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE	4:00 pm
(Every 2nd & 3rd Sunda	ay)
BIBLE STUDY (Wednesday)	7:00 pm
DDAVED MEETING (Medacaday)	6:20 nm

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

Turner Chapel **COGIC** of Texas

Supt. James Turner Memorial Ministry

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

	IIIC WUIN LIVES UII
9:00 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Worship Service
7:00 p.m	Bible Study
· EVERY	2nd Sunday at 10:30 am
Services a	rt 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 Ronnell Street Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-731-3502

Dr. W.L.D. Campbell, Pastor

Sunday School - Sunday	9:00am
Morning Worship - Sunday	10:05am
Sunday School - Sunday Morning Worship - Sunday Prayer Meeting - Wednesday	7:00pm

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

REV. K.L. HAWKINS, Pastor



SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:00 a.m.
MORNING WORSHIP	10:30 a.m.
EVERY WEDNESDAY - BIBLESTUDY	6:30 p.m.
1ST,4TH, 5TH WEDNESDAY - PRAYER SERVIC	E7:30 p.m.
EVERY WEDNESDAY - YOUTH MEETINGS	7:30 p.m.
2ND& 3RD WEDNESDAY - SMALLGROUPS 3RD SATURDAYS - EVANGELISM	7:30 p.m.
3RD SATURDAYS - EVANGELISM	10:30 a.m.

Zion Rest

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

PASTOR RUFUS HUCKABY

11:00am Morning Worship

Bible Study, Mis



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COMING EVENTS

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Denton celebrate their Church Anniversary

105 S. Wood Street | Denton, TX 76205 | Pastor Homer D Webb, Jr.

1st Sunday, October: 2 TBA

2nd Sunday, October 9th: Pastor Branden D. Walker Mt. Tabor Baptist Church of Dallas, TX

3rd Sunday, October 16th: Pastor Charles Webb of Rehoboth Bible Fellowship Church of Desoto, TX

4th Sunday, October: 23 Youth Pastor Joshua Webb Of Pleasant Grove **Baptist Church of Denton**

5th Sunday, October 30: TBA

East Saint Paul Baptist Church 5300 Oak Grove Road West | Fort Worth, Texas 76134 | (817) 293-5067

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

September is our Women's Month

Wednesday, September 7 Sunday, September 11 @ 3:30 p.m. Sunday, September 18 Sunday, September 25

WMU Revival, 7:00 p.m. "Women in Red" Program Family and Friend's Day Annual Women's Day

We invite you to join us! This year's theme is: "Answering the Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20)





BOOT HEEL

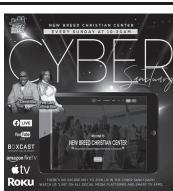
(4) Classroom Potentia

Pastor's Study Kitchen

4119 E. Lancaster Ft. Worth, TX 817.534.9574

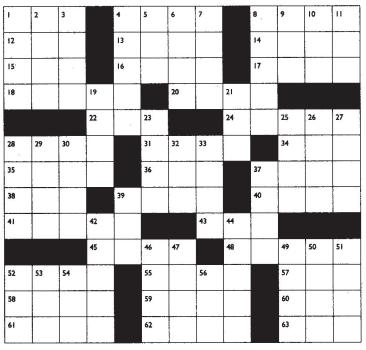
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Tues - Fri 9:30am - 5:30pm Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm



BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Topic: STOCKS AND BONDS



ACROSS

8 Waiter's tool

I Binding rule 4 Brother of Havilah (I Chron.

12 "Whatever is has been long _" (Eccl. 3:15) 13 Plain in Syria (Amos 1:5)

14 Zoom 15 Temple gate (2 Kings 11:6, KJV)

16 Use as support

17 Insects in colonies 18 Home of prophet Amos

(Amos 1:1) 20 Surprise attack

22 Which one 24 Approaches

28 Spare 31 Convert of Peter (1 Pet. 5:13)

34 Hat

35 Worked in winepress 36 Deplore

37 Son of Levite Abinadab (2 Sam. 6:3) 38 King Hezekiah's mother

(2 Kings 18:2) 39 Heap

40 Tenant payment

41 Emblem 43 Blockade 45 Amalekite King Saul captured

(I Sam. 15:8) 48 King's forest manager (Neh. 2:8)

52 Sometimes-dry brook 55 Wild pig

57 Cove

58 Foundary material 59 To the form of

60 Befogged

61 ____, twenties, thirties, etc. 62 "Realize how kind the Lord has ___ to you" (I Pet. 2:2)

63 Tayern

DOWN

1 Trailing 2 Fever (Lev. 26:16, KJV) 3 Labor

4 Eber's father (Gen. 10:24, KJV) 5 Between day and night

6 Tolerate 7 Widow recognizing infant

Jesus as Messiah (Luke 2:36) 8 Exchange

9 Dashed 10 "An ___ of God" (calamity)

11 As you say 19 Was indebted 21 Pen and

23 King Ahab's father (I Kings 16:28)

25 Dull hurt 26 For 40 days and nights (Gen. 7:4) 27 Area

28 Pierce

29 Hebron (Josh. 15:13) 30 Null

32 Like an ice pick 33 Strip of cane

37 Hugging instruments 39 Hook

42 Increases 44 Golden calf maker (Exod. 32:4)

46 Passover month (Deut. 16:1, KIV)

47 Departed

49 Levite from Merari clan (2 Chron. 29:12)

50 Penalty

51 Sacred song 52 Sanity

53 Plurality of being

54 Put on 56 Consumed

The National Domestic Violence

1.800.799.SAFE (7233) • 1.800.787.3224 (TTY)

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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

