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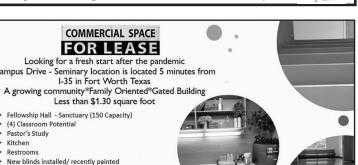
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August 10th, we join Greater New Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, Dallas, TX for their Choir Annual @ 3pm; August 17th, True Foundation Christian Church, Dallas, TX celebrate their Church Anniversary @ 3pm; August 24th; Faith Temple Ministries, Inc., Fairfield, TX celebrate their Pastor's Anniversary @3:30 pm.

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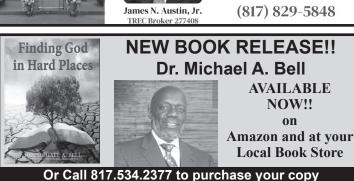
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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

Serving is a significant and recurring theme throughout the Holy Writ. Because Scripture clearly teaches that service is a priority for those who follow Jesus Christ, pastors and lay leaders bear the responsibility of encouraging their congregations to actively engage in serving others.

The foundation for serving and for motivating others to serve is rooted in the Sacred Writings itself. Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of a servant, and he should be viewed as the model for encouraging the congregation to participate in the community. The gospelist Matthew records him as saying, "Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:280).

Serving others is not an optional adjunct to the Christian life; it's at the heart of what it means to follow Christ. When we prioritize serving, everything else begins to align. Still, while this truth is clear in Scripture, putting it into practice can be a challenge for some churches. A critical first step is to make Christ's model of service a central focus in preaching, Bible studies and church communications. By doing this, we establish a solid foundation that helps members embrace service with enthusiasm and purpose.

In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus told his gives one of his most powerful statements: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

What I believe we read here is Iesus seeing, not just the pain and need, but also the opportunity.

- The opportunity to love and
- The opportunities to meet needs and bring hope
- The opportunities to encourage and remind people they are not alone

In the context of Matthew 9. Jesus wasn't ordering Peter, Bartholomew and the other fellows to get to work, he was inviting them to be part of his work. He's saying, "You Get To." And that's the heart of motivating people to serve; helping them recognize what we get to do as Kingdom la-



First, we motivate people to serve by reminding them that we "Get **To"** use the gifts God has given us. In 1 Peter 4:10 we read, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." These gifts aren't meant to be used for our own personal gain but used for his Kingdom. We use what he has given us to be part of his Kingdom

Number two, we energize congregants by telling them that they "Get To" be part of something bigger than themselves. As part of the Body of Christ, we have this amazing opportunity to use our gifts as part of something bigger than ourselves. No gift is too small. No gift is insignificant. No gift is meaningless, because all gifts are from God.

Then, finally, we let them know that they "Get To" answer the call to be laborers. When Jesus looked at the crowds, he didn't iust see problems; he saw people with real needs and real potential for change. The same is true today. When church members see serving not as an obligation but as a meaningful opportunity to respond to those needs, they begin to realize they're part of something bigger. They're not just filling a spot; they're stepping into purpose!

Dr. Michael A. Bell 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 Dr. Yolanda G. Butler

"Trials That Teach Life"

"It was good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes." (Psalm 119:71)

Trials (afflictions) have a strange way of becoming teachers of life. How can affliction be good? It sounds like an oxymoron. There can be nothing good about suffering. The word "affliction" means a condition of pain, suffering, or distress. These are three life conditions no one wants to experience. There is no joy in pain. There is no laughter in suffering. There is no giddiness in distress. These are all negative life experiences that could have the potential to cause you to turn in your salvation card, quit church, and take an entirely different direction.

Despite the stones of adversity and the ridicule of nonbelievers, this psalmist was convinced that there was a purpose behind the pain. We are not given the full picture as to whether the psalmist went to someone else before turning to God. We can imagine that perhaps, just perhaps, he was in so much agony that "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith" was not an option he considered.

Afflictions can be rude intruders, relationship breakers, and worship invaders. They can pull you away from God, His Word, and the Body of Christ. Yet, this psalmist says, "It was good." How can it be good when you are hurting? The answer lies in the second part of the scripture, "That I might learn Your statutes." The psalmist recognized that there was no other source that could help him through his affliction but God's promises and standards established in His

The affliction positioned him to develop a more intimate relationship with the Father. A relationship is built on trust. Trust is built through the Word of God, the Father's constitution. Dr. Myles Munroe stated that, "The King's constitution encompasses the nature, character, and personality of the King." Know the King, know His Word. Know His Word, know the King. The True King is righteous, benevolent, compassionate, and genuine, as demonstrated through Jesus Christ.

So, how does a trial become your teacher? If it had not been for the affliction, you would not have known Him as a Comforter (John 14:16). If it had not been for the pain, you would not have known Him as a Healer (Exo-



dus 15:26). If it had not been for the distress, you would not have known Him as a mind-regulator (Isaiah 26:3). If it had not been for the divorce, you would not have known Him as a Keeper (Psalm 121:5). If it had not been for the trouble, you would not have known Him as a Deliverer (Psalm 34:17). Through the affliction, pain, and distress, although it did not feel good, you can find grace in the Father's Holy Word that gives life.

So dear hearts, be determined to see trials as an opportunity for teaching lessons in life.

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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Greater Eleazer Baptist Church celebrate the 8th Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Lawrence Barrett & Wife



Pastor Lawrence R. Barrett is the Senior Pastor of The Greater Eleazer Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas. He was born in the east Texas town of Palestine, TX. Pastor Barrett graduated from Neches High School in 1968.

He moved to Fort Worth, where he started working at a paper manufacturing facility, where he later became a supervisor and then the quality control manager. He was raised in church as was his entire family. His family of eleven brothers and sisters was all raised to attend church and worship God.

A very close family, Pastor Barrett

was the seventh child of the six brothers and five sisters. In 1993, he obtained his real estate license in the state of Texas. He is currently licensed and serve many with his realtor skills. He also obtained his income tax preparer license and worked his income tax business for several years.

He united with Greater Eleazer Baptist Church in 1976 under the leadership of Rev. S. J. Williams. Under Pastor Williams, he was chosen as Finance Chairman and worked in this position for thirty-nine years, overseeing two building projects.

Pastor Williams ordained Pastor Barrett as a Deacon in 1980 and he served as a Deacon until he was called into the ministry. He was the Sunday School Superintendent for a number of years and then he taught Adult Men's Sunday School class. He also taught Bible Study lessons during weekly services.

In February 2005 he was called into the ministry under the leadership of the late Pastor Robert L. Dowell who is his father in the ministry. He preached his first sermon February 20, 2005.

In 2017 the lord called pastor Dowell to his reward. Later a pulpit search committee was formed, and Pastor Barrett was a candidate. He was selected to serve as Pastor in 2017 by a vote of the entire church.

Pastor went on to attend Mount Olive Bible Institute and graduated from Basic Biblical Studies in 2012. He later graduated from Mount Olive Bible Institute in advance studies in 2013.

Pastor Barrett has the awesome responsibility of transforming sinners into saints, the helpless into the helpful and to strengthen believers to be strong Disciples and witnesses for Christ.

Pastor Barrett has been married to his beautiful wife, Rebecca Barrett for thirty-nine years. She has been faithfully by his side every step of the way. Pastor Barrett strives to preach and teach the word of God. He strives to make new disciples for the kingdom.

What makes Greater Eleazer Baptist Church so special is the caring leadership that God has brought to this ministry

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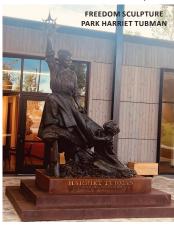


Greater St Stephen First Church Annual Youth Trip

"Igniting the future by remembering the past"

Each summer, we embark on an eye-opening journey—walking the paths of our past to better understand our present. This year, a group of engaged and enthusiastic students traveled along the U.S. Civil Rights Trail, visiting some of the most iconic landmarks of the movement that reshaped America.

Among the most impactful stops were the Freedom Rides Museum and the Rosa Parks Museum, both



located in Montgomery, Alabama—ground zero for many pivotal moments in the Civil Rights Movement. Students also visited Tuskegee University, Alabama State University, and the Southern Poverty Law Cen-

ter, gaining a deeper understanding of the courageous individuals and institutions that led the fight for justice and equality.

At Alabama State University, stu-



dents explored the Montgomery Interpretive Center, which honors the legacy of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and highlights the essential role college students played in the movement. Through interactive exhibits and personal stories, students saw how young people—just like them—helped change the course of history.

In Selma, students visited the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge, the site of 1965's "Bloody Sunday," when peaceful marchers were attacked while demanding the right to vote. Being at the site of such a pivotal moment in American history gave students a powerful sense of connection to the past and the sacrifices made for civil rights.

While visiting the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum, a young



person looked up and quietly asked, "This really happened?" The images and stories hit hard. It was a question that echoed through the group—not just in words, but in emotion. Many students had learned about slavery, lynching, and segregation, but standing face-to-face with the truth made it real in a way no textbook ever could.

These experiences don't just educate—they transform. By connecting directly with the places and stories that shaped the struggle for civil rights, students return not only more informed but more inspired to make a difference in their communities today.

'Blapp,' The New Way To Find Black Businesses In Your Area

Blapp is the new way to locate and support Black-owned businesses within one's area across the United States.

Recent calls for unity in our spending choices has those within and allies of the Black community wanting to do more to support a variety of industries. Blapp is a new app catered to making the

k o y w BLAPP

issue of finding Black businesses and services easier throughout the United States.

Ranging from bookstores to clubs, and real estate agents to doctors, Blapp is making the quest to find Black businesses in all avenues easier to source. Described as a "Black shopping app," Blapp is aiding consumers who want to be more conscious about where their dollar is being spent, and want their money to either be poured back into their communities or overall help minority businesses thrive.

The initiative comes as Black consumer spending continues its trend of growth. According to statistics obtained by McKinsey, the "collective economic power" of Black people is set to reach \$1.7 trillion by 2030, nearly doubling from its estimated \$910 billion in 2019. However, Black patrons and entrepreneurs are still faced with setbacks and obstacles, such as "consumer deserts" and inaccessibility to capital funding, respectively, that limit their ability to engage in the cycle of consumerism. However, Blapp seeks to be the answer to the issue of finding and promoting Black-owned businesses, being part of an ongoing resolution to grow the Black dollar.

According to Laster, Blaap is currently boasting 60,000 diverse businesses, as he hopes to expand to all Black entrepreneurs to promote their companies across audiences.

Progressive Alliance of Cultured Women - PACW

Since 1925, Lions International has been at the forefront of combating vision impairment and blindness. The Fort Worth Association of Federated Women's Clubs Executive Board members made a valuable contribution to

this ongoing effort by donating eyeglasses to Handley-Meadowbrook Lions Club manager Charles Waggoner and Len Fuller. Special thanks are extended to FWAFWC members and friends for their support during our eyeglass recycling drive.





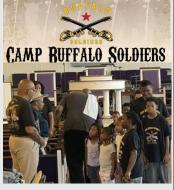




Pic 1) Juneteenth Celebration at Soul of Sycamore Juneteenth Festival with Councilman Chris Nettles and Councilady Deborah Peoples; Pic 2) Mason Ford with 3 × Olympic track medalist Lindon Victory @ FWPH Back 2 School Fest.

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The 369th became famous for serving 191 consecutive days on the front lines, more than any other American regiment during the war

The 369th Infantry Regiment, commonly

known as the Harlem Hellfighters, was an African American army unit that distinguished itself during World War I. Formed primarily from National Guard soldiers in New York, many hailed from Harlem. Unlike many African American units that were relegated to support roles, the 369th fought bravely under French command on the front lines, earning the nickname "Hellfighters" from their German adversaries. Their exceptional combat skills led to significant victories, including participation in pivotal battles such as the Second Battle of the Marne and the Battle of the Argonne Forest. The regiment suffered heavy casualties, with approximately 1,500 men either killed or wounded, the highest losses for any American unit in the conflict. Over 170 Hellfighters received commendations for bravery, and the entire unit was awarded the prestigious Croix de Guerre by France. Upon returning home in 1919, they were celebrated with a parade in New York City. The legacy of the 369th continues today, with the unit's descendants recognized for their service, including receiving the Congressional Gold Medal in 2021.



X

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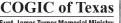
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.9:30am

...10:45am

421 S Ayers Avenue. Fort Worth, Texas 76103

Rev. J. L. Hunt Jr., Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 A.M Morning Worship Service 11:00 A.M. Wednesday Prayer Service & Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

"Come Worship with Us; God, God Does"

Leslie Court Baptist Church

1412 E Cantey St | Ft Worth, TX 76104 817-535-7800 Email: LCBC@lesliecourt.org



Sunday School 9:00 am Morning Worship 11:00 am astor Robintino Stewart Sr.

First Lady Elizabeth



SAMARIA Baptist Church 4000 E. Berry St. Fort Worth, TX 76105

Phone: 817-536-6421

PASTOR WILLIAM McKINLEY JACKSON

Sunday School	9:30 ar
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 an
Wednesday Prayer	6:00 pn
Wednesday Bible Study	
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"Reaching Out To You Ministry

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Zion Rest

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MORNING WORSHIP. 10:30 a.m EVERY WEDNESDAY - BIBLESTUDY. 6:30 p.m 1ST,4TH,5TH WEDNESDAY - PRAYER SERVICE. 7:30 p.m EVERY WEDNESDAY - YOUTH MEETINGS. 7:30 p.m 2ND& 3RD WEDNESDAY - SWALLGROUPS. 7:30 p.m 3RD SATURDAYS - EVANGELISM. 10:30 a.m

PASTOR RUFUS HUCKABY

Norship and Study Services

10:00am 7:00pm

Sunday School **Morning Worship**

Prayer Meeting Bible Study, Mis Youth Bible St



ELM GROVE Missionary Baptist CHURCH

1344 E. Harvey Ave. Ft. Worth, TX 76104 817-923-5431 www.elmgrovembc.org Reverend T.J. Patterson, Jr., Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45am Worship Service.....11:00am Wednesday Service.....7:30pm

For the perfecting of the saints, for the ork of the ministry, for the edifying of th body of Christ. Ephesians 4:12

Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church 3920 E. Rosedale Ft Worth, TX 76105 817.534.0774

Reginald Andrews, Pastor/Teacher

Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.	Sunday Bible Study9:30 a.m.
	Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study7:15 p.m.	Wednesday Bible Study7:15 p.m.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

Meadowbrook First Baptist Church

6600 Ellis Road 817.457.4362

9.45AM MORNING WORSHIP

PASTOR

"Compel them to come in" Ft. Worth, TX 76112

mfbchurch@netzero.com Website: meadowbrookfirstbaptist.com SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00AM WEDN BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM



DR C I PERKINS

Community Cable TV Channel 28 Sun 7:30-8:30p: Wed 12n-1p. Sat 4:30p-5:30p www.churchinnews.com

Surprise! The City offers way more services than you think

The City of Fort Worth doesn't just provide the standard mix of municipal services — it's also home to a wide range of helpful, often under-the-radar programs that make day-to-day life easier for residents. Whether you're buying or repairing a home, just looking up neighborhood information or need a little help caring for a beloved pet, the City has resources for you.

Help for first-time homebuyers

Through the Homebuyer Assistance Program, first-time homebuyers can receive up to \$25,000 in assistance for down payment and closing costs. The program is designed to help income-qualified individuals and families overcome common financial barriers to homeownership. Participants must complete a homebuver education course and work with a participating lender to qualify.

All you need to know on OneAddress

Found on the main landing page, the City's OneAddress feature is a one-stop digital tool that lets residents input any Fort Worth address and instantly learn about trash pickup days. nearby capital improvement projects, council district information, code compliance history and more. It's a powerful resource for homeowners, renters, real estate agents and community advocates alike.

Support for pet owners

Fort Worth Animal Care & Control (FWACC) is more than an animal shelter — it's also a lifeline for struggling pet owners. Through unique programming and community outreach efforts, FWACC provides free pet food, supplies and even veterinary resources to help families keep and care for their pets. No judgment, no red tape — just compassion.

Priority Repair Program tackles critical fixes

Through the City's Priority Repair Program, income-eligible homeowners can receive free emergency home repairs such as fixing a broken furnace in winter or a leaking roof during storm season. This program focuses on health and safety needs to help residents remain in their home longer and with greater security. While the application is currently closed, please check the webpage for updates soon.

Rental assistance and eviction help

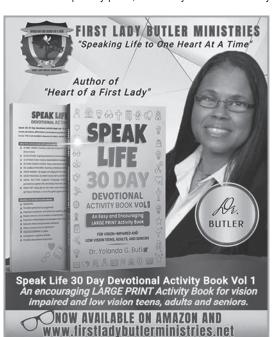
For renters facing financial hardship, the City offers short-term rental assistance through partnerships with local nonprofits and federal funding. Residents can also access legal aid and mediation services to help prevent eviction and navigate housing disputes.

Beautify your yard

Several neighborhoods in Fort Worth benefit from Mobile Tool Shed, allowing residents to borrow items like lawn equipment, hand tools, lawn mowers, weed eaters, 96-gallon yard carts and more — for free. It's an innovative way to save money on occasional home or yard projects without the cost of purchasing your own tools.

Free public Wi-Fi zones

To help bridge the digital divide, Fort Worth offers free public Wi-Fi in multiple City parks, community centers and library



branches. These access points provide high-speed internet so residents can study, work, apply for jobs or connect with loved ones — no data plan required.

Problem to report? Try the MyFW app

Residents are encouraged to download the free MyFW app to report potholes, overgrown lots, streetlight outages and other issues directly to the City for quick action.

Fort Worth cares

The City partners with local organizations to provide housing assistance, utility help, mental health resources and more. Through initiatives like Homeless Strategies, Neighborhood Services and the High Impact Program, the City is working to reduce homelessness and connect vulnerable residents with vital services.

Many of these services are available for free or at low-cost. and most require only a simple application or phone call to get started. Visit fortworthtexas.gov or call 817-392-1234 to learn more about what the City can do for you.

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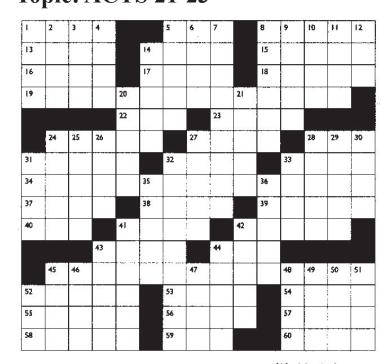
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BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE Topic: ACTS 21-23



ACROSS

I Walked 5 Dally

8 Craze 13 "We are ready to kill him

before he gets "(Acts 23:15, NIV)

14 Ecuador neighbor

15 Story

16 Fencing sword

17 Bad word, acc. to Matt. 5:22, NN 18 Olfactory sense

19" am ...a citizen of " (Acts 21:39, NIV)

22 Print measures 23 Precedes Josh.

24 Commandment word 27 "They built a ____ and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold" (Acts 28:2, NIV)

28 In the manner of (2 wds., Fr.) 31 Be a pedagogue

32 Swedish car

33 Parseghian and namesakes 34 "More than forty of them are

(Acts 23:21, NIV)

37 ____ fair in love and war 38 Baseball's Mel and family

39 Gasoline or bowling 40 Draft org.

42 Pedigree 43 Colonnade

generis (one of a kind) 45 How Paul described himself in Acts 21:39, NIV (4 wds.)

52 Desert plant 53 |og

__ boy! (2 wds.)

55 Kareem or Magic 56 Actress Sommer

57 Brick oven 58 Ryan, of "Hillbillies" fame

59 Pumpernickel 60 Hiram's home

DOWN

I " everybody will know there is no truth in these reports about you" (Acts 21:24. NIV) 2 Take back a car that's not paid

for, for short 3 A cookie

4 Follows rein or mule

5 Relies 6 Box (Lat.)

7 Parents or legal 8 Error

9 Give entrance 10 Boris's refusal

I I in a bad manner 12"____ the disciples and their

wives and children accompanied us out of the city" (Acts 21:5, NIV)

14 What Gutenberg's machine did 20 Indian city

21 South American beverage 24 Navy counterterrorists 25 Greets

26 John follower

27 "He spoke about _ Christ Jesus" (Acts 24:24, NIV)

78 Ac _ (generally) 29 Emitted light

30 Pale 31 "____ the night before

Christmas"

32 Pvt. Gomer Pyle's boss (2 wds.) 33 "And at that very moment!

_ to see him" (Acts 22:13, NIV)

35 "I am (John 8:23, NIV)

36 The lead in West Side Story or Sound of Music

41 As (so to speak, 2 wds.)

42 Montana town

43 "Finding the disciples there, we stayed with them_ (Acts 21:4, NIV)

44 Where there's 27-across

45 Mold-growing environment 46 Dad of Joe, Ben, Rube, and

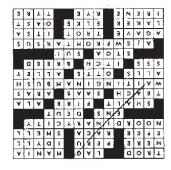
nine other guys? 47 Paris airport

48 What occurred in Acts 21:30 49 Stop

50 Frmr. Russian nation

52 Boxing champ In 1974 and

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CHURCH

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Let yout *Light* shine before men that they may see your good works and

Glorify your Father in Heaven MATT 5:16

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CHURCH

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THANK YOU **FOR YOUR** READERSHIP

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 Evang. Sharon Ford-Turner, Pastor e-mail: sharonlmasonfordturner@gmail.com

Sunday Services: In-Person & Conference Call Services ...Sunday School



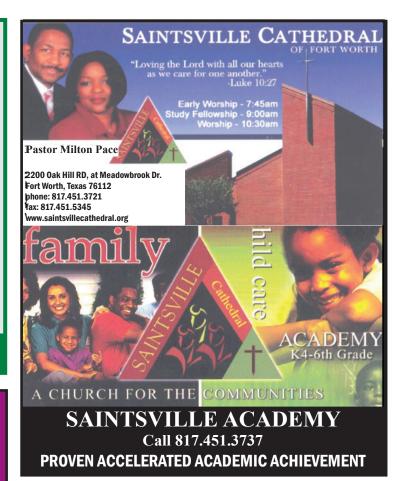
Love in Action: 11:30 am 1st SundayVillage Creek Nursing Homes Ministry following Pandemic guidelines.

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







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