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**VOL. 19 NO.9** 

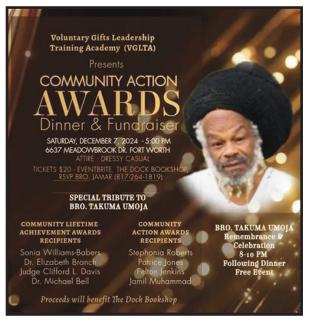
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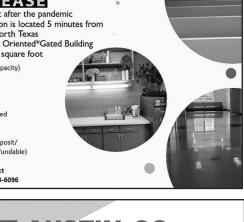
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# "The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

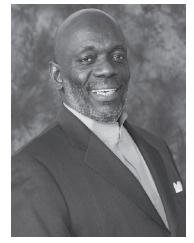
Have you ever played the "Word Association Game?" For any who haven't played before, it's pretty simple. It goes like this. Someone says a word and you in turn say the first word or image that comes to mind. For example, I say, "Peanut Butter." You respond, "Jelly!" I say, "Rolex." You say, "Watches!" I say, "Starbucks." You reply, "Coffee!"

Okay. What about the church? What is the church's one word? The correct word association should be "Discipleship."

Jesus' final command to his twelve followers in Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission, was to "go and make disciples of all nations." And the call that still resonates through the generations is a call to make disciples. Yet, the real question is this: What is a disciple? What is it we are trying to make? The Greek word we translate as "disciple" means learner. A disciple of Jesus Christ is a listener and a practitioner; someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus

Discipleship at its core is the process of growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Now when Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples, he wasn't saying, go and do discipleship; he was saying go and "make disciples" and that involves the deliberate and intentional process of nurturing Christ-followers in their relationship with God through Jesus Christ and equipping them to follow him wholeheartedly. "Making disciples is what the church is designed by the Lord to do, and so we want to make certain that we have the correct kind of a culture in the church. Jesus' goal wasn't twelve disciple makers. It was a movement of disciple makers. It was a culture developed among those twelve followers of Christ that would be a catalytic force strong enough to transform everything it touched.

Let's face it. We know that in the swiftly evolving topography of the 21st century, the concept of disciple-making can appear to be antiquated or irrelevant to some in the church. However, the real truth is that disciple-making is more critical now than it has ever been. The challenge lies not in the relevance of disciple-making, but in how to integrate it into the fabric of to-

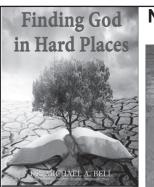


day's church culture. This is why we're talking this month about practical strategies for developing a disciple-making culture in your church

Creating a disciple-making culture isn't something that happens overnight, but it's a process that can be cultivated through intentionality, teaching, and the involvement of the entire church body. Here are three practical strategies designed to jumpstart your thinking:

- 1. The Church must teach the Biblical mandate of discipleship. It begins with the understanding that every believer is called to be a disciple and to make disciples. Preaching, teaching, and personal mentoring should emphasize the importance of discipleship.
- 2. Cultivate a Culture of Service. Encourage members to live out their discipleship through service. Involvement in ministry, both inside and outside the church, fosters growth and helps people apply what they are learning in real-world contexts.
- 3. Empower and train Leaders. Provide regular leadership training to equip your ministry leaders and committee chairs to disciple others. This should focus not only on biblical knowledge but also on relational skills, mentoring techniques, and spiritual formation.

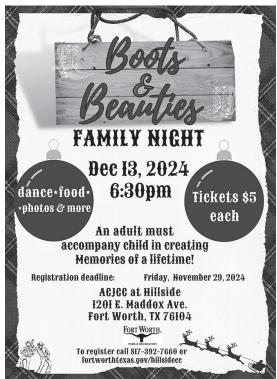
drmichaelbell is Senior Pastor-Resident Theologian of Greater St. Stephen First Church FtW, a seminary adjunct professor and a certified Life Coach. He conducts leadership seminars and conferences across the country. He is the author of "Finding God in Hard Places" and is a contributor to the book "Justice Looks Like."

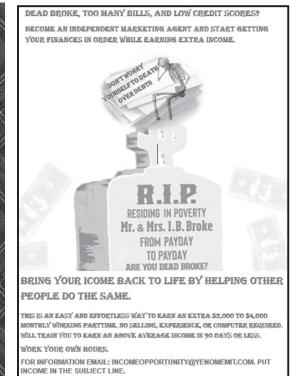


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# Speak Life Thought

with Dr. Yolanda G. Butler

#### "The Gift of Life"

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: And the government shall be upon his shoulder: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

The Greatest Gift given unto mankind was the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Jesus did not just come to be born but to save. His conception was a miracle in that He was born of a virgin and conceived of the Holy Ghost. He is revealed all throughout the Old Testament. He came to fulfill the Law. With his death, burial and resurrection entered the New Covenant and Kingdom of God for all of mankind to behold.

As we close out another year by the grace of God, let us reflect on this precious Gift of Life that came to give us life and that more abundantly (John 10:10). With great expectation the Father would give His Gracious Gift to save all of mankind (John 3:16). He would leave a forever footprint in the heart of those who would believe and receive Him into their lives (Rom 10:9-10). The essence of

who He is will be shared through the power of the Gospel Message.

The redeemed of the Lord will proclaim that He is Wonderful, the Marvelous Savior whose Miraculous Birth became our Miraculous Redemption. We will herald that He is the Counseller, the Written Expression of our Father who came in the form of flesh to become the Author and Finisher of our Faith (Heb 12:2). We will proclaim that He is a Mighty God, testifying to His awesome works and miraculous deeds. We will declare that He is the Everlasting Father who shall rule and reign forever. We shall enjoy His presence as the Prince of Peace, the Spiritual Tranquilizer of our very souls.

Since we have been given such a precious and priceless gift, let us endeavor to extend the love of Christ during this Christmas holiday season to others. Whether through holiday cookies, gift exchange, family gatherings, or office party, etc., endeavor to take advantage of this opportunity and share the Christmas message. Consider sowing seeds of kindness to the unsheltered, the military families, the orphans, children in the foster care system, children in hospitals, and that grandmother caring for her



grandchildren.

May you finish out this year with a grateful heart and resolve in your mind to do better for the Kingdom in the coming year. May the Father's grace overflow in your life, His power sustain you, His peace overshadow you, and His love keep you in all ways.

So dear hearts, be determined to appreciate the Gift of Life and share the Gift of Life. May you have Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Keep believing!

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

# **National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum** "Cowboys of Color" Rodeo coming soon to Dickies Arena



#### **Our Mission**

The primary objective of the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame is to offer the visitor a true and complete historical perspective of the people and activities that built the unique culture of the American West. The work of artists who documented the people and events of the time through journals, photographs, and other historical items are part of this new collection. These long overlooked materials tell perhaps for

the first time the complete story. The American West of today still operates on many of the principles and cultural relationships begun so long ago.

#### The Vision

The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Fame was founded to give recognition to the outstanding pioneers who played a role in settling the early American western frontier. The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame also acknowledges individuals that have contributed to the western culture and tradition and play a part in keeping this important piece of American History

#### **Keeping Our History Alive**

The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum was founded February 1, 2001, by Fort Worth, Texas, husband and wife team Jim and Gloria Austin to acknowledge the contributions of individuals of Hispanic, Native, European, Asian, and African de-



Western American Frontier

Originally named the National Cowboys of Color Museum, the museum was renamed in 2008 to describe the diverse history the museum embodies. The museum is located at 2201 Dottie Lynn Parkway, Suite 115, Fort Worth, Texas 76120. There is a Hall of Fame and permanent exhibits highlighting the Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen, Black Cowboys, Native American Chiefs and Heritage, and the Vaquero and His-

# LOCAL CHURCHES CAN FILL THE BLACK HISTORY GAP - WE CAN IF WE WILL

# Black Churches In Florida Are Stepping In To Teach Black **History Where Schools Are Falling Off**

After the state eliminated AP African American Stud- the history of ies courses, Black churches are saying we "will teach our own history."

Florida has been making headlines for banning AP African American history courses and teaching how "Black people benefited from slavery."

But Black churches are stepping in to fill this gap. We "will teach our own history," says Tony F. Drayton, St. James Church's lead pastor.

This isn't a first for Black churches either. Historians say that in the past, Black churches have been active members in the fight for civil rights. And today, hundreds of Black churches have taken up this mantle to ensure that our history is not erased.

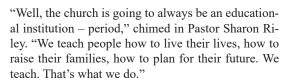
A church coalition called Faith in Florida (FIF) who advocates on behalf of social justice, created an "online toolkit which includes books, documentaries and videos related to Black history," reports USA Today.

When you go to the Faith in Florida website, visitors are greeted with the message "Because Black History is American History!"

Drayton, who was one of the toolkit's developers, said, "We have such a captive audience." "From the pulpit, we have to be as woke as possible," he continued, "I'm going to use that word intentionally."

During NPR's Morning Edition, education reporter Danielle Prieur explained how the "toolkit is not a curriculum, but a guide with recommended books, documentaries to watch and articles to read. It covers

the trans-Atlantic trade through the Civil Rights Movement up to the killing of George Floyd."



According to The Hill, "Other states have also taken interest in the resources, with groups from Pennsylvania to California contacting FIF, including organizations that are not Black churches or part of the Christian community."

Rhonda Thomas, Executive Director of FIF says, 'Once this toolkit went out, we also had churches that are led by white faith leaders and Muslims register to teach Black History."

"What stands out is that these states are just as concerned, because many times they know that whatever takes place in Florida, eventually it's going to hit our states as well," Thomas added.

These efforts are also extending beyond the parish and public school system. Other organizations and individuals are joining the fight to ensure that the next generation learns the truth about our history.

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panic Heritage.

FOOD forTHOUGHT





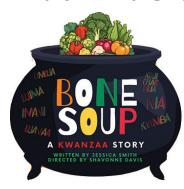




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# And a Child Shall Lead Them...



As the nation comes to grips with the outcome of the 2024 general election that granted Donald J. Trump a second term as president, Kids Acting with Purpose have prepared a timely lesson for disenfranchised voters. As presidential appointments pick up and as President-elect Trump fills his cabinet, uncertainty about the future gains a foothold in the community. No, we won't be going back, but to our credit and as a strength, we've been here before! When community was everything and when government assistance was unreliable or even nonexistent, we had each other. This is the lesson we learn in "Bone Soup: A Kwanzaa Story," written by Jessica Hebron Smith and directed by KAWP founder ShaVonne Davis. This youth production of "Bone Soup" furthers Davis' goal of providing underserved youth equity in access to high-quality, free arts enrichment programs and Through the individualized yet synergistic tenets of Kwanzaa, the people of Culture Kingdom learn to organize, strategize, and thrive in a recession that has brought their community to the brink of destruction, eroding their sense of self. This immersive experience teaches that everyone, including the audience, has something to con-

When a devastating recession threatens Culture Kingdom, citizens use their resources and relationships to survive. Commiseration is turned to collaboration when the residents realize that by putting their resources together, they not only bring a robust recipe to life, they have more to savor and share! Joy, Jubilation and exhilaration mark the "Bone Soup" viewing experience. Theatre patrons were left awestruck, in disbelief that the brilliance they just witnessed was performed by middle and high school students!

It's been said, "ain't nobody coming to save you!" and as citizens of Culture Kingdom learned this, the Culture Queen was there to remind them they are indeed a mighty race. The Culture Queen floats onstage and throughout the story to provide timely, poignant reminders of the ingenuity and bravery that resides within the community

and the collective, known as Culture

Kids Acting with Purpose would like to thank these community organizations and sponsors for their continual support of our programming. Each year, we rely on the Fort Worth Tourism Public Improvement District, Arts Fort Worth, North Texas Community Foundation. Sid Richardson Foundation. BRAVE/R TOGETHER, HEB Stores, and United Way Tarrant County to bring arts based educational programming to youth and interested audienc-

The Culture Queen has more lessons to teach. Come and savor wisdom when Kids Acting with Purpose perform "Bone Soup: A Kwanzaa Story" at Jean McClung Middle School in Fort Worth December 7th and 8th. Tickets purchased in advance are a \$10.00 donation, each with the option to donate more. Tickets purchased at the door are \$15.00 each. All attendees age 3+ must have a ticket. Your donation helps provide access to free out-of-school-time arts enrichment programs to underserved youth in Fort Worth and surrounding areas. For group ticket sales of 10+, please email info@maroon9.org.

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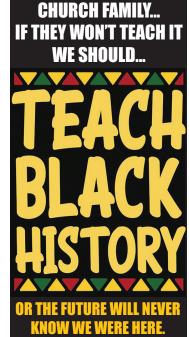




Pic 1) 80th Birthday Celebration with Sara's Cox-Johnson at the Link Community Center with Her Siblings; Pic 2) Souls to the Polls with Church Member Rosa Jones; Pic 3) Homecoming Game with Grandson Mason Ford with Hallmark Youth 8U Football Team. They Won Congratulations Team.









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**Wednesday Services** Wednesday Prayer Service & Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

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body of Christ. Ephesians 4:12

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Wednesday Bible Study7:15 p.m.

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

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BIBLE STUDY (Wednesday)	
PRAYER MEETING (Wednesday)	6:30 pm

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#### West Mt. Moriah **Baptist Church** 5325 Ronnell Street

Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-731-3502

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.
INDRIVING 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

#### Royal Capital prepares to reveal new plans for Evans & Rosedale Published on November 19, 2024

The City of Fort Worth and Royal Capital are ready to reveal the developer's vision for the Evans & Rosedale project.

Residents are invited to attend an upcoming community update from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Bethlehem Center, 951 Evans Ave., Fort Worth,

Why it matters: This will be the public's first opportunity to see and provide feedback on Royal Capital's vision for the development. Following this event, the City plans to begin working with Royal Capital to formalize an agreement and help secure the necessary funding to make the project into a reality.

Event details: Seating is limited to 150 people, so be sure to RSVP on Eventbrite to secure your seat. For those who are unable to make the event in person, the meeting will be livestreamed on the City of Fort Worth's YouTube channel starting at 6 p.m. that evening. Online viewers will be invited to submit their questions by email or by text, and the presenters will respond to as many as possible during the event.

What they're saying: "We've really hit the ground running with Royal Capital, and we're excited to see the momentum building around this long-awaited project," said Robert Sturns, director of economic development for the City of Fort Worth.

How we got here: This community meeting comes on the heels of multiple public events over the past several months following the announcement of Milwaukee-based Royal Capital as the project's master developer in August.

These events have included a fireside chat at Sham-

blee Library on Sept. 25 introducing Royal Capital to the community, and an outdoor block party / visioning event in Evans Plaza on Oct. 23, which gave residents an opportunity to help prioritize and provide feedback on preliminary plans for the development. Both events saw an attendance of more than 100 peo-

Additionally, the Royal Capital team has spent significant time engaging with the residents and stakeholders in the Historic Southside and attending local

From Royal Capital: "So much headway has been made in only a few months, and we can really attribute that to our collaboration with the Historic Southside community and the City of Fort Worth," said Kevin Newell, founder and CEO of Royal Capital. "Our team has really enjoyed rolling up our sleeves to move this project forward, and we're excited to continue the conversation at next month's event."

Data gathered from the block party will be presented at the Dec. 12 community update, along with how that feedback informed the vision for the project.

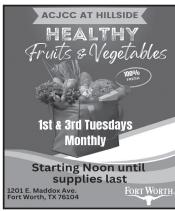
Project background: A former hub of Black commerce, the Historic Southside has been home to many of Fort Worth's - and even the nation's - first black entrepreneurs, and is an extremely important part of the city's history. The City of Fort Worth has invested over \$30 million into the area's infrastructure, redevelopment and planning efforts since the late 1990s, and this project is a continuation of that long-term effort to bring more investment, jobs, and economic prosperity to the neighborhood.





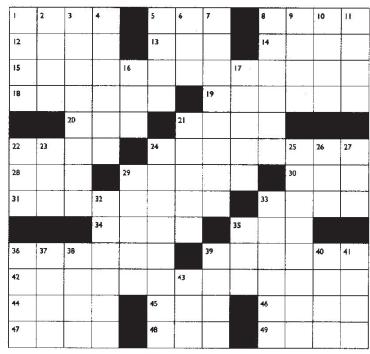






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# **BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE** Topic: WHAT TO DO



#### **ACROSS**

I "My God shall supply all your \_" (Phil. 4:19, KJV) 5 Increase (Phil. 1:17) 8 Trepidation (Phil. 1:14)

12 Assistant 13 Cow's sound

\_\_\_ glad that Jesus loves me" (chorus) 15 Precept statement: 3 wds

(Phil. 4:7) 18 Repeat verbatim

19 Device to achieve a goal 20 Related suffix? 21 "Fix your thoughts on what is

" (Phil. 4:8) 22 Intense dislike 24 Characterized by long hard

work 28 First lady 29 Deliberately avoids

30 Small enclosed truck 31 Mentally ponder

33 Religious group 34 Roman tribe's basic unit

35 Passover mo. (Lev. 23:5) 36 Hebrews' first enemy afte the Exodus (Exod. 17:8)

39 Briers 42 Precept statement: 2 wds. (Phil. 4:5)

44 "Keep putting \_\_\_ practice all you learned from me" (Phil. 4:9) 45 Garment 46 "May it be" (Phil. 4:20) 47 Kiss

48 Single (Phil. 3:13) 49 For fear that

#### **DOWN**

Not artificial: abbr. (Lev. 17:15) 2 Ireland

3 Formally schooled 4 Urge 5 French friend 6 Spanish noblema

7 Tenet 8 Mockeries 9 Give off

10 Small leaves 11 College military pgm.

16 Teletype device: comp. abbr. 17 Carries away 21 Acclaims loudly

22 Skirt bottom 23 \_\_\_ Maria

24 "Give the Lord, for he is so good!" (Ps. 118:29) 25 Prevailed over

26 Apple computer 27 "Inside" prefix 29 Reinforce against erosion 32 Eskimo estates

33 Helical coil 35 "All my prayers for you of praise to God" (Phil. 1:3)

36 Baby food catcher? 2 wds. 37 Food selection 38 Fifth N.T. book 39 Perimeter

40 Follows form or lamin 41 "I am generously supplied with the gifts you

(Phil 4:18) 43 Charged particle



SUNDAY SCHOOL



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

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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: sharonImasonfordturner@gmail.com

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

10am....Worship Service

Nursing Homes Ministry SHARON FORD TURE

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

