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"Let your light so shine before men that they will see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16



MICHAEL W. JORDAN, Sr Publisher

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From the Publisher...

A "Special Thanks" to all who prayed for me and/or thought of me during my illness last month. God is so good and He keeps on blessing me, over and over again. I indeed have no reason to doubt Him because He continues to show up and show out on my behalf.

Without getting into too much detail, I simply went to bed one night, feeling great, and woke up in the emergency room not knowing what was going on or what had happened to me. I thank God for protecting me from any severe damage and for my fiancee' who was with me and having had experience with the symptoms I was showing giving the best of care to me, assuring that immediate attention was given resulting in my not having more severe effects from the condition I was in.

It's so amazing to me how God puts people in your life who will some day be there with benefits you never imagined you would need. But that's God, you be faithful to Him and will keep His promise to protect, care for and deliver you from all adversities that come into your life.

I'm so thankful to my Marilyn, my church family at Greater Saint Stephen First Church, Dr. Michael Bell is my pastor, my family, my many friends, and to all of you, for your prayers and well wishes during my recovery. A special thanks also to the doctors and staff at John Peter Smith Hospital for the excellent care, even to this day that they gave me and continue to give me, always calling to check on my progress. I can't imagine any better care. I also thank the CHURCHIN' sponsors and advertisers for your understanding about not printing in April, the first missed issue in 12 years. "THANK YOU" one and all.

I ask that you continue to pray for me as I am and always will be praying for each of you. To God be the glory for the things He has done.



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www.churchinnews.com CHURCHIN' Listen Each Sunday 8am-9am KAND 1340AM Radio Broadcast **Bishop K.D. Davis** Freshly Anointed Baptist Church KNON 89.3 FM "Just Believe Broadcast" Thursday Morning 4am-7am and the 3507 Crenshaw Ave. Ft. Worth, TX 76105 Rev. G.L. Durham, Pastor Sixth Avenue Baptist Church Community Cable TV Channel 28 Sun 7:30p-8:30p; Wed 12n-1p; Sat 4:30p-5p Presents 125 S. 5th St, Corsicana, Texas Souls Soles Pilgrim Rest PBC in Corsicana, Tx celebrate their Annual Brotherhood Day, May 6th @ 3PM; Now Faith Outreach Ministry in Fort Worth will have a 2-Day Revival, May 16th & 17th @ 7:15 Nightly; The Macedonia BC in Streetman, Tx present their Men & Women Day, May 20th @ 3PM and Sixth Ave BC present our Annual Youth Day, May 27th @ 10:30AM. You're invited to join us for any or all of these worship opportunities. **Freshly Anointed Baptist Church** is collecting pairs of shoes which will be given to "Funds2orgs", a nonprofit that provides shoes to those locally and internationally. We can accept shoes in all sizes and types (tennis shoes, sandals, dress shoes, boots). WATCH YOUR THOUGHTS Shoes must be in good condition to respect the dignity of those receiving the shoes - No FOR THEY BECOME WORDS holes, tears or missing laces. OUR goal is to collect 100 bags to raise funds for our Youth Department. WATCH YOUR WORDS All donated shoes will then be redistributed throughout the Fund2Orgs RTHEY BECOME ACTIO Network of micro-enterprise partners in developing nations. Fund2orgs helps impoverished people start, main-tain and grow businesses in countries such as Haiti, Honduras and other nations in Central America and Africa. 12 WATCH YOUR ACTIONS Nothing to buy! **DONATE TODAY!!** GREENW Nothing to sell! FOR THEY BECOME HABITS We will be Simply clean out your N US EVERY closet and discard any ATCH YOUR HABITS collecting through shoes you do not want FOR THEY BECOME CHARACTER April 2018 anymore WATCH YOUR CHARACTER To Donate call; Sis. Debra Durham – 817.881.5197 STARTING @ 8AM Sis. Ashley Williams - 817.881.7767 or the Church - 817.534.5131 IT BECOMESYOUR DESTINY. Black Musicians Association of Tarrant County Lao Tzu The Black Musicians Association of Tarrant County membership include ac-The fruit of the spirit is Love, Joy & Peace cess to workshops, hymn sessions, vocal and instrumental training, and a kaleidoscope of musical events. The BMATC invites you, ministers of music, vocalist, choir directors, and instrumentalists to join us in this season of Galatians 5:22 growth. Interested? Contact us at bmatc2012@gmail.com. ľ **Freshly Anointed** The Baptist Ministers' Union of Fort Worth, **Baptist Church** Tarrant County, Texas & its Vicinities 3507 Crenshaw St cordially invites you to attend our weekly minning at 11:00 am. at St. Andrews Pantry Fort Worth, TX 76105 the East St. Paul Baptist Church, 5300 Oak Grove Road West, Fort New Mount Carmel 🚲 Worth, TX 76134, Rev. Dr. L. S. Wilson, Pastor **Missionary Baptist Church** May 13th, 2018 Let your light so shine before me that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Come hear great teaching and spirit-filled preaching. fore men, @ 10:00 AM. 2620 F. Rosedale, Ft. Worth, TX 76105 Dr. G. L. Durham Upcoming schedule of speakers for the month of May: serves Hot Meals every Wednesdays from May 1st.....Rev. Demotti Shermah 5pm to 7pm. Just Sign In and Eat. All are **Mother's Day Breakfast** May 15th.....Rev. Kevin Pulliam welcome Show the **Prayerfully Consider Becoming** a Professional Parent **CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED** of Jesus as a / Therapeutic Foster Parent! & Part of a Dynamic Team! Local church in need of Musician. Benefits for Therapeutic Foster Families: All interested applicants please dial (817) 534-5131. Leave a message Must have one stay-at-home parent and someone will return your mes-One to two children could be sage. Thank you in advance for your in a placement consideration. Short-term Church located in Desoto, Texas On-going specialized training Service Times: 11am-12:30pm, Sal-24 hour crisis support ary negotiable. Contact Derrick at & guidance 214.454.2523. Extensive support: Case management 1 to 2 times weekly Community Lutheran Church, 4301 Significant financial reimbursement Miller Ave, Ft. Worth is seeking a Musican. Call 817.534.8246 for more To request your information info. please call or visit us on the web: The Zion Missionary Baptist Church <u> The Bair</u> located at 4100 Horne St., Fort Worth, TX 76137 has openings for **D**Foundation dedicated gospel musicians, please Child & Family Ministries contact 682-622-1842 if interest-00 bair.org ed. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Abiding Word Church is seeking a 972-957-0030 Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - Colossians 3:17 Pentecostal Keyboardist/Minister of 3630 North Josey Lane, Carrollton

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CHURCHIN'

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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by dr. michael bell We've heard all of the quotes about the advantages of TEAMWORK,

haven't we? There's "Teamwork is the secret that makes common people achieve uncommon results." Then, some anonymous somebody quipped, "Teamwork divides the task and multiples success." But, my favorite Teamwork quote is by internationally respected leadership expert and Teaching Pastor John Maxwell who said, "Teamwork makes the dream work, but a vision becomes a nightmare when the leader has a big dream and a bad team." This is especially true in the context of the local Church.

Senior pastor, ministry associate, deacon, ministry coordinator, Sunday School teacher, or committee chairperson, no matter how great an individual player you are, your relationship with your leadership team can make you or break you. But, more importantly, if there is little or no synergy, clear communication, and commonly-embraced purpose among Church leaders, it can wreak havoc in the congregation and undermine the Church's mission.

I just read an online article with a great title: "Why The Church Needs Teamwork, Not Indepen-dent Cowboys." Isn't that an awesome title? The author, Jamie Rohrbaugh, writes, "The Church is no place for independent cowbovs. What's an independent cowboy? An independent cowboy is someone who likes (or tries) to operate on their own, without help, without covering, without using other people's gifts. A cowboy, in a negative sense, is someone who pays no attention to protocol or to raising up other people. A cowboy likes to make the show all about himself or herself. A cowboy thrives in the spot-<u>light, and wants to keep it on himself</u> as much as possible. An independent cowboy treats the church like his or her own personal thrill ride, trying to do whatever they like without accountability."

How many Churches have been ruined, rundown and, literally, disbanded because of "independent cowboys?" How many Church splits are the result of a "bad team" or an "independent



cowboy/cowgirl?" Haven't you heard of Church leaders who treated the Church like it was theirs? Apparently, they haven't read Matthew 16:18, where Jesus says, "on this rock I will build MY Church!" Rohrbaugh says, If you are a Christian, you are part of the Body of Christ. 'Part' is the key word there. Neither you nor I are the whole body; we are only a part, and we need one another."

Teamwork is Biblical and critical. Every local Church described in the New Testament had a plurality of mature persons serving together as a leadership team. As, a pastor, I've had the privilege of appointing several leadership teams. Frankly, some of my most memorable moments have been related to working some outstanding team of leaders. The growth and goals we were able to achieve couldn't have been accomplished without clergy and laity working together toward shared objectives. But as great as it is to serve with a team of men and women who love God, some of my most frustrating moments in life have come from attempting to lead a team that was peopled with too many independent cowboys and cowgirls. My least favorite times in ministry have occurred when I've had to deal with leadership teams made up of people who were committed to doing their own thing and not functioning as a team.

Let's pick this subject up in next month's issue. We'll talk about how to build a COHESIVE Church leadership TEAM!

*dr. michael bell is Senior Pastor of greater St. Stephen First Church FtW, a seminary adjunct professor, and a certified Life Coach with clients. He conducts leadership seminars and conferences across the country.



20th PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY









ROHAM

"Speak Life Thought" with First Lady & Co-Pastor Yolanda G. Butler

The Life of A Faith Race

"Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!" (1 Cor. 9:24)

In the life of faith, every believer must travel the course known as the Faith Race. Like an athlete, it is a race that requires discipline, to help build and strengthen, and training to help guide and mature. An athlete must condition his body to handle potential blows and challenges. As believers, we condition our faith by renewing our minds in the Word of God so that we may be able to stand against the tricks and blows of the enemy. An athlete must stay focused and not deviate despite opposition and resistance. As believers, we must set our focus on the One who is in control of the race despite the critics who advocate for us to fail. The Father is always for us and never against us. (Rom 8:21)

An athlete places a restriction on certain liberties so that he can be at his optimum strength to remain in the race. This can involve diet, activity, or even

friendships. In the Faith Race, a true disciple restricts his diet through a consistent regimen of fasting so as to stay spiritually in tune with the Father. Sabotaging relationships that stand as obstacles in the race must be severed. Overindulging in excessive activities must be recognized for they can weaken your strength and drain you from important factors in the race such as family and worship (private and corporate).

Every athlete needs proper training to help build and perfect his craft. In this Faith Race, you need a trainer, someone who can help push, develop and promote you. God places anointed leaders, mentors, and spiritual counselors in our pathway to help us see the race more clearly than we can and not fail. Therefore, we should not despise discipline or training especially when it is to help make us better for the Kingdom. (Heb. 12:5)

The purpose of all the sacrifice, discipline and training is to achieve the ultimate goal-the win. For the athlete, it is to obtain a temporal crown. For the believer, it is to obtain an incorruptible crown. There is no race unless there are runners. In this



Faith Race, we should desire to share this journey with other believers. We may not all run at the same pace, but we are all called to run and win. As you become more astute as a Faith Racer, encourage and build someone else to join the race as well. In this, we all become winners for we are doing what our Father has commanded that we do and that is to build up one another in our most holy faith. (Jude 20) That's Kingdom. So dear hearts, remain committed and determined to stay in the Faith Race.

Co-Pastor 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 evangelist, minister of exhortation, mentor, and published author. Follow her on Twitter, Periscope, and Facebook and at www.firstladybutlerministries.com.

CHURCHIN'



Seeing God in The Chaos

Chaos. Calamity. Confusion. And Christianity. No, not "religion", Christianity - receiving Christ as Savior, then making every effort toward living a life that is pleasing to Him. The common denominator among chaos, calamity, and confusion is that all of them surely and eventually find their way into our lives as Christians. The Word of God tells us. "many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19). Job goes on to tell us that, in paraphrase. man born of a woman is of a few days, and those are full of trouble (Job 14:1). Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

So, as believers we know chaos is going to invade our lives, both on a personal and a ministerial level at some point. But the wonderful thing about God is that He is well able to operate in the midst of chaos. When it seems dark, the light of Christ will reveal itself in such beautiful ways. When Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, they thought they were rid of him; but God had other plans. He was already preparing the way for Joseph. The Bible says that in all this chaos, God was with Joseph (Genesis 39:2, 21). He went from family-driven betrayal, to being sold to a band of Ishmaelites, to running Potiphar's house, to prison, to interpreting dreams for his fellow prisoners and for Pharaoh, and finally to being elevated as the No. 2 man in Pharaoh's administration. Joseph found favor while a slave, and then as a prisoner. Even his slavemaster, Potiphar, knew the Lord was with Joseph (Genesis 39:3).

Near the end of Mark Chapter 4, the boat

that Jesus and his disciples were in began to fill with water because of a great windstorm. Fearing for their lives the disciples

hurriedly wake up a sleeping Jesus and say in essence, "Teacher, we're about to die! Don't you care?" Jesus spoke to the sea, saying, "Peace, be still!" And at that point the wind stopped and the waters were calm again (Mark 4:35-41). The disciples saw chaos, but Jesus saw calm.

Are you facing what seems to be a chaotic situation? Does God seem distant? Please let me encourage you. God sees vou, and He is more than able to act in vour behalf. I invite vou to meditate on Ephesians 3:20: "Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,..." Not long ago I wanted to give up, but God was keeping me. He had not left me, and He hasn't left you either. Now is the time to stand on the Word of God like you've never stood before! Believe that God really IS your Deliverer. When you believe that, you will begin to think, speak, and act in faith.

Donna Renay Patrick is a transformational speaker, award-winning author, musician/choir director, and worship leader. She hosts a weekly internet radio program, The Donna Patrick Show, where the theme is elevating your worship to the level of lifestyle. Visit her website at https://donnarenaypatrick.com/donna-renay-patrick/. Follow her on social media: Facebook: Donna Renay Patrick, Author; Twitter: @DonnaRpatrick; Instagram: Donnarenaypatrick, LinkedIn: Donna Renay Patrick, M.A.

Local Women's Organization Gifts Dolls By Janine L Palmore

"Something to admire, nurture and emulate." This is what dolls mean to girls of all ages, including some women.

As young girls, dolls teach us responsibility as it is something we have to take care of. Dolls are faithful companions that tag along wherever

they are carried off to. They can be sounding boards that girls talk to. Dolls are usually beautiful and human-looking, serving as a mirror to a girl's being. Girls like pretty things and often mimic the beauty they see in dolls. In fact, 'Doll' is often used as a term of endearment to compliment cuteness or beauty.

But what if dolls that looked like you were scarcely accessible? It might make you question your own beauty and importance in the world. This is one of the many reasons Quinnie Nichols, Founder of the Queenish Women's Professional Club (QWPC) decided to start giving away dolls of color to African American girls of all ages.

Quinnie says, "Brown girls are underrepresented and misrepresented." To remedy this, part of her mission became putting black and brown dolls in the hands and lives of African American girls. Quinnie also points out the importance of dolls in a woman's life and how we continue to gravitate to them even in adulthood. As collectors of dolls and other items they continue to encapsulate the image and beauty of a Queenish woman.

Earlier this month, Quinnie and the ladies of QWPC went to Beltline Elementary School in Lancaster, Texas, and gave away approximately 37 dolls and books. Quinnie and the organization choose random dates and locations, at least quarterly to meet up and give away brown dolls and books.

To commemorate Black History Month, Quinnie added books about African Americans to give away along with the dolls. This way children would not only see a positive image, but also be able to read about great contributors who look like them. Quinnie agrees that reading is fundamental to learning and development and added books as a way to reinforce the importance of education. It's not just about vanity, Quinnie wants to help the whole person by including books to enrich the minds of children and give them a greater sense of pride about who they are and who they can be.

This is the QWPC's third year giving away dolls. "I keep dolls in the trunk of my car so that if I see a girl, I can give her a doll," Quinnie said. QWPC gives away a variety of black dolls which display positive images. They give away dolls in professional career attire, church lady attire with big hats, dolls that look like beautiful queens. They choose dolls that represent the strength, dignity and integrity of African American women. The QWPC could pop up at a mall near you to give away dolls as Quinnie hopes to increase their outreach efforts.

While the organization does not solicit donations of black dolls and books, they are open to receiving them so that they can maintain an healthy inventory in case of a spontaneous give-away opportunity. If you would like to contribute, you can contact the Queenish Women's Professional Club by calling 972-748-6798 or email queenish1@yahoo.com. To learn more, please visit: www.queenish.com.

Email mystarbio@gmail.com.



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Black Musicians Asociation of Tarrant County BMATC 2017 Scholarship Recipients



Miss Victoria Malone is a native of Fort Worth, Texas where she is a life-long member of Mayfield Missionary Baptist Church. After graduating from Dunbar High School, in 2011, she received a full scholarship in Music to attend Ranger College. In 2014, she received an Associates Degree in Arts and Science. Victoria then transferred to Howard Payne University where she continued

her education to obtain her Bachelor of Music (BM) Degree in Vocal Performance. She graduated with honors December 2017 with a BM degree from Howard Payne University. Victoria is currently enrolled in the Graduate Program at the University of Texas at Arlington where she is pursuing her Master of Music Degree in Vocal Performance with future aspirations of

obtaining a Doctorate in Music Performance at which time she will perform professionally.



Miss Keina Gray, a native of Dallas, Texas, is a sophomore Music Major at Texas College in Tyler, TX. She graduated South Oak Cliff High School in Dallas, Texas and was accepted into Texas College on a music scholarship. While at Texas College, Keina has served as the soprano section leader and Student Director (2017-2018) for the award-winning Texas College Concert Choir. As a freshman, Keina received the choir's highest honor, the Director's Award, for her outstanding musicianship and musical achievement during the 2016-2017 academic school year. Upon completing her studies at Texas College, Keina seeks to become a Music Educator in Dallas, Texas on the

secondary level. Her passion for music was cultivated while at South Oak Cliff High school but it has been refined and polished at Texas College.



Miss Taylor J. Pierce is a senior music major. A Dallas, Texas native, she graduated from Dallas ISD's Justin F. Kimball High School prior to accepting an academic scholarship for Music at Texas College. Beyond her scholastic achievements, Taylor has taken full advantage of the college experience. While at Texas College, Taylor has participated in a vast array of student organizations and has served in various capacities of leadership. An avid believer in Christ, Taylor is a member of Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas and is under Watch Care at Miles Chapel C.M.E Tyler Texas. Upon completing her studies at Texas College, Taylor seeks to become a Music Educator in Dallas, Texas on the secondary level.

Born to Win Youth Empowerment Summit

Born to Win Youth Empowerment Summit with Kyev Tatum is a motivational self discovery workshop designed to help youth between the ages of 8-18 years old develop self control, self-respect and

self-determination to help overcome adverse childhood experiences. Our 2018 Spring Break Born To Win Youth Empowerment Summit was a huge success thanks in part to all of our many volunteers and their heart work. Heart Work Pays Off!



Visit the links below to view Born To Win videos produced by the talented students at our Born to Win ŶES events under the leadership of our guest speaker, Mr. Temi Agoro, founder of Shoot With A Camera and Not With A Gun. This year's summit was sponsored in part by the Fort Worth Midnight Basketball League Program No Shots Fired Campaign, Baptist Ministers Union, Hallmark Baptist Church, Bethlehem Community Cen-

ter, Fort Worth Association of Federated Women, Coach Harold Steward IV and StewBody Fitness. Regional Women Chamber of Commerce of North Texas and Kyev Tatum Ministries.



Video 1: March 15,

2018 at Hallmark Baptist Church: https://youtu.be/ jdZ4HjIFuss

Video 2: March 16, 2018 at the Bethlehem Community Center: https://youtu.be/siJw6GR32bM

For Born To Win Youth Empowerment Summit booking information contact:

Kvev Tatum, Fort Worth, Texas 76123, 817-966-7625. kptatum1@gmail.com, https://northtexan.unt.edu/content/ my-brothers-keeper

Chezmusique Presents The New Single "Give Me A Clean Heart" by Treva Jones

Every once in a while an exceptional and incredible talen impacts the gospel music industry and leaves an indelible mpression. Treva Jones is one of those rapidly expanding world-class musical virtuoso who has done just that! When

she sings she becomes the vehicle through which the intent of worship and praise is fully recognized. What a supersized talent the Lord has given to the gospel industry! Please hear Jones in her finest hour on her current single release entitled, "Praise His Name" produced by legendar producers Sanchez G. Harley and Shane Keister and co-produced by Jacqui Whittmon from the highly anticipated I Am Praise CD.

Treva Jones is a seasoned and powerful songstress. Her vocal offerings are insatiable and she has mesmerized music lovers of all genres with an anointed, soulful prophetic flare of vocal musical styling at its best. A Houston, TX native and a fan favorite, Treva has interfaced with many of the nation's leading producers, writers, and musicians during the span of a celebrated career. As lead vocalist, she has been featured on many nationally released projects, most recently, "He Promised" by the GMWA Houston Mass Choir and the V. Michael McKay release of "Rest." Treva has shared the stage with many of the industry's leading artist. Her gospel roots, influences and affiliations have transcended her musical career to new horizons. Introduced by legendary music producer Sanchez Harley, Treva's vocal diversity and sincerity are the focal points of her music ministry.

ocial Media: The Official Treva Jones Website: http://www.trevajones.com/



Email} churchinnews@sbcglobal.net





promise for their life. Pastor Smokie Norful, wrote "Take the Lid Off" to teach us to trust that God will give us the life He wants for us and to not doubt. He will lighten and remove our burdens. B. Jeff Grant (former RCA Inspiration V.P.) created photos for the book "Faces of Praise". It shows many worship leaders in pure and raw moments of surrenderence to God. The photos are accompanied by scriptures and inspirational messages. Dr. Leonard Scott wrote "The Ultimate Boost from Within" to help readers acquire better physical and spiritual conditions. This pastor. dentist, singer and Tyscot Records owner says this book will give us a 31 day prescription to health, wealth, wholeness and happiness. Anthony Evans, (singer/songwriter) wrote "Unexpected Places" to show his life journey of disappointments and depression to purpose and identity. He did it by choosing courage over comfort. Pastor Marvin





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The Gospel Corner with Proclaimer of the Word... Rev. J.R. Brumfield

A Hope Beyond Death Matthew 28:1-8

I. INTRODUCTION

The cornerstone of the Christian faith is the Resurrection. There are several biblical passages that provide support for the Resurrection. The best known of the Resurrection prophecies is the one penned by Israel's King David in Psalm 16:10. This Psalm was written a thousand years before the birth of Jesus. It states; "For you will not abandon my soul to the grave; nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. Our Lord and Savior did not see decay in the grave because He arose before decay could take place. We have a hope beyond death. In Acts 13:33-35, Paul referred to Psalms 16:10 when he spoke to the Jewish community in Antioch. The Apostle Paul declared that God had raised the Lord Jesus from the dead in fulfillment of the Old Testament scripture. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. Jesus fulfilled the Holy Scriptures. In Matthew 5:17-20, Jesus stated on one occasion that he did not come to destrov the law or the prophets but to fulfill it.

The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus is strongly implied in another Psalm of David. In Psalms 22: 19-21, the suffering Savior prays for deliverance "from the lion's mouth" (a metaphor for Satan). Our Lord Jesus praved in the Garden of Gethsemane. He prayed until he had sweat great drops of blood. Nevertheless, in Matthew 26:39, He said "let thy will be done". The prayer at Gethsemane is then followed immediately in verses 22-24 by a hymn of praise in which the Lord Jesus thanks God for hearing His prayer and delivering Him. The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus is clearly implied between the ending of the prayer in verse 21 and the beginning of the praise song in verse 22. The champion of our salvation was prophesied as being victorious. The **Resurrection of Jesus Christ dominates** the theme of the New Testament.

The Resurrection is the divine vindication of the cross. When one looks at the cross, one sees the guilt of the world laid upon the sinless Savior. There is great pain and labor at the cross. When a woman is pregnant with child, there are some labor pains. However, when the birth of the child occurs, all pain seems worthwhile due to the delivery of the baby. When Christ died on the cross, it looked like all hope was lost. The earth shook and the bible declares that it became extremely dark over the earth. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ died on Good Friday. When Christ arose on the third day, the earth shook again with exaltation. Our Lord Jesus delivered on the Old Testament prophesies. He arose! Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would arise from the dead and He did. It is because of the Resurrection that we as believers have a hope beyond the grave. We might be down today but we will rise from the difficulties of this life. As believers, we will rise one day to a body that is incorruptible. We will have a glorious body similar to our Lord Jesus Christ. It is better to suffer for a season and to reign with Christ one day. Life is but a season to a child of the King. When this life is over. I want

- 8



to see Jesus!

As we approach our text, we will find that the Lord keeps His Word. In John 2:19, Jesus said that I will destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up. Let's see how the Lord worked it out for our salvation.

The Women's Motivation; v. 1-2

In these verses, we see that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the sepulcher. These were the same women that attended the funeral of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Mark 15:43-47. These women had previously witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, these women still wanted to come to the burial site and express their love and final respects to the deceased body of Christ. They were still inquiring after Him. If we continue to seek Christ during our dark moments in life, we will surely find Him to be a resting place.

No mention is made of the Virgin Mary being with Mary Magdalene and the other Mary at the burial site. These women did not only intend to follow Christ at the cross but they also ventured into the cemetery. As Christ in the grave was beloved of the saints, so the saints in the grave are beloved of Christ. Neither death nor the grave can slacken that bond of love which is between them.

The other gospel writers say that the women came to anoint the body at the tomb. However, Matthew states that they came to see the sepulcher. These women went to show their good-will in another visit to the dear remains of their beloved Master. In Mark 16:3. the women had a question regarding who would roll the stone away. In Mark 16:4. we find that the stone had been rolled away. In Matthew 28:2, we find that there was an earthquake and an angel came to roll away the stone. This signified the legal discharge of the prisoner. Jesus paid the price and the Lord God had accepted the payment for our

II. The Angel's Message, v.3-6

The angel of the Lord descended from heaven. The angels frequently attended our Lord Jesus. They were there at his birth and in his temptation. The angels were there in Christ's agony. However, we find no angel attending him at the cross. When His Father forsook Him. the angels withdrew from Him. However, in this passage we find that the angel came and rolled back the stone and sat upon it. Our Lord Jesus could have rolled back the stone himself by His own power, but he chose to have it done by an angel. The incorporation of the angel for this task reveals to us that proper satisfaction has been made for

our sins. Our sins were imputed to Him. Being under arrest pursuant to that imputation, Jesus did not break out from prison. Our Lord had a fair and legal discharge which He obtained from heaven.

Being delivered for our offences, he was raised again for our justification. He died to pay our debt, and rose again to proclaim our liberty. Divine justice was satisfied and an angel was commissioned to roll back the stone. Please understand that the angel did not raise Him from the dead but acted as a parole officer. The debt of sin had been paid in full by the Lord Jesus. Heaven consented to the release of our Lord. The angel's sitting upon the stone expresses a secure triumph over all the obstructions of Christ's resurrection. The angel sat defving all the powers of hell to roll the stone to the grave again. Christ erects his seat of rest and seat of judgment upon the opposition of his enemies.

The angel sat with expectation of giving the women an account of the Lord Jesus resurrection. The angel's countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. The whiteness of his raiment was an emblem not only of purity, but of joy and triumph. When Christ died, the court of heaven went into keep mourning, signified by the darkening of the sun. However, when Christ arose, heaven put on the garments of praise? Are you ready to praise the Lord for what He has already done?

In verse 4, we find that the soldiers were struck with terror of the sight of the angel. In verse 5 the angel said unto the women, "Fear not." The angel told the women that the Lord Jesus had risen from the dead. This is the good news of the gospel. The resurrection of Christ is the joy of His friends and the terror and confusion of His enemies.

III. The Angel's Mandate, v.7-8

In verse 7, the angel directs the women to go and carry the tidings of the Resurrection to Christ's disciples. It is probable that the women wanted to entertain themselves with the sight of the sepulcher and the discourse with the angels. It was good to be here, but they have other work appointed them. They must go tell the disciples. The Disciples of Christ must first be told the news. It was a dismal time with the disciples. They were between grief and fear. It would be good news for such a dismal time in the life of the disciples to hear that Jesus is raised from the dead. In closing, make sure that you share the gospel with someone else. Jesus has risen from the dead and He is alive forever more. There is hope beyond death!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. J.R. Brumfield

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Rev, J.R., Brumfield is a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 105 S, Wood Street, Denton, Texas where Rev. Dr. M.R. Chew is the pastor.

Look forward to his monthly articles covering Sunday School and Bible Lessons each month. Please direct all comments to Rev. Brumfield at his contact information listed above.



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THE AUSTIN COMPANY CLOSES SALE ON HISTORIC FORT WORTH CHURCH PROPERTY

FORT WORTH, TX...The Austin Company Commercial Real Estate has closed the sale of the Handley Church of Christ located at 3029 Handley Drive in East Fort Worth!

The thirty-six thousand square foot structure was purchased by the Stop Six Church of Christ for 1.1 million dollars. "This is a tremendous asset," says Austin Company Founder, Jim Aus-

tin. "This church is over 100 years old, and we were so proud to represent Handley Church of Christ in getting this deal done." Upon the sale of their Handley Drive location, Handley Church of Christ purchased the Gateway School on Randol Mill Boulevard in East Fort Worth. The



7000 square foot location sits on 3 acres of land and will serve as their new church home. Jim Austin brokered the deal and longtime Austin Company team member Tim Williams was the agent.

The Austin Company has served the Fort Worth-Dallas metro area with commercial real estate and property management services

for thirty-seven (37) years. Austin also served on the Texas Real Estate Commission, as a Commissioner for eight years. He is a 1976 graduate of Howard University, Washington, D.C., receiving his BA in Business. As a realtor, his community service rendered him national recognition from the National Association of Realtors® as a recipient of the coveted Realtor® Magazine's Good Neighbor Award in 2003. The Good Neighbor Awards recognize REALTORS® who've made an extraordinary commitment to improving the quality of life in their communities through volunteer efforts. For more information, visit www.austincompany.com.



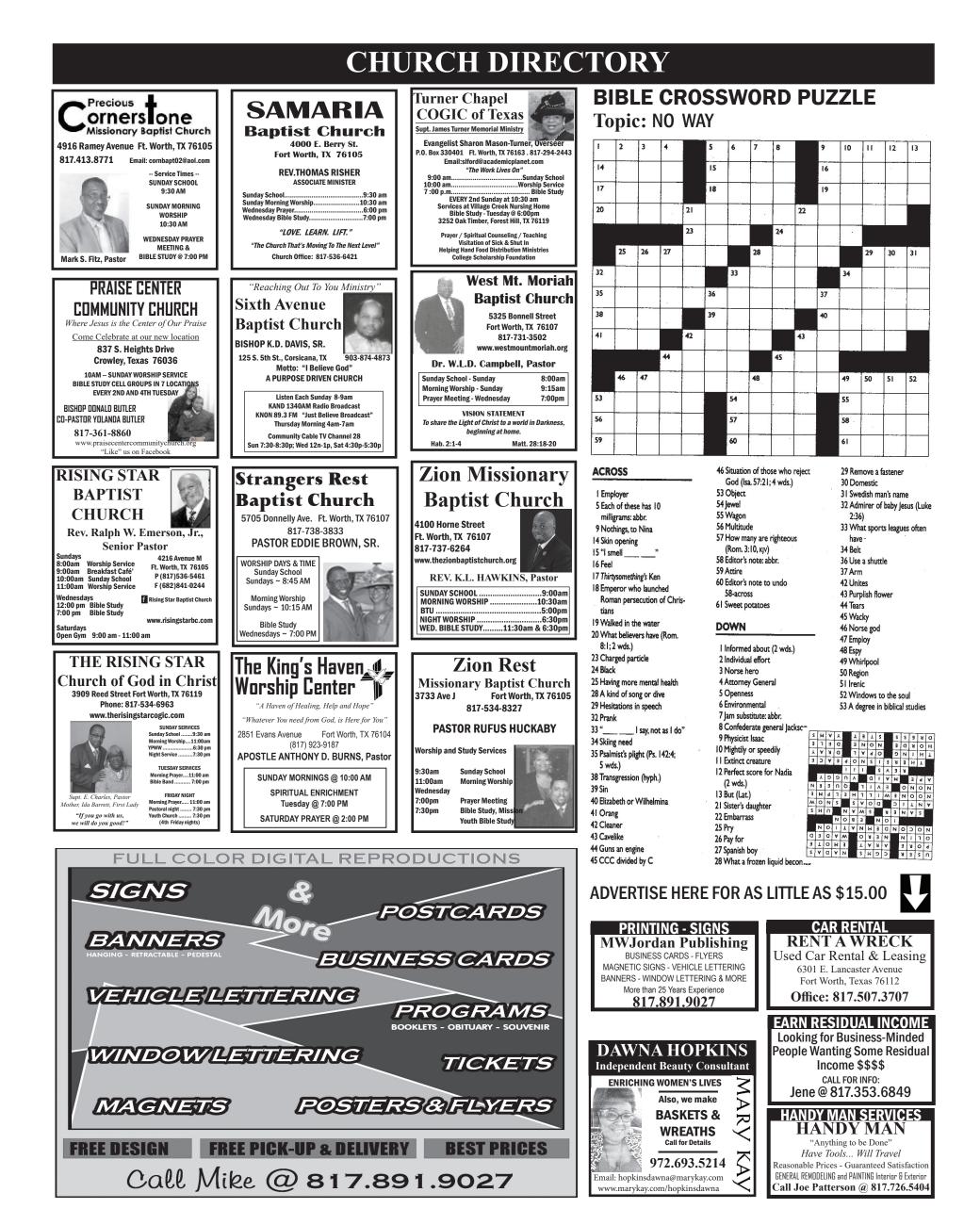












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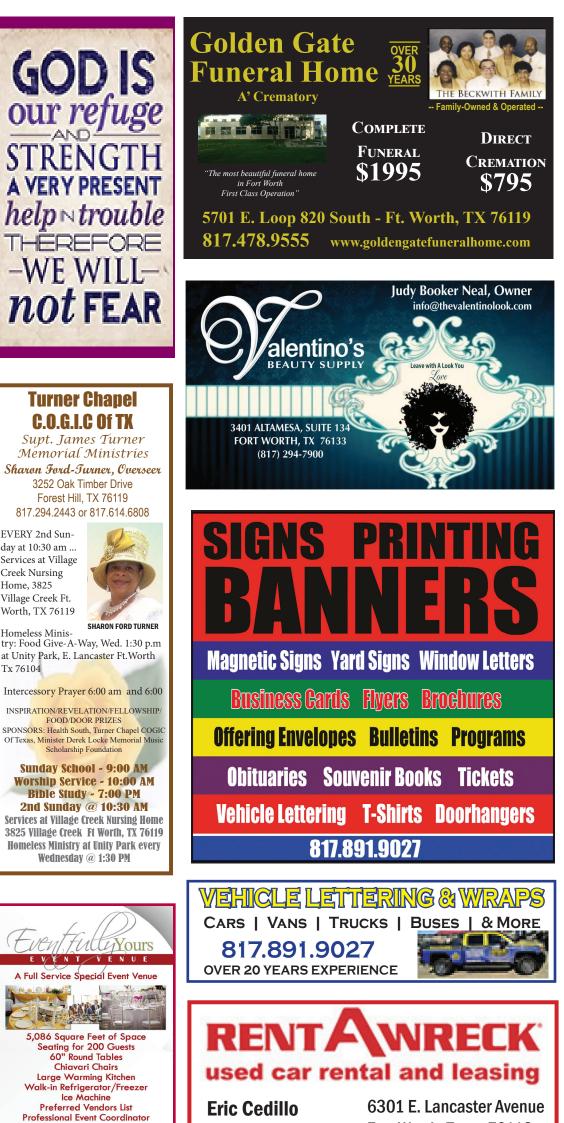


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