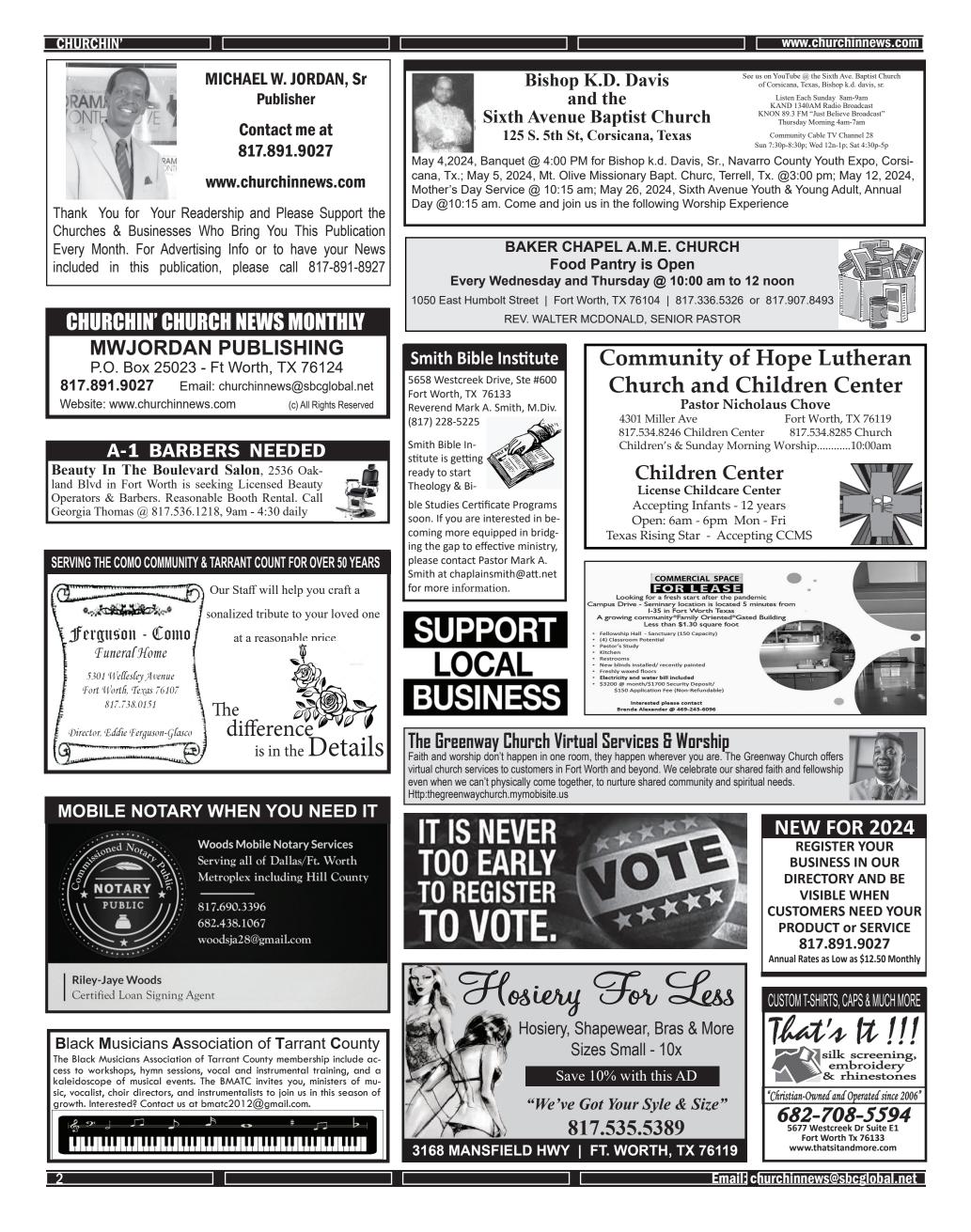




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# "The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

When was the last time you listened to a podcast or attended a conference on the cruciality of "momentum" in doing Church ministry? Whether you know it or not, momentum directly affects your congregation and every leader in the Church you serve. Momentum exists to actuate and catapult your ministry to higher heights. When a church leader adequately understands the role of momentum in the context of his/her ministry, his/her leadership will improve qualitatively. When a local church is energized by prayer, the dunamis of the Parakletos, and momentum, that Church becomes the difference maker in the lives of its congregants and in the community.

Let's just be real. For far too long, the ministry effectiveness of too many churches has been historically hampered by a few laissez faire ministry leaders who are more concerned about titles and "chief seats," distracted and pretentious pastors and laggard staffers. I hail from a school of thought that believes that, for churches, every Sunday is important. This truth underscores the importance of momentum.

Craig Groeschel asserts that "Momentum is the force that propels your organization forward and is greater than the sum of all your leadership, strategy, and resources combined." The reality is momentum exerts influence on every aspect of your church's ministry. It affects each and every ministry team, your church attendance, your volunteers, and your congregation.

So, where does this bring us? How does momentum relate directly to ministry? Picture momentum as someone standing at the top of a hill and kicking a ball. With one small kick the ball starts rolling...and keeps going. That's momentum. Not having momentum is like standing at the bottom of that same hill and kicking the ball up. If you don't chase after the ball and kick it again quickly, it will stop rolling and tumble back to where you started. The "keep the ball rolling" idiom communicates a sense of motivation and determination. "Keep the ball rolling" reminds us that continuous action is one of the keys to achieving our goals.

Here's a question for you? Where do you want your ministry to go? Understanding the specifics of where you want your ministry to go in the

Finding God



future is essential to the health of your ministry. As pastor of a local congregation, I want each of the church's ministry leaders to ask themselves and then answer that question. Momentum isn't magic. As someone has wisely said, "It takes both large vision and great faith to see momentum catch traction." Vision is a powerful spiritual motivator! Vision is an image of what can be. And for a vision to have impact, it must have the power to motivate and move people. Vision ignites momentum.

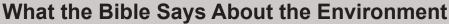
Groeschel argues that there are four forces that can hold back your momentum: (1) What's known; (2) What's safe; (3) What's easy; (4) What's comfortable.

I encourage you, whether you're a pastor or laity, do your research and learn the various approaches to building momentum. There is a literal treasure trove of resources that you can access to help you "get the ball rolling" in your ministry. But, once you've built momentum, how do you maintain it? Once you get the ball rolling how do you keep the ball rolling?

You can't have momentum without knowing where God is leading. That's vision. Now once you determine the direction God want you to go in, you can start thinking in terms of desired outcomes, your goals. Then, you focus your time, effort and energy on actionizing your goals and taking the next steps.

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." He also contributed to the anthology "Justice Looks Like." anthology "Justice Looks Like."

**NEW BOOK RELEASE!!** 



by Jim Schicatano

In the first chapter of Genesis, God instructs humanity "to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Two Psalms (Psalms 8 and 115) reinforce



(Psalms 8 and 115) reinforce the notion that God gave the Earth to man.

It is regretful that our conquest of the Earth has not been more positive. God gave us the sacred and challenging responsibility to serve as caretakers of our world. In addition to the animals, we are equally the custodians of the oceans, the mountains, rain forests, the prairies, and even the atmosphere. God granted to us, in a way, the ability to act as God. The planet Earth is ours to govern.

Yet, having dominion over something does not mean to foolishly use it or abuse it.

Since the 1990s, the amount of food harvested from the ocean has been in decline, as we fish the ocean to depletion. In addition, we use the ocean as both a food pantry and dump. We produce toxic chemicals, nuclear waste, crude oil, and other garbage often with little concern for their safe disposal. Inevitably, much of it reaches the ocean. In addition, as we continue to pump carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, the oceans absorb some of it. This has resulted in ocean acidification, threatening coral reefs and all ocean life. A giant "island of garbage" floats atop the Pacific Ocean, while trash routinely washes ashore on islands around the world.

The birds of the air are also under assault. The passenger pigeon and the dodo bird are just two of many species of birds that went extinct due to human activity. The California condor and the bald eagle teetered on the brink of extinction before

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human intervention saved them. Bird colonies around the world are at risk of extinction, as man encroaches on their breeding and feeding habitats such as wetlands, forests, lakes, and rivers. Air pollution and chemicals also threaten the bird population.

Animals hold a special place in the Bible. It is true that they were considered property, yet, God made it clear they were to be treated compassionately. In Proverbs, we are told that the righteous care for their animals, and we are mandated to care for them and know their condition.

In Exodus and Deuteronomy, we are instructed to care for stray animals, and return such animals to the owner. We must also allow a beast of burden the ability to eat while working, and to give the animals one day of rest in seven.

While some pets are treated humanely, other animals do not fair as well. Many are hunted and killed for sport rather than necessity, as we senselessly slaughter entire species of animals to the brink of extinction. Tigers, leopards, rhinos, elephants, and even some of the great apes may be gone in the years ahead. Animal fighting is a cruel but popular sport around the world. Spectators cheer as animals are pitted against each other, often fighting to a bloody death.

In Leviticus, God instructs us to give the land one year of rest in seven with neither planting nor harvesting. Even during war, when trees were cut to provide siege material and weapons, the Bible commands the people to spare fruit-bearing trees.

Yet, we rape the land for its mineral wealth, and slash, burn, and clear forests for agriculture, roads, housing, and businesses.

If we consider the tremendous amount of damage that we unleash upon the animals, the air, the ocean, and the land, it is clear that we have acted brashly and foolishly. All of this must change if we are to fulfill the sacred obligation entrusted to us by God, and care for our world.

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

#### "A Courageous Life"

"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Deut 31:6)

Courage is a made-up mind to face something that frightens you with confidence and resolution. It is an attitude that says, "With the help of the Lord, I can do all things through Christ" who gives me the courage to conquer.

It takes courage to sit still. Moses told Israel that despite the threat of face-to-face combat with the enemy Egyptians, to stand still in faith and watch God do some destructive work on their behalf (Exodus 14:13-14).

It takes courage to say nothing when you want to go off. Certain Israelites did not well receive the newly appointed King Saul so much so that they publicly disrespected him. Notwithstanding, King Saul held his peace and his integrity (1 Sam. 1:25-27).

It takes courage not to gossip. When you are quick to pick up the phone or text someone about another person's plight, be quick to pray and not chatter. Prayer has greater results than wasteless chatter (1 Tim. 5:13).

It takes courage to live holy. Holiness is an attribute of the Father that He requires His children to emulate in all manner of behavior. As you live a holy life you shine for His Kingdom and benefit from His favor and eternal life with Him (1 Peter 1:15-16).

It takes courage to witness. When you become a born-again believer, your nature changes. You see life differently because you recognize that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior over your life. As you daily live for Him, it ignites in you compassion to win souls for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20).

Moses spoke to an upcoming generation to have a firm conviction and faith in the Father. He



also told them to have the courage to conquer challenges. So it is with us. Every waking moment is an opportunity to exhibit courage against that which frightens us, live for God, and share His love. So dear hearts, be determined to live out a strong and courageous life. With the Father on your side, you always win.

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.

Dr. Michael A. Bell Available NOW!! on Amazon and at your Local Book Store

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# Celebrating the Life, Love and Legacy of Maestro Valerie D. Campbell

Her early days: A baby girl was born to the late Fred and Jean Johnson in 1952. They named her Valerie Denise. Affectionately call, "Denise" by people who knew her, she grew up in the Lake Como Community. Valerie Denise attended Como Elementary school from grades one through eight. While in school, she began to take music lessons from the late Mrs. Ferguson. Her parents were challenged to allow their daughter to attend Arlington Heights High School to support the desegregation of schools in Fort Worth. She graduated in 1971 as an Arlington Heights Yellow Jacket with Honors. She attended and graduated from Texas Women's University in 1975, where she majored in music education. She began her work career at General Dynamics and later had a 32-year career with Fort Worth ISD, teaching at Burton Hill Elementary.

*Her faith:* Denise accepted Christ at a young age and was baptized by the late Pastor G.W. Burton. She continued her Christian education under the leadership of Pastor J.W. Briscoe who allowed her to perfect her God given gifts. As a young girl, Denise began playing piano at Zion Baptist Church in Church School and eventually on Sunday mornings.

*Her love:* She met a handsome, debonair young man who also attended Como Elementary and Como High Schools and attended the same church as Denise. His name was Wendell Campbell. Denise, who was rather shy, was somewhat amazed at this outgoing and sometimes hilarious young man. While she was playing the organ or piano at Zion, Wendell thought this girl was too good to get away. Many of the senior members of the Zion Baptist Church

knew that they would get married because they would always pair them up in church plays...Wendell was the dad and Denise was the mom.. It seemed inevitable (it was a church setup). He asked her to marry him, and they were wed on October 15, 1977. To this union three children were born" tweins, Dimitri Valtrice, Douglas Varnard and later, Dylon Isaac Frederick Campbell.

Denise had a unique flavor for loving little animals. One of her first animals was a cat named, Tripp. Tripp was with her through college and early married life until their two year twins left the door open and Tripp was never seen again. She later had a cat named Rainey, whom she loved dearly and cared for it 12 years before it died. Finally, she received the gift of a cat from Thomas Harold Steptoe, whom she named Journey Lee. Denise named the cats, Wendell named the dogs.

Denise loved music and her life was dedicated to the Lord, family and scared music. If it could be played on the keyboard, Denise could do it. She was a gifted and talented musician. Because of her love for God, she played gospel music. She could read music and enjoyed playing classicals, anthems, hymns, gospels and spirituals. She did this with finesse and class. She was sometimes referred to as "The Music Librarian" because if musicians needed older sheet music, nine times out of ten, she had it or could tell you where to get it.

For years, she played at the Zion Baptist Church under the pastoral leadership of the Reverends J.W. Briscoe and Maurice E, Barnes. Later, she joined her husband at the West Mount Moriah Baptist



with joy and accolades. Without taking a break, she began to play the piano and organ there. To hear her play, was a joy to behold. She could remember music and it seemed like it never escaped her memory.

*Her fight:* Denise had several health concerns as she matured - heart, kidneys, ARSD. On March 28, 2024, Denise entered Baylor Scott and White All Saints hospitals. After being there three days, it was determined that she needed to be placed in ICU for better care. She continued to fight, hum spirituals songs, love her family, her church and above all, her Savior.

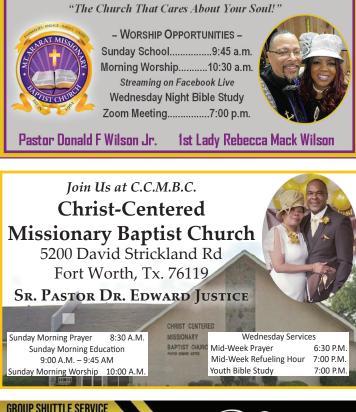
On Sunday morning, April 14th, Valerie Denise Campbell succumed to her illness at 3:43am, while Dylon held her hand.

*Her legacy:* Denise was preceded in death by her grandparents, parents and her brother, Bruce. She leaves to cherish her memory, her husband of 47 years, Wendell; Children: Dimitria, Douglas, Dylon; a grand child, Jakobe Campbell; a brother, Darnell Johnson (Arabella); sister-in-law, Shonda J. Green (Roswell); brother-in-law, Gregston K. Campbell (Dana); special family recognition to the West Mount Moriah Church family and a whole host of family, extended family and friends.

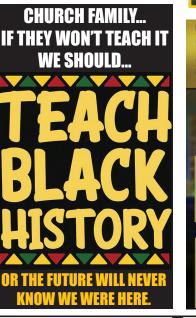


# Mt. Ararat Missionary Baptist Church

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### Why the Black Church Has Always Mattered By Peniel E. Joseph

#### www.churchinnews.com



The brutal act of racial terror that took the lives of nine black parishioners at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., purposely targeted the most important institution that has ever existed in the black community: the black church. So it should come as no surprise that in the age of Ferguson, Mo., Baltimore and #BlackLivesMatter, one of the nation's most ancient and revered black churches should come under such an attack. Nor that the attack took place in South Carolina, a state so deeply rooted in white supremacy and racial hatred that its Capitol proudly flies the Confederate flag even todav.

Black churches, specifically AME and Baptist, gave spiritual, religious and material sustenance to African-American communities during and after slavery. The church drew from African folklore and religions and Christianity to develop a unique blend of a sectarian and secular belief system that allowed black people to survive slavery and its aftermath. The black church's radical humanism harbored a fierce resistance to slavery, a love of freedom, and a

thirst for citizenship and equality that made it a hotbed of internal debates, discussions and controversies over the best course for black liberation in America.

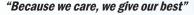
Conservatives hewed closely to a politics of respectability, elevating church membership as a badge of honor that might protect African Americans from white hostility. Radicals vowed to secure heaven on earth by any means necessary, including participating in slave rebellions, abolitionist groups and self-help societies. Most steered a middle ground between these poles, sustained by a deep and abiding faith in the black capacity for survival and personal and political transformation.

After slavery, the strength of the black church made it a target of racist vigilantes, with white supremacists turning a religious symbol, the cross, into a burning icon of racial terror. White supremacy's triumphant return in the South rationalized racial violence and murder as a divine act of "redemption" that would cleanse America from racial impurities by keeping blacks a subject people at all costs.

The African-American church stood in the eye of this white-supremacist storm. Instead of falling apart, the black church practically willed itself to exponential growth through political self-determination, community outreach and organizing that made it, alongside historically black schools, lodges and civic groups, the most important Negro institution America has ever produced. Black churches published newspapers; raised money to build schools and colleges; and helped organize libraries, insurance companies and anti-poverty efforts.



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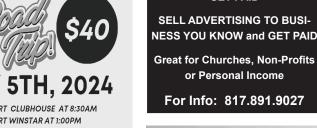
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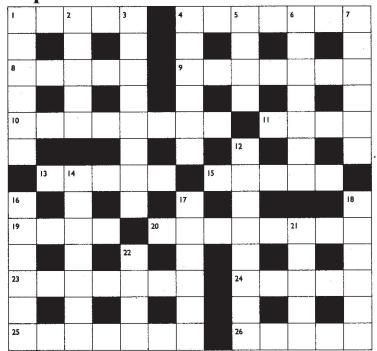
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FOOD

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE **Topic:DESERT DISCOVERY** 

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ACROSS

I Having a full, rounded form (Ezek. 34:22)

4 "Laziness lets the roof leak, and soon the \_\_\_\_\_ begin to rot"; roof supports (Eccles. 10:18) 8 "Give generously, for your

gifts will return to you \_ at a subsequent time (Eccles 11:1)

9 Nomadic Arab (ler. 3:2) 10 Unauthorized entry; illegal act (Ezek. 46:20)

II "What a glorious Lord! He who daily bears our burdens gives us our salvation";

in addition (Ps. 68:19) 13 "The Lord is close to those whose hearts are breaking; he rescues those who are hum-\_ for their sins"; regret

ful (Ps. 34:18) 15 Female servants (Mark 14:66)

19 Excessively dry 20 Close relationship

(Ezra 9:14, K/V)

- 23 Extreme (Acts 22:11)
- 24 O.T. prophet who married a prostitute

25 "You have him with eternal happiness. You have given

him the unquenchable joy of

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your presence": furnished (Ps. 21:6) 26 Abysses (Jer. 16:16)

#### DOWN

I Roman official who authorized lesus' execution (Matt.

27:24) 2 "Don't you your cattle from their stalls on the Sab-

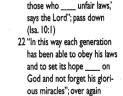
bath and lead them out for water?": loose (Luke 13:15) 3 Sweat (Ezek. 44:18) 4 "The child Jesus became a strong, \_\_\_\_ lad, and was known for wisdom beyond his years; and God poured out his blessings on him"; vigorously

healthy (Luke 2:40) 5 "Our natural lives will \_ grass does when it becomes all brown and dry"; wither

(1 Pet. 1:24) 6 "At God's command Moses performed amazing miracles that have never been duplicated or rivaled

(Deut. 34:11) 7 Older or higher-ranking (Gen. 50:7)

12 Starved for food (Gen. 41:55, KIV) 14 Left out (2 Chron. 21:19) 16 Steep-sided valley (John 18:1)



17 Hurt or insult (John 6:61)

18 Side roads (Judg. 5:6, KJV)

21 "Woe to unjust judges and to

(Ps. 78:7) Study with us



SUNDAY SCHOOL





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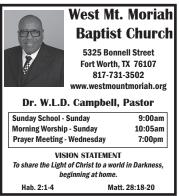
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n Rest Baptist Church Fort Worth, TX 76105 534-8327	FORT WORTH ASSOCIATION OF FEDERATED WO FREE SENIOR B PRIZES   LUNCH   GUE
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"Seeking the Kingdom" Matthew 6:33

undav School......9:00am Sunday Service......10:30am dn. Bible Study....6:30pn

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