

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



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You're invited to join us at Johnson Memorial COGIC in Corsicana, TX, Sept 7th @ 7:30pm for their Pastor's Anniversary Service; Petersburg BC in Athens, TX celebrate their Church Anniversary, Sept 9th @ 3pm; New Cornerstone MBC in Corsicana, TX recognize their Pastor's Anniversary, Sept 23rd @ 3pm. Please join the Sixth Ave Baptist Church for our Family & Friends Day, Sept 29th @ 3pm. We welcome you to worship with us at any and all of these Worship Opportunities.

Saint Andrews United Methodist

Freshly Anointed Baptist Church

3507 Crenshaw St Fort Worth, TX 76105 Dr. G. L. Durham, Pastor

September 2nd @ 3:30 PM. **Outing - Greater Mt. Moriah** Baptist Church, Rev. D. Floyd, Pastor

September 9th @ 3:00 PM. Pastor & Wife 16th **Pre-Anniversary Service**

September 14th @ 7:30 PM. **First Lady Debra Durham Night**

September 16th @ 3:00 PM. Pastor & Wife 16th Anniversary Service

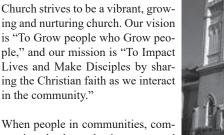
September 23rd @ 3:00 PM. Outing - Greater St. Stephens Baptist Church, Rev. D. Jackson, Pastor

CLINTON AVENUE

Missionary Baptist Church 2627 Clinton Ave Ft Worth,TX 76164 817-625-0893 and 817-819-7528

"The Lord's Humble Servant " Dr. Aubrey Barree, Pastor

We will motor to Streetman Texas to the Macedonia Bapt Ch Home Coming Service time 2:30pm come with us. Good singing, good preaching, and good food.



Saint Andrews United Methodist

Church celebrate 130 Years of Service

When people in communities, community leaders, businesses, and churches come together to promote

a common cause, there is no limit to

what can be accomplished. This year we will celebrate our 130th Church Anniversary. Because we partner with the community through our Food Pantry, Snack Packs for the homeless, Van Zandt-Guinn Elementary School partnership, community walks, and various events,

This year we will Celebrate 130 Years of Service in our Community. St. Andrews is located at 522 Missouri Ave., Fort worth, Texas 76104 just south of Downtown Fort Worth.

Our Events for Our 130th Anniversary:

- Pre-Anniversary Worship Service, Sunday, September 26, 2018 at 5:00PM.
- Our Fall Festival is Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 10:00AM -2:00PM
- Our Musical is Sunday, October 21, 2018 at 4:00PM.
- Our Banquet is Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 6:00PM
- Pre-Anniversary Worship Service, Sunday, October 28, 2018 at 5:00PM.
- Anniversary and Homecoming will be Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 10:45AM.

We celebrate 130 Year of God's Blessings!

"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



<u> let yo</u>ur light so shine (fore men. that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which i<u>s in hea</u>ven.



PART-TIME MUSICIAN NEEDED

Seeking traditional and contemporary musician for three (3) Sundays Hymns are a must. Service is from 9:45AM - 11:45AM July 29, Aug. 5th & 12; pay is \$150 per Sunday. If interested please call 469-243-6096.

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED

Local church in need of Musician All interested applicants please dial (817) 534-5131. Leave a message and someone will return your message. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Church located in Desoto, Texas Service Times: 11am-12:30pm, Salary negotiable. Contact Derrick at 214.454.2523.

The Zion Missionary Baptist Church located at 4100 Horne St., Fort Worth, TX 76137 has openings for dedicated gospel musicians, please contact 682-622-1842 if interested.

Abiding Word Church is seeking a Pentecostal Keyboardist/Minister of Music. For details call 817.361.8800



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The Community Christian Church Center Building Facility is available for Rental, the address is 1800 E. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76104. Please call the Office for rates and availability dates. (817) 332.6419





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Theme : "With God All Things Are Possible" Matthew 19:26

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Reverend Percy L. Thompson, Senior Pastor X Verlillian Thompson, Pastor's Wife

Pre-Anniversary Celebration September 16th 2018 @ 11am Guest Speaker : Pastor Maverick Gayden, Pilgrim Valley M.B.C.

Anniversary Celebration September 23rd 2018 @11am Guest Speaker: Mark Harris, Pastor Cooper Street M.B.C.

Black Musicians Association of Tarrant County

The Black Musicians Association of Tarrant County membership include access 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 growth. Interested? Contact us at bmatc2012@gmail.com.



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"The LEADER'S EDGE" by dr. michael bell

Today there are countless opportunities for Churches and Church Leaders to get distracted from their vision and mission. Distractions come in all shapes and sizes. When it comes to ministry leadership, distractions can hinder effectiveness and easily lead to discouragement, conflict, and even burnout.

For one thing, your Church's direction is being shaped less by where Church leaders are trying to guide it and more by the responses of their followers. Where prayer used to be the first activity of the day, we now begin our daily routine by checking our texts or e-mail. Where the Word of God used to be a special Book we read and studied, now it's an e-book that competes with our text messages, tweets, instagrams, e-mails, and the ever-present seduction of Facebook. Digital-age believers are overwhelmed by calendar reminders, fear-driven news, and constant connectivity.

So, we agree that followers are frequently distracted, but what about ministry leaders, committee chairs, associate ministers and, yes, pastors? We can't begin to talk about *how to lead* distracted people until we address the issue of distracted leaders.

Church leader, do you have the resolve to stay focused on the big picture? Are you able to say no to activities that will prove pointless or people who are simply distracters? At the same time, are you sensitive to the little interruptions of the day that are really part of your calling? You must have resolve that you won't let that which ultimately means nothing keep you from that which means everything!

If we, as Church leaders - pastors, deacons, trustees, ministry team representatives, musicians, LifeGroup teachers, are going to accomplish the most important things, we must learn how to say "No" to some good things. It's good things that have the most potential to distract us from the **best** things. Stay focused. Don't allow good things to keep you from the best things God has for your ministry. "So then let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra bag-



gage, get rid of the sin that trips us up (12:1)."

Another tool in dealing with leadership distractions is to <u>negate the</u> <u>noisy negatives</u>. Have you noticed that those who are doing the least usually criticize the most? You are not accountable to your critics. You are accountable to the One who has called you and given you your assignment. Here's how you deal with criticism:

- See it as inevitable. Jesus was criticized as a violator of the Sabbath day. The Apostle Paul was criticized as not being a legitimate apostle. Do you remember what Jesus said in Luke 6:26? He said, "Woe to you when all men speak well of you."
- Respond only when necessary. Some criticisms doesn't deserve a response. Responding to criticism can distract you; keep your eyes on the goal!
- If a response is necessary, be slow to respond. Proverbs 12:16 says, "A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult." In the New Testament, James writes about being slow to become angry.

Consider the source. How well do you know the critic? Some criticism is legitimate, and we need to learn and grow from it. But often, if the criticism is overly harsh or angry, it says more about the critic than it does about you. Focus on what God has called you to do and let God take care of your reputation.

*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.

The Baptist Ministers' Union of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas & its Vicinities

cordially invites you to attend our weekly minning at 11:00 am. at the East St. Paul Baptist Church, 5300 Oak Grove Road West, Fort Worth, TX 76134, Rev. Dr. L. S. Wilson, Pastor

Come hear great teaching and spirit-filled preaching.

Upcoming schedule of speakers for the month of September: September 18th.....Pastor Donald Parker September 25th.....Pastor Sylvester Parrish





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

"A Life to Push and Pray"

"...he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God." Daniel 6:10

Having been in ministry with Bishop Butler for over 34 years, we are often asked what encouraging words could we give to pastors and wives just beginning their journey. Without hesitation, my response is PUSH AND PRAY.

Pursue and go after the vision God has established in your heart. It has an appointed time for processing, preparing and manifestation. It shall come to pass. (Hab. 2:2-3)

Undertake projects and ideas without fear or intimidation that is bigger than you for this is a clear sign that they are from God who wants to equip you and provide for you to fulfill each one in a miraculous way. (Num. 13:30; Prov. 3:5-8)

Shake off dead weight, dirt, negative words, gossip and anything spoken against you that are contrary to God's Word. The oil over your life, the cost of the anointing, and the price you pay for the sake of the calling is too precious to allow the foreign substance to containment your life and ministry. Those who are jealous and have no understanding of the anointing and purpose over your life, SHAKE THEM OFF. (Heb. 12:1-3)

Halal (to make a loud noise before the Lord) unapologetically and consistently. Let nothing hinder you from praising God for His faithfulness in keeping and preserving you. You will experience pain and loss naturally and spiritually. Build up a defense system of praise to push you out of your situation into a breaking point of freedom. (Rom 8; Ps. 34)

Pray always goes without explanation. It is the necessary vital connection to your life and ministry. As you bathed everything in prayer, He has promised that you shall prevail. In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:18)

Rest and be refreshed physically and spiritually. Our Lord and Savior demonstrated this pattern all throughout his earthly ministry the importance of slipping away for quiet prayer, meditation, aloneness, and refreshment so that He could be effective for ministry. You owe it to yourself to do likewise. (Mark 1:35)

Accountability is crucial and vital to growth and maturity. The Bible declares there is safety when surrounded around a village of advisors who possess skill, wisdom, and understanding of spiritual and



moral principles. Rebuke, reproof, admonition, and praise are all needed in your life. If you yield to God's chastening, you will have no issue with the chastening from His anointed leaders and spiritual advisors. (Prov. 6:23; Prov. 11:14; Prov. 13:18; Prov. 17:10; Titus 2:15; Heb 12:5-11).

Yield to God's directives in your life whether it is a "yes," "no" or "wait." Each is powerful in its own season. He is a Sovereign God in control of every aspect of your life. Trust Him through the process, the pain, and the purpose. The battle is already fixed. You just have to keep pressing. (Ecc. 3; Philip 3:14)

So my dear hearts, be determined to always PUSH and always PRAY for in the end, you shall prevail.

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 intercessor, evangelist, mentor, and published author. Follow her on Twitter, Periscope, and Facebook and at www.firstladybutlerministries.com.



SEASON OF POIGNANT, HISTORICAL PLAYS AND MUSICALS

Jubilee's season includes 5 Regional Premieres and 1 Musical Revival



This stimulating drama explores the story of a respected African-American police officer who arrests a white man on suspicion of attempted car theft. The suspect taunts the officer with racist insults and verbal attacks until, in the grip of uncontrollable rage, the officer loses his cool and guns down his handcuffed antagonist. There are no witnesses; the cop can probably get away with it. Does he turn himself in or does he cover himself?

The Five Heartbeats, In Collaboration with SPAA Theater (Regional Premiere) Directed by Amy Poe July 26 – August 25, 2019

In the early 1960s a quintet of hopeful young African-American men form an amateur vocal group called The Five Heartbeats. After an initially rocky start, the group improves, turn pro, and rise to become a top flight music sensation. Along the way however, the guys learn many hard lessons about the reality of the music industry with its casual racism and greed while the personal weaknesses of the members threaten to destroy the integrity of the group.

Season tickets are on sale now and may be purchased online at jubileetheatre.org or in person at the theater Box Office, located at 506 Main Street or by calling 817-338-4411. Box Office hours of operation are Tuesday – Friday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and one hour before each performance.

Jubilee Theatre, the Fort Worth / Dallas area's only African-American theater producing a full season of shows, exists to create and present theatrical works that reflect the African-American experience. Located at 506 Main Street in Sundance Square, downtown Fort Worth, Jubilee Theatre is easily accessible from anywhere in the DFW metroplex.Stay connected with Jubilee Theatre socially on Facebook.

Dr. Aubrey Barree and Clinton Avenue Church say "Thank You"

I am "The Lord's Humble Servant", Dr. Aubrey Barree and Clinton Avenue Church, would like to thank all of our friends, especially Reverend David Long Miles and Reverend Joe Foster and their churches and all members who came out to worship with us for our Pastor and Wife's Anniversary Celebration. You made it a success. We are really grateful and appreciate you very much.



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Ft Worth, TX – Jubilee Theatre,

one of the longest running African-American theaters, announces their 38th Season. Under the direction of Interim Artistic Director Benard Cummings, the plays and musicals represent a diversity of voices and styles, including ripped-from-the-headlines dramas, nostalgic musicals, and fresh assessments of the world around us.

"We are excited about our 2018-19 season," said Cummings. "Building on the success of A Motown Christmas, Detroit '67 and It Ain't Nothing But the Blues, we are ecstatic to continue giving our audience fresh, thought provoking content. Jubilee has always been at the forefront of arts creativity and this season will be no different."

Nina Simone: Four Women by Christina Ham (Regional Premiere) Directed by Regina Washington September 28 – October 28, 2018

"My skin is brown, my manner is tough..." Nina Simone's velvet voice was unafraid to sing lyrics that cut right to the truth. From the iconic, "I Put a Spell on You" to "Feelin' Good" to the title protest song "Four Women," her music was a personal and political exploration branded in the killing of the Civil Rights Movement. Simone's lyrics weave a story of four women alienated from themselves and each other due to the color of their skin. But, through it all they remain triumphant — women proud "To Be Young, Gifted and Black." "All I want is equality for my sister, my brother, my people and me..." — Nina Simone

The First Noel, music and lyrics by Lelund Durond Thompson and Michael Jason Webb (Regional Premiere) Directed by Jiles R. King, II

November 23 – December 23, 2018

This Harlem-based holiday musical features music that crosses genres—from pop to jazz to gospel — to tell a universal story of love and belonging. It's a story that follows three generations affected by the tragic loss of a loved one. Time is slow to heal this family's wounds until an unexpected visit from Grandma reveals some long-absent Christmas joy. The First Noel is about how a community is healed, one family at a time, as everyday people do extraordinary things to help one another receive the gift of love during the holiday season.

Obama-ology by Aurin Squire (Regional Premiere) Directed by Lisa Devine January 25 – February 24, 2019

When African-American college graduate Warren takes a job with the 2008 Obama campaign, he's fired up and ready to go – until he lands in the troubled streets of East Cleveland. But somewhere between knocking on doors, fending off cops, and questioning his own racial and sexual identity, he learns that changing society isn't as easy as he imagined. A stunning new play that demonstrates the resilience of the human spirit to overcome defeat at the hands of social repression and financial hardship.

Bubbling Brown Sugar by Loften Mitchell Directed by Michael Serrecchia March 22 – April 28, 2019

Journey back in time to the Harlem Renaissance when audiences flocked to the area's popular nightclubs to see the greatest talents entertain. Artists like Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, and Billie Holliday created a golden age of music with their exciting sounds and glamorous shows. You'll jam, jump, and jive to this exuberant, three-time Tony-nominated musical revue.

Split Second by Dennis McIntyre (Regional Premiere) Directed by Benard Cummings May 24 – June 23, 2019

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ions & Answers Sessions on ALL TOPICS that concern Marriage

BrentJones, a singer/songwriter extraordinaire who's pioneering work with his urban group TP Mobb set the stagefor Kirk Franklin and urban contemporary gospel, "Open Your Mouthand Say Something" is the highly anticipated follow-upto Brent's #1 hits "HeRose", "Don't Wait Till Midnight" (featuringCoko from SWV) & "Goodtime",which ruled BET and topped Billboard for 47+

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Strangers Rest Baptist Church

Website: www.strangersrestbc.net

PASTOR EDDIE BROWN, SR

LADY MARILYN BROWN

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WORSHIP DAYS & TIME

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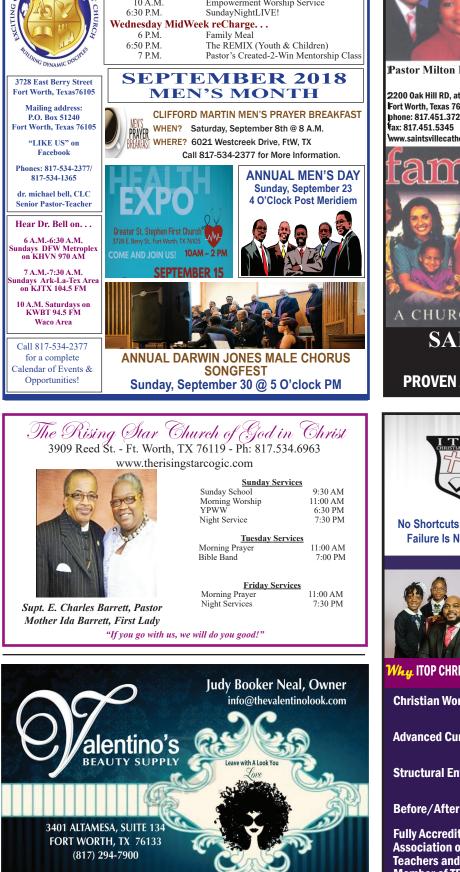
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tions seem to be these days. And not only is it evident, but it is refreshing. When I look at the names of the most played and purchased songs, relatable comes to mind: "Won't He Do It", "Not Lucky I'm Loved", "I Got That", "Listen", and "Serve". These song titles minister before one note is even heard. I sense that gospel artists are coming forth with more transparency. Their lyrics are not necessarily advanced, but they are seeking to reach their intended audience. Here are a few lines from "Won't He Do It": "Ain't nobody stopping my shine. They try to break me, try to take me out, but I got Jesus on my side." For weeks now, newcomer Koryn Hawthorne has blazed up Billboard charts to #1 after placing 3rd on The VOICE television competition show and signing with RCA Inspiration label. This genZ member is for real!

After only one season, BET canceled The Joyful Noise show that Tye Tribbett hosted. But a few months later, the 24 hour Christian station TBN decided to create an even bolder format for Tye to cohost entitled The Gospel Worship Experience! This promises a greater delivery of music and Word reppin' the gospel stronger than BET ever allowed. Won't HE do it?! Yaaasss. It's also very clear how relational the All State Family Reunion must be with its 12,000 families showing up yearly on Labor Day weekend in Orlando, FL. The inclusion of a Gospel Explosion on Sunday mornings creates a churchy experience for the vacationing families. This year, creator and national radio host Tom Joyner will present artist/radio host Erica Campbell at the fabulous and famously fun event for all generations. *Relational* fellowship will be undeniable at the Tasha Cobbs Leonard and Friends tour, The RE-VIVAL. This title sounds like the no-nonsense worship leader is taking no prisoners when this concert slash tarrying slash deliverance service hits the road. I believe all attendees at these concerts will relate to how Mrs. Leonard will be reppin" for the Glory of God.

Locally, we will soon experience the annual Gigantic Gospel Concert held in September and always at the Friendship West Church in Dallas. This year, an all-female artist's roster will punctuate the dominant presence of women that we have viewed all year at many award and entertainment shows. With the re-



cent passing of the irrefutable Queen of Soul last month, we were reminded how she belted out anthems for women to 'do IT for themselves' and to do IT with R.E.S.P.E.C.T. She was honored by many accomplished people who acknowledged her profound influence and contribution to the world of music, flat out, entirely. We can imagine that the gospel divas of the GGC may still be hearing small echoes of the idol and icon, Ms. Aretha Franklin.

It is inspirational to hear and see the gospel presented in creative and re-

latable ways that transcend generational, educational, economical and honestly denominational differences. If we offer Christ through real, sometimes raw examples, we win. If transparency about life challenges and changes comes out with authenticity, it's still all good. At the end of the day and life, if we love as Jesus loved, we will reveal how much we desired His Glory.

May Peace Be Your Journey.... judyneal@comcast.net holla!



The Gospel Corner with Proclaimer of the Word... Down L.D. Dwymfold

Don't Park at Your Pain

Rev. J.R. Brumfield

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

1. Introduction

When an athlete works out to improve their coordination, skill-set, and endurance level, the athlete is expected to go through the pains of a workout. "No pain no gain" is a phrase that promises greater value rewards for the price of hard and even painful work. Under this conception, competitive professionals, such as athletes, are required to endure pain (physical suffering) and stress (mental/ emotional suffering) to achieve professional excellence. As Christians we are called to endure afflictions like a good soldier. Do you want the Lord to say "Well done thy good and faithful servant?" As Christians, there is an exercise of our faith that we must endure unto the end to achieve the excellence of eternal life. We must fight the good fight of faith until the Lord says "well done." If we continue until we meet the finish line, our Lord has a crown awaiting the faithful followers.

Sometimes athletes get caught up in the pains of the workout and forget the benefits of the workout. Sometimes one may have to run a few miles before they are ready for the 10K run. There are many people in our world that cherish the benefits of success but do not wish to engage in the efforts to be successful. Sometimes people want a new house and a new car but may not want to engage in the work efforts to obtain those items.

The apostle Paul could have used many excuses to give up on life. Aren't vou glad that the apostle Paul did not give up? Over half of the New Testament was written by the Apostle Paul. Three times he was shipwrecked. The apostle Paul spent one full day on the open sea. Can you imagine that? He was stoned and scourged three times. The apostle Paul was beaten with fists. rods. and words. He was scourged, chased, scandalized, and slandered. Most of us would just have a problem with our name being scandalized but who would peradventure to get whipped for the cause of Christ? Who wants to suffer for the cause of the kingdom? Sometimes what we are going through is not because we have done something bad. Sometimes we are going through painful moments in life to help someone else have a brighter day. We thank the Lord for those fathers and mothers that suffered racial indignities so that we could have some civil rights. They endured hardships and disappointments.

We are not fond of pain or even slight discomfort. We rebel at the suggestion of it, recoil at the sight of it, and reject the suggestion that it might be good for us. However, the lessons of life are almost always taught in the classroom of suffering. One may be suffering through an elementary school guiz, or dealing with the excruciating pain of a disease or the heartbreak of grief. All of us are going through something but we must be like the athlete who refuses to quit on the workout. We must see the workout of pain through the lens of benefits toward godly preparation. The question that we should ask ourselves during painful moments is "how can God get the glory from my pain?" Don't park at your pain. Let's see how God received the glory from the Apostle Paul's pain and suffering.



2. Paul's Advancement, v.1-6

The apostle Paul had suffered many things in his life. However, the Lord blessed Paul to see an extraordinary experience. In these verses, we find that Paul had a third heaven experience. This occurrence in Paul's life was above the place where birds fly. It was above the stars that we can see. The third heaven experience was in the domain where God manifests his glory. In verse 4, we find that the third heaven is called paradise. This was a huge honor placed upon the Apostle Paul to be a witness of things in paradise.

The bible does not tell us when Paul had this third heaven experience and we should not speculate over that which is written. The fact is that Paul heard things that he was not allowed to utter here on earth. This passage informs the reader that Paul heard unspeakable words. Paul states that the words that he heard were not lawful to publish here on earth. This passage is a check against anyone wanting to know more than what the Word of God instructs us in. It is foolish for anyone to know more than what the Lord chooses to reveal. If the Word of God does not give insight into particular matters then it is foolish to venture further than the Word. We cannot take one jot or title from the Word of God. Also, we cannot add anything to God's Word. Although we may not know when Paul had this third heaven xperience, we can emphatically say that it is our duty and interest to try and obtain a place in heaven one day. We must not only obey God but it is our responsibility to live holy and acceptable lives unto the Lord. We must be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto the Lord.

Proper notice should also be given that the Apostle Paul did not immediately reveal his third heaven experience. We should take notice of Paul's example and learn not to boast when we have extraordinary experiences because God has a way of keeping us humble. Whatever we have in life does not belong to us. We are temporary stewards of the Lord's goodness. If a man owned cattle upon a thousand hills, please note that Psalms 50:10-11 instructs the believer that these things belong to the Lord. Whatever talents or gifts that we have belong to the Lord. It is wisdom to place a proper check on gifts, goods, and the grace that the Lord has allowed to flow into our lives. We should never allow ourselves to become self-conceited because the Lord can give one a thorn in the side to keep one humble. It is an excellent thing to have a lowly spirit in the midst of high advancements. We should stay humble in spite of the blessings from the Lord.

3. Paul's Affliction, v.7-8

In this passage of Scripture, we find that a thorn was given to the Apostle Paul to

the purpose to keep the Apostle Paul humble. The reader of this article should ask themselves a question. "What is the Lord allowing me to go through to keep me humble? The devil wanted to shake Paul's faith but the Lord used the trial to get the glory out of Paul's life. Sometimes the devil will place experiences in your life because he wants to shake the foundation of your faith. However, please note that the Lord wants to get the glory out of your life. Our God can bring good out of evil. How are you dealing and living with the troubles and trials of this life? The Apostle Paul stated that he prayed three times so that the thorn might be removed from his life. Sometimes we have to go back and pray one more time. I am reminded of King Hezekiah that turned his face to the wall and he praved. The Lord told King Hezekiah that he had fifteen more years to live. Now, I must state that sometimes the Lord may not answer our prayers the way we want him to answer. There are times when the Lord may remove the trouble from our lives but there are times when we have to live with trouble.

The bible does not inform us exactly what the thorn was in Paul's life. We do know from scripture that it was a grievous thorn. It was a discomfort in Paul's life. Sometimes we as believers have to deal with the discomforts of this life. Sometimes we have to deal with diabetes, stroke, heart disease, kidney failure, cancer, loss of job, loss of spouse, disobedient children, disgruntled people, disappointments, economic difficulties, and many other things. Don't park at your pain. We must hold on to God's unchanging hand. We must not allow circumstance or situations to shake our faith and render our testimonies ineffective. As believers, we are called and commissioned to endure hardship like a good soldier.

4. Paul's Affirmation, v. 9-10

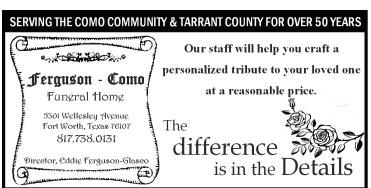
Although life is filled with ups and downs, we must continue to press on toward the higher calling. The Apostle Paul praved earnestly for the removal of his thorn in the flesh. In these verses, we hear the encouraging words that "my grace is sufficient for thee." When God does not remove our troubles and temptations, yet, if he gives us grace sufficient for us, we have no reason to complain. The Apostle Paul did not park at his pain. He kept on ministering to the churches that he had planted. He kept on doing the work of the Lord. He fought the good fight of faith. The words, "my grace is sufficient for you" carries with it a promise that the Lord is enough for us. As the Apostle Paul faced his tragic end, he could say with confidence that I have fought a good fight and have finished my course. Now is laid up for me a crown of righteousness. Work while it is day for when night comes, no man can work. Do all that you can for the cause of Christ! Don't park at your pain!

Yours in Christ,

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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.



CommuniVersity Peacemakers Are Blazing New Trails with Law Enforcement and the Community They Serve in Fort Worth, Texas

"Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called the Children of God." Matthew 5:9, CommuniVersity Peacemakers at New Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church 2864 Mississippi Avenue Ft Worth, TX 76104

FORT WORTH, TEXAS - Conflict between the police and people from marginalized communities is a constant in many of our affected neighborhoods. The tension is continuously causing adverse community experiences and straining what little trust exists among the families in the community and the police who are responsible for ensuring that the neighborhoods are safe. Community leaders, law enforcement leadership, as well as, the 'City Fathers' are praying that the leadership on all sides of the breach are looking for sustainable, positive strategies to help change these conditions.

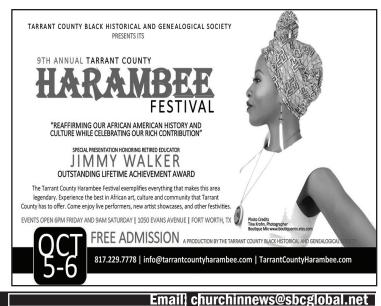


The CommuniVersity Peacemakers is a solution-driven construct that combines the skill sets of the church, community, city, and academia to help resolve conflict, build relationships, reduce crime, and improve the quality of life of individuals that live in these communities and the people who provide the security in these impacted neighborhoods.

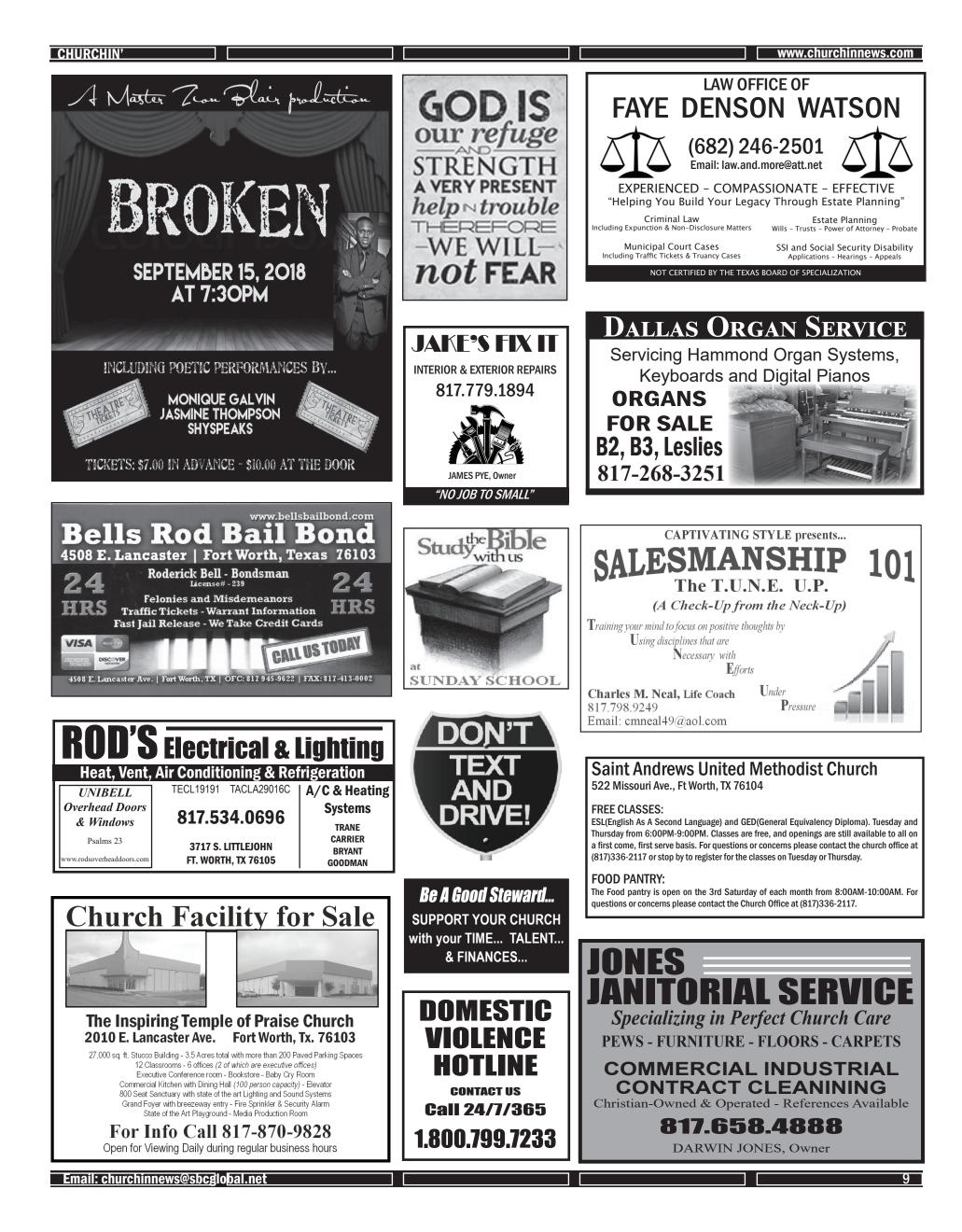
From housing to employment, to gaining support and access to the proper education and mental tools, CommuniVersity Peacemakers' mission is to help develop an environment that provides the tools, experience, and education for the community and law enforcement. The resulting strategies will be to not only prevent, de-escalate, and resolve conflict but to do it in a manner that does not cause the community to lose their dignity but increase their self-worth.

The CommuniVersity Peacemakers is a Collaboration between Pastor Ken Jones, Jr., Como First Baptist Church, Dr. Gary E. Lacefield, Tarleton State University School of Criminology and Pastor K.P. Tatum, Sr., New Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church and the Southern Christian Leadership in Fort Worth and a host of other organizations including, the Fort Worth Police Department, Texas Christian University Police and Tarleton State University School Continuing Education.

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