

PAGE 3



2026 IMBGA  
Simultaneous  
Revival,  
Wharton, TX

PAGE 7



Lily's Boutique  
Traditional  
Customer  
Appreciation  
And  
Holiday Party,  
Houston, Tx



PAGE 8



Friendship BC  
Pastoral  
Installation  
and Family  
Fellowship  
Dinner, Sugar  
Land, TX

PAGE 9



Black Cowboy  
Museum  
Groundbreaking  
Ceremony,  
Kendleton, TX

OFFICE #: 281-387-7875 EMAIL ADDRESS: [bufordgnm@outlook.com](mailto:bufordgnm@outlook.com)

# the **GOOD NEWS MONTHLY**

"FREE"

Vol. 33, Issue 3

December, 2025

**REV. MICHAEL D.**  
**&**  
**SIS. MABLE L.**  
**BUFORD,**

PUBLISHERS, SINCE 1992; and  
the **GOOD NEWS MONTHLY FAMILY,**

*wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas  
and a Prosperous New Year!*

# Level Pro Home Improvement



**"QUALITY WORK, PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE, FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS SERVICE, AND PRICING THAT IS CUSTOMER FRIENDLY... WAY TO GO, LEVEL PRO!"**

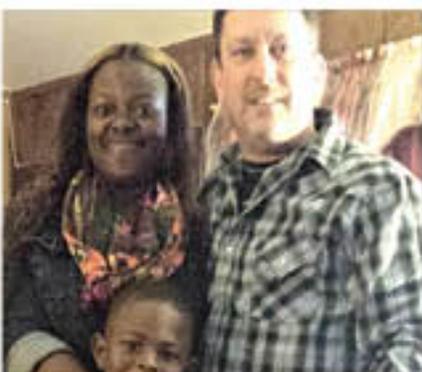


**LEVEL PRO HOME IMPROVEMENT GALLERY OF A FEW OF THE MANY SATISFIED CUSTOMERS**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*From Randy & The Crew At Level Pro*



**ROOFING SALE NOW IN PROGRESS!  
CABINET SALE!!!**



**HOUSE LEVELING CEMENT SLAB,  
BLOCK & BASE, PIER AND BEAM.  
Yes, we level mobile homes too!**



**• Kitchen and Bath Remodeling • Foundation Repair • Siding  
• Windows • Patios • Carports • Flooring • Panting • and More**

**CALL LEVEL PRO TODAY!**

**"A HAPPY HOME BEGINS WITH A SOLID FOUNDATION"**

920-C Murphy Road, Stafford, TX 77477  
GOVERNMENT LOAN PROGRAM AVAILABLE

**281-397-2299**

**OR 888-461-4669**

**FREE ESTIMATES SINCE 1988**

**EZ PAYMENT PLAN**



**Visit us at: LEVELPROHOMESERVICE.COM**



# The Real Christmas Story

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST (LUKE 2: 1-20 NIV)

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his

favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



## THE INDEPENDENT MISSIONARY BAPTIST GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

WEBSITE: [IMBGA.ORG](http://IMBGA.ORG) • E-MAIL: [IMBGAOFTEXAS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:IMBGAOFTEXAS@GMAIL.COM) • PH: 713-524-1893



### IMBGA 2026 SIMULTANEOUS REVIVAL

**PRAYER - FELLOWSHIP - TEACHING - PREACHING**

**10:30 AM DAILY WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY MORNINGS**

**JANUARY 7TH, 8TH, AND 9TH**

**MOTHER ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 416 EAST MILAM, WHARTON, TX 77488**

**Rev. Dr. C. L. Wallace, Host/Pastor**

ASSOCIATION THEME: *"Developing Christian Maturity and Building the Kingdom One Soul at a Time - IRON SHARPENS IRON"* (Scripture: Proverbs 27:17; Ezekiel 37:1-4; Matthew 28: 18-20; Ephesians 4: 11-13)

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS WILL BE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026**

**ALL OFFICERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS SERVICE FOR INSTALLATION INTO YOUR POSITION. #SupportIMBGA**



**Rev. Dr. C. L. Wallace**  
Host/Pastor

**Rev. F. N. Williams**  
Moderator Emeritus

**Rev. Max A. Miller, Jr.**  
First Vice Moderator

**Rev. F. N. Williams, II**  
Second Vice Moderator

**Rev. G. O. Wyatt**  
Third Vice Moderator

**Rev. Mark Davis**  
Fourth Vice Moderator

**Rev. C. D. Wallace**  
Fifth Vice Moderator

**Rev. J. D. Taylor**  
Corresponding Secretary &  
Sixth Vice-Moderator



**Rev. Derrick Blount**  
Seventh Vice-Moderator

**Rev. Thaddeus Brown**  
President Of  
Ministers' Conference

**Slan Harris**  
Brotherhood President

**Rev. Corey Gardner**  
President, Sunday  
School & BTU Congress

**Sis. Ida Evans**  
President Mission I

**Sis. Ruby Rasmus**  
President Mission II

**Sis. Rhonda Miller**  
President Ministers' Wives

**Sis. Jacqueline Pierce**  
President, Unkers/Nurses

**Sis. Sylvia Sims**  
Bibleband President

# FBC HERITAGE UNLIMITED MUSEUM

Showcasing Our Rich Heritage While Recapturing Fort Bend History



## FBC Heritage Museum Ft. Bend County VETERANS BANQUET

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

ROSENBERG CIVIC CENTER, ROSENBERG, TX



### Honoring All Who Served



FBC HONORED VET



FBC HONORED VET



FBC HONORED VET



FBC HONORED VET



FBC HONORED VET



FBC HONORED VET



FBC HONORED VET



CLARENCE GRAY, MR. & MRS. JEFFREY JONES



FBC VET



LOUIS & LINDA IMBROGNO



FBC VET WITH FORT BEND COUNTY COMMISSIONER MCCOY & GUESTS



FBC VET, ROMEO & CHERYL SMITH



FBC VETERAN BANQUET GUESTS

Acknowledgements: Fort Bend County Judge K. P. George; Fort Bend County Pct. 2 Staff Director, Katie L. Herrington; Fort Bend County Pct. 3 Commissioner, Andy Meyers; Fort Bend County Pct. 4 Commissioner, Dexter McCoy; Fort Bend County Constable Pct. 4, Patrick Quincey; Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan; Combined Arms, Community Leader, Louis Imbrogno; Billie Shelton, 93 Years Young, 1951 Korean War; Texas Veterans Land Board, Anthony Navarro; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3903 Rosenberg; American Legions Post 271 Rosenberg

Special Thanks To: Clarence Gray, Brentwood B. C. Veterans Assistance Ministry; Lt. Col. Winfield Scott, JROTC B.F. Terry High School; Rev. Lionel H. Spencer Sr., FBC Heritage Unlimited Staff; Kathryn Ford, FBC Heritage Unlimited Staff Member; Stephanie Chambers, FBC Heritage Unlimited Volunteer; Lufrena Yeggin, FBC Heritage Unlimited Volunteer; Ursula Knox FBC Heritage Unlimited Volunteer; Ronald Harris, FBC Heritage Unlimited Liaison FBC Heritage Unlimited Committee; Theron Metz, Boy Scout Troop 852 Missouri City; Rev. Michael D. Buford, Good News Monthly; Larry Callies, The Black Cowboy Museum; Diane Rivers, Photographer/Videographer; Scott R. Wiley, Fort Bend Herald; \*Decorations - Occasions Plus



FBC VETERANS' BANQUET SPECIAL GUESTS



AmegyBank



Ordinarily I would say something about Christmas since this is the December edition of the Good News Monthly. And anyone who knows me should know how I feel about Christmas and the seriousness of it. After all, you cannot have any empty tomb—Easter), unless you first have an open womb—Christmas! And this is an obvious indication of how God views the whole abortion issue. Not that He is against a woman's right to choose, but God is also concerned about the one not born yet to have the choice to live as well! As we all know, it is ONLY God who can grant life; and I am on this premise that you should never take what you are unable to give.

# MAYBE THIS TIME

*Maybe the people will listen this time. And if they stop doing wrong, I will change my mind and not punish them for their sins. (Scripture: Jeremiah 26:3(CEV))*



BY APOSTLE E. BURTON

With that said, I could not shake off how God kept impressing on me regarding this text from Jeremiah found in the Contemporary Version of the Bible. The words, "Maybe This Time," just leaped off the page at me. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard this phrase repeated from some individual at one time or another for one reason or another. After hearing it so many times, I believe it must have come from a place of hope. Hope that things will be different this time if someone just give the person yet one more chance. The individual that makes this statement really hopes that if this olive branch is extended once more, the individual who has been extended the olive branch will take full advantage of the privilege they have been given. It is also saying that the person's patience who extended the olive branch is wearing very thin at that moment. And finally, it is also an indication that this is that troubled person's last chance to get it right; or else. I know many do not like to hear that "or else" statement; but that is exactly the position that the hopeful person must take now. Rather than allowing that individual to continue to string them along with some chance of change that never takes place, a definite point for consequences must be established. "Or else" means that you leave them no choice but to allow the consequences of their decision if they choose to ignore this last chance, will have full reign in that person's life. Now just what that entails are always something that the person refusing to change really does not want, even if they are not aware of it at that moment.

Well, this time the individual making this, "Maybe This Time Statement," is God Himself. And get this, He is talking to the people that He calls His chosen ones—none other than the children of Israel. You would think that God was making this statement for some wayward sinner who He has been pleading and pleading with to change. But no, it is to those children of Israel who were SUPPOSED to have known better. The children of Israel have already experienced the goodness of God not just every now and then, but for several generations at this point in time. If I have said it once, I have said it twice; that just because God is long suffering does not mean we should make the mistake in

thinking that He is "ever suffering." This means that there is a time that if you or I persist in continuing to sin, God's grace has been strained long enough seeing that the persistence of sin must be dealt with differently to change the behavior. Just look at what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah. God just got fed up with the continual, willful, and habitual sin that people practiced in those cities; and He utterly destroyed them. If you or I are in a similar pattern of sin like that, you can take this to the bank that God WILL NOT MAYBE do something about it, GOD WILL DO something about it! From our reading in Jeremiah, we can come to the sobering conclusion that Israel has reached that point. Jeremiah is letting all of us who read this passage know that God can and will reach that point with any of us as well. If we decide that after all God has done for us, with us, and through us; we are not going to obey Him, we can surely expect this same God to deal with us accordingly. I know that we may not want to hear that the wages of sin is death; but it is true just the same and somebody needs to remind that to all those who believe God will continue to allow individuals who claim to belong to Him to practice sin willfully, continually, and habitually without any dire consequences. This seems to be the direction some are currently headed without fear of consequence.

What amazes me about God making this statement is that God already knows what Israel will do even after He makes this "maybe" statement. It is as if God is saying not only to Israel but to us as well, for the Very first time in all creation Israel. "Prove me wrong about you!" You have heard it when people say something like, I hope I am wrong about this, and I will be the first to admit it if I am; but I know that I am not. Well, that in the text is where God is right about now. What is even sad about this is that God is willing to not punish them if they would just listen (consider and apply it to their life) the words that His chosen Prophet Jeremiah is saying. Fast forward and you will find that the people were not even willing to do that. I am not sure if the reason for this disobedience was because other false prophets were telling them things that they wanted to hear, and Jeremiah was not; or was it that they did not want to believe that they were all that bad. Either way, God had to eventually carryout His punishment that He had declared in His Word through His prophet Jeremiah. Question, "What would you do if God were to send His Prophet to your family, your city, your state, or your nation and call out the sins you were guilty of and gave you this last warning to repent, or else?" And at the same time, there were other "so-called prophets" who were telling you that there was no need to change what you are doing because God is not going to do anything to you because you weren't that bad and that everything was going to be all right? Which would you believe knowing that the first prophet was correct in naming your habitual sins of killing unborn babies, mistreating the elderly, pleasure seekers more than pleasers of God, just to name a few. Would you really believe that everything was going to be all right? Really?

Merry Christmas and a Happy Hopeful New Year to all.

## STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER FOR DECEMBER 2025

WITH SIS. JEANETTE WASHINGTON



Sis. Jeanette Washington

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURES TO BE READ BEFORE PRAYING DURING THESE TROUBLING TIMES, MATTHEW 24: 4 - 14

### MATTHEW 24:4-14

- 4\* Jesus said to them in reply, "See that no one deceives you.
- 5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will deceive many.
- 6b You will hear of wars\* and reports of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for these things must happen, but it will not yet be the end.
- 7c Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be famines and earthquakes from place to place.
- 8\* All these are the beginning of the labor pains.
- 9\*d Then they will hand you over to persecution, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name.
- 10 And then many will be led into sin; they will betray and hate one another.
- 11 Many false prophets will arise and deceive many;
- 12 and because of the increase of evildoing, the love of many will grow cold.
- 13e But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.
- 14f And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations,\* and then the end will come.

picture from Ai

Little by little, the world is realizing that the Bible is not a fairy tale Jesus is coming back Amen if you believe.

# TEXAS GOSPEL MUSIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

FEBRUARY 12-15, 2026



MARRIOTT HOBBY SOUTH AIRPORT  
9100 GULF FREEWAY  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77017

[www.tgmea.org](http://www.tgmea.org)

Register for luncheons and Day Events  
Night Events and ChoirMania are Free!!!

For More Information: Pastor Larry Davies,  
larrydavies48@gmail.com 281-935-3573



# Lily's Boutique

## THANK YOU

To All of our Longtime and New Customers for joining Us in our Annual Traditional Holiday & Customer Appreciation Party! It Was Another Great Success!



*"Lily's Boutique Wishes Everyone a Joyous Holiday Season and Have a Prosperous New Year." Lily*

**Lily's Boutique Wishes Everyone A Joyous Holiday Season and A Prosperous New Year!**

11159A Fondren Rd., Houston, TX 77096 • 713-270-9200

16138 WEST BELLFORT SUGAR LAND, TX 77498

# FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

## Welcomes New Pastor,

# Rev. Eric D. Howard,

## With Installation Service and Fellowship Dinner

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, SUGAR LAND, TX, INSTALLS NEW PASTOR - REV. ERIC D. HOWARD

*"This is the day that the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it". Psalm 118:24*

An air of anticipation filled the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday November 9th as we celebrated the official installation of our new Pastor, Pastor Eric D. Howard! We are so excited for this new season of ministry and leadership.

A Pastoral Installation Service formally and publicly recognizes a new pastor, officially committing the congregation and the minister to a shared ministry under the leadership of God.

In true fashion Friendship lived up to its name as we welcomed Pastor Howard, First Lady Carmen Howard, and the entire Howard family.

A special thanks to Pastor Sandy D. Williams, Sr., and Pastor H.D. Lovelace, of Arkansas; Fort Bend County Precinct 4 Commissioner Dexter McCoy, family and friends who came from near and far to show love and support for Pastor Howard.

Immediately following the spirit-filled worship service, the congregation joined us as the celebration continued with "Breaking Bread Together at One Table" for the first time with our official new Pastor and First Lady.

From worship to fellowship - What A Time, What A Time, What A Time!



COUNTY COMMISSIONER DEXTER MCCOY WAS AMONG SPECIAL GUESTS FOR INSTALLATION



FRIENDSHIP FAMILY LISTENED INTENTLY AS PASTOR WILLIAMS FROM ARKANSAS PREACHED AT INSTALLATION SERVICE



FRIENDSHIP WELCOMED THEIR NEW FIRST FAMILY, PASTOR AND SIS. HOWARD, WITH A CHURCH FELLOWSHIP DINNER



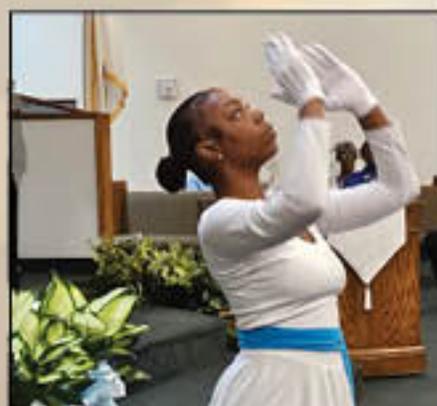
FRIENDSHIP'S CHURCH FAMILY BROKE BREAD WITH THEIR NEW PASTOR AFTER INSTALLATION SERVICE



FRIENDSHIP'S YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE WELCOMED PASTOR AND FIRST LADY HOWARD



PASTOR AND FIRST LADY HOWARD



PRAISE DANCING WAS A SPECIAL PART OF THE EVENT



THE FRIENDSHIP FAMILY BROKE BREAD TOGETHER WITH THEIR NEW PASTOR



**NAT LOVE**  
1854 - 1921



**BILL PICKETT**  
1870 - 1932

# THE BLACK COWBOY MUSEUM GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

**FOR THE FUTURE HOME OF THE BLACK COWBOY MUSEUM  
OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025**

Fort Bend County Officials And Community Came To Kendaleton, Tx To Witness History As The Groundbreaking Ceremony For The Future Home Of The Black Cowboy Museum Occurred On November 4, 2025

A special ceremony occurred on November 4, 2025, to note the future building of THE BLACK COWBOY MUSEUM. The founder and CEO, Larry Callies, envisioned a museum sharing the history and contributions of the Black Cowboy and other noteworthy African Americans when his life was redirected by his faith in God. Beginning in 2017, his dream became more and more of a reality as he stepped out in faith opening the museum and sharing the history and culture of the Black Cowboy to thousands of visitors from across the state, from every state in the USA, and from visitors from over forty countries around the world. All of this has transpired in a small strip center in downtown Rosenberg, TX, making it a must see tourist attraction, but attracting tourist to the many antique shops, restaurants, and special sites in the Rosenberg-Richmond communities. This activity

prompted Fort Bend County officials to work with Larry Callies on his dream for the museum and the potential impact for growth for the county. This collaboration and extensive planning has resulted in a substantial grant for the future building of a "new two story 1.5 acre museum honoring Black Americans in the BATES-ALLEN PARK, which sits in the historic community of Kendaleton, TX, one of the earliest communities founded by formerly enslaved people following the end of the Civil War.

The museum will sit near the county's just-completed African-American Monument, which saw its own well-attended dedication ceremony on Saturday. According to a news release from the office of Precinct 4 Commissioner Dexter McCoy, the \$4 million, 9,780-square-foot, two-story facility on a 1.5-acre site will include a showroom gallery for artwork and historical artifacts, an outdoor dining and kitchen area, and 50 visitor parking spaces. Construction is expected to begin in early 2026, with completion anticipated in 2027.



BCM 1 CURRENT LOCATION



LARRY WITH ROSENBERG COUNCILMAN ZEPEDA AND MUSEUM CONTRIBUTOR, KEITH



LARRY AND PROPOSED FUTURE MUSEUM



LARRY WITH BCM BOARD MEMBERS



LARRY WITH FORT BEND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GRADY PRESTAGE AND DEXTER MCCOY



LARRY WITH HOF TEX WILLIAMS AND MUSEUM STAFFER, EDMUND



LARRY WITH SPECIAL FORT BEND COUNTY GROUP



LARRY WITH SPECIAL GUESTS AT GROUNDBREAKING



with  
Sis. Emma  
Samuels

# The RECIPE Corner Christmas Edition

## BANANA BREAD

**Ingredients**

- 1 stick of butter
- 1 c. of sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3 bananas, mashed
- 2 c. flour
- ½ tbsp. vanilla extract
- 1 c. nuts

Cream butter and sugar together. Add eggs and beat well. Grease and flour 1 large or 2 small loaf pans. Pour dough into pan; bake for 1 hour or until brown at 300°. Let cool.



## ALMOND POUND CAKE

**Ingredients**

- 3 c. flour
- 3 c. sugar
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- 1 c. oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 c. buttermilk
- 2 tsp. almond extract

Beat well with electric mixer adding liquid to dry ingredients. Add eggs one at a time. Pour mixture into greased, floured Bundt pan. Bake at 350° for 55 minutes.



## CARAMEL PECAN PIE

**Ingredients**

- 1 unbaked pie crust
- 12 oz. caramel topping
- ½ c. brown sugar
- 3 eggs beaten
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1 ½ c. chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350°. Microwave caramel for 30 seconds to 1. Combine caramel, brown sugar, eggs, vanilla, and salt. Fold in chopped pecans. Pour mixture into pie crust. Bake 1 hour until. Allow to cool in the refrigerator for 30 minutes before cutting.



## MAPLE NUT CAKE

**Ingredients**

- ½ c. butter
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- ¼ c. milk
- 1½ c. flour
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 c. pecans, chopped
- ½ tsp. vanilla

Mix butter and brown sugar; add egg yolks mix well. Add milk. Sift together the flour, salt, and baking powder; add to the mixture. Mix in nuts and vanilla. Bake in greased loaf pan at 350° 45 minutes.



## CHEWY BROWNIE COOKIES

**Ingredients**

- ¾ c. Crisco
- 1 tbsp. water
- 1½ c. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1½ c. flour
- ¾ c. cocoa
- ¼ tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 c. chocolate

Heat oven to 375°. Combine Crisco, brown sugar, water, vanilla and eggs in bowl. Beat at medium speed until blended. Combine flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt mix into mixture until just blended. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop tablespoon two inches apart onto ungreased baking sheet. Bake for 7 - 9 minutes.



## COUNTRY BREAKFAST PIE

**Ingredients**

- 1 pkg. Sausage
- 1 9" pie shell
- 1½ c. grated Swiss cheese
- ¼ c. chopped green bell peppers
- ¼ c. chopped red bell peppers
- 2 tbsp. chopped onion
- 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 c. light cream

Cook sausage until done, drain, and crumble. Prepare 9" pie crust. Mix cheese and sausage. Sprinkle in shell. Lightly beat eggs in bowl. Combine remaining ingredients and add to egg mixture. Pour in shell. Bake at 375 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes. Cool on rack for 10 minutes. Yields 6 to 8 servings.



## OLD FASHIONED SWEET POTATO PIE

**Ingredients**

- 2¼ c. cooked sweet potato
- ½ c. butter
- 1¼ cups sugar
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. nutmeg
- ½ tsp. ginger
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- ¼ tsp. cloves
- 2 eggs beaten
- 2 can Evaporated milk
- ¼ c. milk
- (2) 9 in pie shells

Combine sweet potatoes, milk, butter, eggs, beat with electric mixture. Add the remaining ingredients. Beat until well combined. Place the mixture into baked pie shell and bake at 475° for 7 to 10 minutes. Reduce the heat to 325° continue baking for an additional 20 to 30 minutes.



## SOUR CREAM COFFEE CAKE

**Ingredients**

- 1¼ c. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 sour cream
- 2 c. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 1 tsp. cinnamon, mixed with 2 tsp. sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease bundt pan. Sprinkle half of cinnamon/sugar mixture over bundt pan. Cream together butter sugar, eggs and sour cream. Add flour one cup at a time. Stir in vanilla and baking soda. Pour half of the batter into pan. Sprinkle remaining cinnamon/sugar mixture over batter. Spoon remaining batter into pan. Bake.



## CAN YOU EARN SALVATION THROUGH YOUR GOOD WORKS, GIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS, AND ATTENDING CHURCH SERVICES REGULARLY? “GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION”

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. The one who has the Son has this eternal life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have this eternal life.

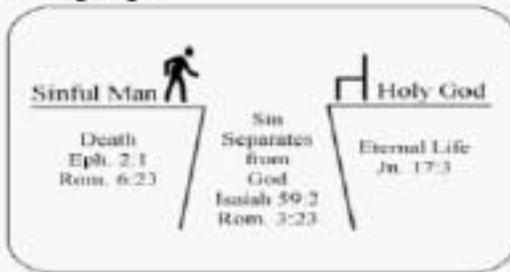
This passage tells us that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son, Jesus Christ. In other words, the way to possess eternal life is to possess God’s Son. The question is, how can a person have the Son of God?

### Man’s Problem SEPARATION FROM GOD

Isaiah 59:2 But your sinful acts have alienated you from your God; your sins have caused him to reject you and not listen to your prayers. Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

According to Romans 5:8, God demonstrated His love for us through the death of His Son. Why did Christ have to die for us? Because Scripture declares all men to be sinful. To “sin” means to miss the mark. The Bible declares “all have sinned and fall short of the glory (the perfect holiness) of God” (Rom. 3:23). In other words, our sin separates us from God who is perfect holiness (righteousness and justice) and God must therefore judge sinful man.

Habakkuk 1:13a You are too just to tolerate evil; you are unable to condone wrongdoing.



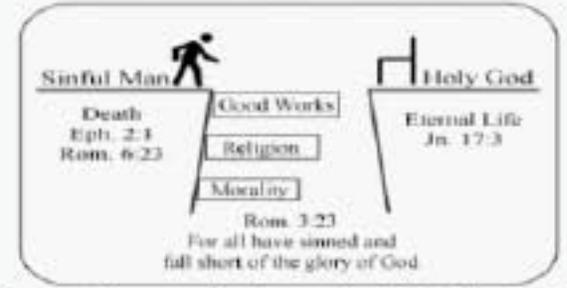
### THE FUTILITY OF OUR WORKS

Scripture also teaches that no amount of human goodness, human-works, human morality, or religious activity can gain acceptance with God or get anyone into heaven. The moral man, the religious man, and the immoral and non-religious are all in the same boat. They all fall short of God’s perfect righteousness. After discussing the immoral man, the moral man, and the religious man in Romans 1:18-3:8, the Apostle Paul declares that both Jews and Greeks are under sin, that “there is no one righteous, not even one” (Rom. 3:9-10). Added to this are the declarations of the following verses of Scripture:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 it is not of works, so that no one can boast.

Titus 3:5-7 he saved us, not by works of righteousness that we have done but on the basis of his mercy, through the washing of the new birth and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us in full measure through Jesus Christ our Savior. 7 And so, since we have been justified by his grace, we become heirs with the confident expectation of eternal life.

Romans 4:1-5 What then shall we say that Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh, has discovered regarding this matter? 2 For if Abraham was declared righteous by the works of the law, he has something to boast about (but not before God). 3 For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” 4 Now to the one who works, his pay is not credited due to grace but due to obligation. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in the one who declares the ungodly righteous, his faith is credited as righteousness.



No amount of human goodness is as good as God. God is perfect righteousness. Because of this, Habakkuk 1:13 tells us God cannot have fellowship with anyone who does not have perfect righteousness.

In order to be accepted by God, we must be as good as God is. Before God, we all stand naked, helpless, and hopeless in ourselves. No amount of good living will get us to heaven or give us eternal life. What then is the solution?

### God’s Solution

God is not only perfect holiness (whose holy character we can never attain to on our own or by our works of righteousness) but He is also perfect love and full of grace and mercy. Because of His love and grace, He has not left us without hope and a solution.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is the good news of the Bible, the message of the gospel. It’s the message of the gift of God’s own Son who became man (the God-man), lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sin, and was raised from the grave proving both the fact He is God’s Son and the value of His death for us as our substitute.



Pastor E.M. Phillips  
832-722-3664



Pastor Theodore Johnson  
Prayer line - 832-746-7891



Pastor Blaise Polk  
Prayer line - 832-757-3983



Pastor Robert Delgado  
832-768-4194



Pastor Anthony Bocerra  
Prayer line - 281-903-6197



Pastor Michael Buford  
Prayer line - 281-947-7875



Pastor Rudy Gellar  
713-646-2511

# “FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL,”

**For It Is The Power Of God For Salvation To Everyone Who Believes,  
To The Jew First And Also To The Greek.” (Romans 1: 15 - 17)**

(The following individuals have been identified by their Pastors as being “on fire for their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in their respective churches and communities!” Below is a statement and a scripture that reflects their belief and commitment toward their Christian witness.)



Sis. Gloria Thompson,  
Mt. Corinth MBC, Hempstead, TX,  
Dr. Clarence Talley, Pastor



Sis. Tina Al-Nimry,  
Greater Power BC, Pleak TX,  
Rev. Trevor Talbert, Pastor



Bro. Tommie Brown,  
Pilgrim Rest MBC, El Campo, TX,  
Rev. Michael Moore, Pastor



Sis. Ann Gullea,  
Mary Olive MBC, Houston, TX,  
Rev. Gerald Shanks, Pastor



Sis. Rose Jones,  
St. Paul MBC, Brookshire, TX,  
Rev. Lee Jones, Jr., Pastor



Deacon LaPlark Estelle,  
Greater Zion BC,  
Rev. Theodore Johnson, Pastor



Sis. Mable Buford,  
Church at Rosenberg, Rosenberg, TX,  
Rev. Michael Buford, Pastor



Sis. Freddie Miles,  
Mt. Olive MBC, Baytown, TX,  
Rev. J.D. Taylor, Pastor



Sis. Doris Shaphard,  
Nazareth MBC, Rosenberg, TX,  
Rev. C.D. Wallace, Pastor



Sis. Phyllis Spates,  
New Faith Ministries, Hempstead, TX,  
Rev. Cephas Higgins, Pastor

**“I AM A BORN AGAIN, BAPTIZED BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST AND I SERVE THE BODY OF CHRIST  
AND IN THE OUTREACH MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH!”**

**“I have been crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh  
I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20 KJV)**

**GROVE HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
115 First St., P.O. Box 85  
Pledger, TX 77468  
E-mail: grovehillmbc@gmail.com  
CH: 979-657-2461 • RES: 281-586-8511



Rev. Derrick D. Blount, Pastor

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sun. Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Lord's Supper	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Mission	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Teacher Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

**LIVELY HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
33303 Ashe Rd. Simonsen, TX 77476  
P.O. Box 96 Pukshar, TX 77441  
Ph: 281-346-0412  
E-mail: llmbc33303@att.net



Rev. E. R. Simonsen, Sr., Pastor

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Sunday School	9:45 AM
Sun. Morning Worship	11 AM
Mission (2nd/4th Mon.)	7:30 PM
Bible Study (Tues.)	7 PM
Choir Rehearsal (Wed.)	7 PM

**NAZARETH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"The Church Where Ministry Happens"



For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of; for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe it unto me, if I preach not the gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:16

Pastor C. Dezell Walker

Sunday School ..... 9:30 AM  
Virtual Sunday School ..... 10 AM  
Join at <http://lmbc.me/G9YHue5kuV>  
Sunday Worship Service ..... 11 AM  
Virtual Sunday Worship Service ..... 11 AM  
Join at <http://lmbc.me/G9YHue5kuV>  
Virtual Bible Study Wednesday ... 7 PM  
Pastor's Chat Thursday ..... 7 PM

The Church Where Ministry Happens...  
500 Elm Street, Rosenberg, TX 77471  
CH: 281-342-9554 • Pastor: 832-818-4280

**THE CHURCH AT ROSENBERG**  
817 5th Street Rosenberg, TX 77471  
281-387-7875



Rev. Michael D. Buford, Pastor and First Lady Mahlo L. Buford

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Sunday Worship Service	7 p.m.
Tuesday Noon Bible & Community Outreach	12 p.m.
Tuesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (Thursday Family Night 3rd Thru)	6 p.m.
Saturday Men's Only Bible Study 2nd Saturday	8 a.m.

All Worship Services & Bible Studies held at New Hope Fellowship, 1138 7th Street, Rosenberg, TX 77471

HARVEST MINISTRIES

**Bible STUDY**

THURSDAYS @ 7:00 P.M. DIAL 951-799-9291



Rev. Eric Grant

Ready to dive deeper into the Word of God?

Running with the Gospel

DIAL 951-799-9291

**Mt. Olive Baptist Church**  
325 Olive Street • El Campo, TX 77437  
Ch: 979-543-4557 • Hm: 281-343-5801



Rev. Broderick Sanford, Sr., Pastor

"LISTEN, LEARN & LIVE"  
JAMES 1:22 "Be doers of the word and not hearers only"

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

Sunday Morning Service	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mission	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

**TRUE VINE C.O.G.I.C.**  
3907 Devonport St. (corner of South & Devonport) Houston, TX 77061  
Ph: 713-734-2330  
E-mail: truevine@truevinecogic.net



Rev. & Mrs. J. D. Henson, Pastors

**Weekly Schedule**

Sunday School	9 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10 AM
Sunday Morning Worship FACEBOOK LIVE	10 AM
Monday evening YPMW BIBLE STUDY	7 PM
Tuesday and Thursday MORNING PRAYER	9 AM
Tuesday evening BIBLE STUDY	7 PM

**St. Paul Baptist Church**  
1335 First @ Waller Brookshire, Tx.  
CH: 281-934-2527



Rev. & Mrs. Lee Jones, Jr., Pastors

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Teachers Meeting (TUES.)	6:30 p.m.
Choir Rehears (TUES.)	7:30 p.m.
Singles/Complex Min. (WED.)	6:00 p.m.
Brotherhood (WED.)	6:00 p.m.

**Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church**  
"The Olive"  
P.O. Box 871, 109 Mt. Olive Lane Baytown, Texas 77522-0871  
Church Phone: (281) 678-4000  
www-mo-bc.com • Email: j.taylor7301@gmail.com



Rev. J. D. Taylor, Pastor

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Wednesday Night Live: Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	7 pm
Thursday: Inspirational Choir Rehearsal	7 pm
Combined Choir Rehearsal	7 am
Saturday: Olive Mission Society (1st Sunday)	10 am
Brotherhood (1st Sunday)	10 am
New Member Orientation	10 am
Youth Bible Study	12 pm
Sunday: Church School	9 am
Morning Worship	10 am

Heavenly Fruit of the Spirit Christian Center

"WE ARE INVESTING IN THE FUTURE WHILE REMEMBERING THE PAST"



Apostle Edmund Burton, Pastor  
Minister Michele Burton, First Lady

Sundays 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Contact Information  
P.O. Box 940571  
Houston, TX 77094  
713-298-2609 • www.hfoos.org

**Shilo Missionary Baptist Church**  
607 West Street Rosenberg, TX 77471  
CH: 281-342-0527



Rev. & Mrs. James Johnson

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 a.m.
Prayer/Bible Study (WED)	7:00 p.m.

**INDEPENDENT MISSIONARY BAPTIST GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**  
3221 SOUTHMORE BLVD. • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004  
OFFICE: 713.524.1883 • FAX: 713.524.1883



REV. DR. C. L. WALLACE, MODERATOR  
REV. J. D. TAYLOR, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  
REV. W. F. HOUSTON, CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE

**Friendship Baptist Church**  
16138 WEST BELFORT SUGAR LAND, TX 77498  
CH: 281-277-5014



Rev. Eric D. Howard, Pastor

**WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES**

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal (MON)	7:30 p.m.
Brotherhood (WED)	7:00 p.m.
Jr. Mission (WED)	7:00 p.m.
Sr. Mission (WED)	7:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting (THURS)	7:30 p.m.
Teacher Meeting/Bible (THURS)	8:00 p.m.
Bible Study (FRI)	7:30 p.m.

**New Prospect Baptist Church**  
FM 442, Needville, TX 77461  
CH: 979-793-7217  
RES: 281-344-9765



Rev. E.M. Phillips, Pastor

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Nite Bible Study	7:30 p.m.

**MOUNT CORINTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
806 7th St. Hempstead, TX 77445  
Ch: 979-826-0416 Cell: 936-499-5062  
E-mail: clarencetalley@att.net

"Trusting God to do His part as I press on to do mine."



Dr. Clarence Talley, Sr., & First Lady Carolyn Talley, Pastors

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Impact Bible Study (WED)	6:00 p.m.

**ST. STEPHENS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"The Church That Breaks Down Barriers"

**WORSHIP WITH US**

1201 BAILEY STREET WHARTON, TEXAS 77488

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM - LIFE DEVELOPMENT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE  
BYU IS HELD EVERY 1ST SUNDAY @ 9:00 AM

TUESDAYS: 7:00 PM - EMPOWERMENT BIBLE STUDY



Pastor Corey D. Gardner, MDiv

**GREATER POWER BAPTIST CHURCH**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

EVERY SUNDAY 9:00 AM CST

6325 FM 2218 "Pleak Village", Richmond, TX 77469  
Church: 281-889-1064



REV. TREVOR TALBERT, SR., MDiv., PASTOR

**NEW FAITH Ministries**  
1346 Austin Street Hempstead, TX 77445



Rev. Cephas A. Riggins, Pastor/Founder

Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Choir Rehearsal ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Mother Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
416 East Milam Wharton, TX 77488  
CH: 979-532-1831  
HM: 979-532-8561



Rev. C. L. Wallace, Pastor & Wife

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

Sunday Morning Worship	8:00 a.m.
Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
Sr. Choir Rehearsal (TUES)	7:00 p.m.
Prayer/Teacher Meeting (WED)	7:00 p.m.
Youth Choir Rehearsal (THURS)	7:00 p.m.
Pastor's Annis: 1st Sunday in April	
Church Annis: 3rd Sunday in November	

**NEWMAN CHAPEL UMC**  
14 Lums Rd. Kembleton, TX 77451  
Ph: 979-832-5446 Admin. Off: 713-471-6446



Rev. Curtis Johnson, Pastor

**CHURCH SCHEDULE**

Sunday School	9:45 AM
Sunday Worship Service	11 AM
Sunday Worship Service at FACEBOOK LIVE @ <a href="https://www.facebook.com/NewmanChapelUMC/">https://www.facebook.com/NewmanChapelUMC/</a>	
Bible Study (1st & 3rd Wed.)	6 PM
CALL IN NUMBER: (546-348-7799 Access code: 76138382)	
Prayer Call: Every 1st Sat.	8 AM

theSermon



REV. RUEL TAYLOR, III

The Bible is full of great personalities who stand out as heroes of faith. Person who exemplified in their lives an unwavering and indelible confidence and trust in God. Abraham is such a person and from his experience at Mt. Moriah, we understand what a real and substantive faith in God is all about.

You recall that it was Abraham for whom the LORD said, "Get thee out..." And Abraham, at the age of 75, obeyed by faith and went looking for that land. It was Abraham and his wife, Sarah, who were old and stricken in age, who were by faith blessed with a son named Isaac. Abraham's faith was surely tested by many trials and disappointments.

However, Abraham's greatest test of faith came when he was commanded by God to take Isaac, the son of promise, to the land of Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice. Yet Abraham continued to exercise his faith in God. And because his faith was real, instead of letting him offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice, the LORD put a ram in the bush that was used instead for that sacrifice. This story says to every child of God who will put his or her faith in motion that the LORD will provide!

Every pastor ought to give to his people a faith to live for, to live with, and to live by. For the Bible declares, "...that without faith, it is impossible to please God." It is sad to say that one of the most lacking elements in the Christian community is a real and substantive faith in God! Our shame is a contradicting Christianity. On the one hand, God is our refuge and underneath is the everlasting arms; but on the other hand, we are slothful to step out on faith. On the one hand, we affirm that we have come this far by faith; leaning and depending on the LORD. And He has never failed us yet! But on the other hand, we are very apprehensive to wholeheartedly submit ourselves to the promise of God. On the one hand, we testify that we will trust in the LORD until we die. But on the other hand, we are timorous to take God at his Word. And this my friend is a faulty, flagging, feeble, and fictitious faith! What we need today is a people who have a deep and abiding trust in God and who will without hesitation; let themselves go for God in any and every situation.

One of the problems with the contemporary church is that we are failing to give its people a practical faith—a faith they can make operative in their daily arena of life. We cannot afford to say one thing in word and then perform another in deed. We have a witness to make to the secular society! There are some valuable instructions on faith we can lay hold of in the Old Testament story of David and Goliath. (1 Samuel 17: 22 – 51).

The story of David and Goliath illustrates the saintly stout-heartedness that accompanies real faith! What courageous and daring spirit floods one's soul when they read this episode in the life of

David, the servant of the LORD. All of us have read the story of David, the little fellow who took his faith in God and with a sling-shot, slew a giant. This inspiring and encouraging episode should speak volumes to Christians at every age as a reminder that victory is al-

# Having a Real Faith in God

BY: REV. RUEL TAYLOR, III

ready ours! We can overcome any obstacle in life if we will only have "faith in God!" The Philistines had rekindled their attempt to subjugate and overthrow the nation of Israel. And so, again, King Saul finds himself preparing the armies of Israel for battle. Two mighty armies are seen facing each other for war. The Philistines on one side had its army along with its mighty giant, Goliath. And on the other side, Israel's army was clothed in her battle attire prepared to engage in the contest. Nothing separated the two armies but the valley of Elah.

Out of the Philistine army came this giant from Gath, Goliath, who mocked and challenged the army of Israel saying to King Saul, "Choose you a man and let him come down and fight against me. And if he prevails and kills me, then we will be your servants." However, instead of responding with courage and fearless aggression, when Saul and all Israel heard the challenge of Goliath, they became dismayed and were greatly afraid. The Israel that God had chosen as His people; the Israel that had experienced so many victories in the land of Canaan; the Israel that had seen what having faith in God could do, was afraid of Goliath.

At this moment in time, we see the nation of Israel lose one of their most valuable possessions—they forgot about their divine calling and heritage as the children of the Most High God. This was evident by the paralysis of fear and their lost of courage. They needed to be reminded that God "...hath not given us a spirit of fear, but one of

power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Just like the nation of Israel during their confrontation with the giant, Goliath, it can be said that the Christian community today is also paralyzed with fear. Many churches are failing to be progressive in their ministry for the sake of numbers in the pews and money in the offering plates. Instead of being change agents for a sick and dying world, many Christian congregations have adopted the world values and practices and are even promoting them within the church! God wants us to submit to the mighty power of the Holy Ghost who is within us to be aggressive and courageous in the world in which we live. He wants us to be fearless people of "faith" who will go forth in His name with a sense of assurance and victory knowing that "the eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are His everlasting arms."

Going back to the situation that the nation of Israel was in—paralyzed with fear, disabled by doubt, and handcuffed with a lack of confidence, the hour demanded and called for David, a servant of God. Therefore God, through divine providence, saw to it that David showed up at the battlefield. Jesse sent his young son, David, with provisions to take them to his other elder sons who were at the battlefield in Israel's army. As David entered where the armies of Israel and the Philistines were, he heard Goliath challenge and mock the army of Israel, God's chosen people. David's response was, "What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" David's eldest brother, Eliab, heard the response that his little brother gave and instead of being proud and thankful to God that there was at least one person willing to take a stand and represent the army of Israel, he became critical of David's response and negative toward his perception of David's motives. This same attitude is sometimes prevalent today in the Christian church when there is one or a few willing to take a position in the name of the LORD, and who are also willing to act on that stand. Those who have jealousy and envy in their hearts and are void of any initiative, spiritual stability, or positiveness in their character, will always have problems with people like David. The "David's" in this world know who they are; where they are; and where they are going!

The faith David had in the LORD was spoken out, was clearly seen, and was definitely acted upon. In verses 1 Samuel 17: 45 – 47, "Then David said to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, who thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand: and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee: and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands." Everything that David foretold happened that day when this little shepherd boy with only his sling-shot, but most importantly, his real faith in an awesome God, believed and trusted that, "The Battle is the LORD'S!"

EPHESIANS 2:10

# NEW *in* Grace WORKS

## DECEMBER, 2025 SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

**Devotional Reading:**  
Psalm 86: 1-13

**Background Scripture:**  
Ephesians 2: 1-10

**Printed Text:**  
Ephesians 2: 1-10

**EPHESIANS 2: 1- 10**

- And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
- Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
- Among who also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
- But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
- Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
- And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
- That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus.....
- For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
- Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)

**"SEVEN" QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- What is grace?
- What is the difference between "mercy" and "grace"?
- What is the meaning of the Sunday School Lesson's title, "New Works in Grace?"
- How did you become saved?
- Once you have been saved by the grace of God, can you lose your salvation?
- Why do Christians do good works?
- Do you know how to witness to a person who needs God's saving grace?

**(LOOK AT THE MODEL GIVEN AT THE TOP OF PAGE 11 - "THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS", TO HELP YOU TO WITNESS TO SOMEONE WHO NEEDS GOD'S SAVING GRACE.)**

As we approach Christmas 2025, we are anxiously anticipating the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, the Savior of the World. Even though there is no actual record of the precise day Jesus was born, it has become customary that we

**Publishers' Comments**

honor this historic event of the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25th each year. Indeed, Christian and non-Christian alike can agree that Jesus Christ came into this world, that He accomplished many good deeds, performed miracles, has had a profound impact on many peoples' lives by His teachings, and that He died and was buried. But it is "only" the Christian who believes that Jesus is the very Son of God; that He was born of the virgin Mary, that He died for all man's sins to reconcile man back to God; He arose from the dead on the third day; He is now sitting at the right hand of God the Father as the Christian's advocate; and that total belief and trust in Him assures a person an abundant life now and an everlasting life with Him throughout eternity. **JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!**



Michael D. and Mrs. Mable L. Buford

**CHRISTMAS 2025**  
**JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON**

BY REV. MICHAEL D. AND  
SIS. MABLE L. BUFORD

The birth of Jesus Christ was not only an historic event; it was an event that signaled something strange and wonderful to the entire world. The lowly shepherds, tending their sheep two thousand years ago, were among the first who were privileged to receive the heavenly announcement that indeed a Savior to the world has been born! And that since Jesus's Father is God Almighty, this event would change the status quo; it would challenge world governments and religious systems; it would impact the very hearts and lives of all men for the better. An immediate and very noticeable evidence of the influence of Jesus Christ's birth throughout history has been varying degrees of an "unexpected peace on earth" and an "unyielding good will toward all men" during the Christmas season. Whether during wars or conflicts between nations, family disagreements, broken peace between friends, and even the unnatural mistrust of people due to color and cultural differences, an unspoken truce of peace quietly emerges as the day of the Christ-child's birth approaches. Even though the shepherds did not fully comprehend the full significance of this event of a Savior to the world being born in a manger, they trusted the words proclaimed by the angelic messengers and the unexplained peace and joy they experienced

within their own hearts as they rushed to Bethlehem to see Jesus Christ's birth for themselves! **JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!**

Now, the question facing all of us today is this, "Will there be peace and joy and goodwill toward all men for this Christmas of 2025? This year has been another very trying year for many in our country and around the world. Starvation and disease continue to run rampant in third world countries and even in the USA. Tribal disputes and regional wars have left many innocents dead or suffering. Once thriving small and large businesses have closed, millions have lost their jobs and now collecting unemployment, and there have been too many families who have lost their homes or have been evicted from their apartments. And currently coming up to Christmas, we have witnessed a wide array of evil and hardship affecting those who have legally been living in our country for decades. There has also been a rise across the country in domestic violence, suicides, murders, mental health, and drug abuse crises. Gun violence is continuing to take its toll increasing its frequency in cities, schools, and on our highways. Civil unrest is becoming the norm due to misunderstandings and miscommunications between diverse communities. And there are constant threats of war and conflict in China, North Korea, Africa, and the Middle East. The question again is asked, how can anyone celebrate Christmas in December of 2025?

The answer is the same as was given for all the previous Christmases in years past. The answer was given through the announcement of "hope for the world" two thousand years ago when the shepherds heard the proclamation from the Angels of Heaven, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today, in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those whom his favor rests." (NIV--Luke 2: 10 -14). Indeed, Jesus Christ is alive today waiting for man to turn away from his wickedness and sin and turn to Him who is able to change the heart and mind of men to be able to love one another, forgive one another, and be at peace with one another and with God! Only the peace that comes from and through Jesus Christ will cause the change of the negativity, the suffering, the pain, and the hatred that plagues our world. The "hope" that Jesus Christ offers and can freely give to everyone is more than enough reason to focus on His birth each Christmas. **CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!**

**TARGETING BACK PAIN** SERVING RICHMONG/ROSENBERG FOR 33 YEARS

**Dr. Kurt W. Griesser CHIROPRACTOR**




Relief From: Back & Neck Pain • Headaches  
Stiff Neck & Whiplash • Muscle spasms • Carpal Tunnel  
Hip, Arm & Shoulder Pain • Work Injuries  
Sport Injuries • Disc Injuries • Auto Accidents  
Numbness & Tingling

5401 Ave I  
(Rt 1680/next to Domino's Pizza)

Medicare and Insurances Accepted  
Member of Major PPO Plans

Office Hours: 8 AM - 7:30PM  
Mon - Fri • 8 AM - 4 PM Sat

**281.342.5337** SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

**TONY BECERRA INSURANCE**

**AUTO • LIFE • HEALTH • HOME**

"A local, family owned business proud of serving the Rosenberg-Richmond Communities for over 50 years!"

**NOTARY PUBLIC  
INSURANCE  
CONSULTANT  
INCOME TAX**



814 3RD STREET,  
ROSENBERG, TX 77471  
Conveniently located in downtown Rosenberg

**BUSINESS 281-342-3583** **FAX 281-344-9010**

the **GOOD NEWS MONTHLY** 

**MISSION STATEMENT**



Rev. Michael D. and Mrs. Mable L. Buford, Publishers

The Good News Monthly's primary mission is to share the "the gospel" or "the good news" of Jesus Christ through printed and digital media. Our goal is to share this "good news" via scriptures, prayers, Sunday school and bible lessons, sermons, personal testimonies, praise reports, and non-fiction and Christian-fiction literature. Through this our printed and digital ministry of outreach, we hope to encourage the hopeless and the backslidden; to cause the curious and the skeptic to examine closely the Person and Testimony of Jesus Christ for the salvation of their souls; and to assist the local church in building up the new born Christian and mature saints of God who are in the body of Christ. Our mission is also to help create unity, peace, and understanding between people of different races and ethnic groups as we share "the good news" happening in church and community events, highlight the accomplishments and contributions of all people, and provide a biblical world view on key issues that will generate dialogue between Christian and non-Christian alike for better communications, understandings, and brotherly fellowships.

Rev. Michael D. and Mrs. Mable L. Buford, Publishers  
Founded September 1992

OFFICE: 281-387-7875  
EMAIL: [bufordgnm@outlook.com](mailto:bufordgnm@outlook.com)  
WEBSITE: [www.thegoodnewsmonthly.org](http://www.thegoodnewsmonthly.org)

# TAMALES



Homestyle  
Tex-Mex Tamales  
Since 1991

PLACE YOUR ORDER  
ONLINE OR  
CALL 281-232-8555



## BOB'S TACO STATION



 [www.bobstacos.com](http://www.bobstacos.com) 

1901 Avenue H • Downtown Rosenberg, Texas 77471

P.O. BOX 744, KENDLETON, TX 77451 • 630 CHARLIE ROBERTS LANE @BATES ALLEN PARK • EMAIL: FBCHERITAGE@GMAIL.COM

# FBC HERITAGE UNLIMITED MUSEUM

*Showcasing Our Rich Heritage While Recapturing Fort Bend History*



## HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AND ACTIVITIES

December is the month filled with parties, shopping, traveling, celebrations, gatherings, and traditions. FBC Heritage Unlimited Museum will hosted "Holidays with Friends" on Saturday, December 6th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At this event, the museum will provide a short tour of our museum and present guests with a holiday gift bags to express our appreciation.

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival celebrated from December 18th to 26th. Hanukkah is a December global holiday commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BC.

Christmas is a yearly holiday celebrated on December 25th. For those of Christian faith, it is a religious and

cultural celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. In the United States, many people consider Christmas and the days surrounding it as a time to gather with family and friends. Many young children look forward to Christmas as the day that they get to see what toys and gifts Santa Claus has left for them

Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of some African-Americans which takes place from December 26 to January 1. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of West and Southeast Africa. (Wikipedia.org)

Regardless of how you choose to celebrate the holidays, we hope that you will enjoy this time of the year, and stay safe. "Happy Holidays!!!"



Hanukkah



Christmas



Kwanza

## The Good Shepherd Copiers & Copy Center

920-B MURPHY RD, STAFFORD, TX 77477  
 Off: 281-261-0600 • Fax: 281-261-0626  
 E-MAIL: NCOPYCENTER@GMAIL.COM

*We Do Funeral Programs With Professional Designs*

**PROFESSIONAL COLOR POST CARDS**

CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICES AND QUANTITIES

**"Home of the .35¢ Color Copies!"**

**SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL COLOR BUSINESS CARDS**

CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICES AND QUANTITIES

**OTHER SERVICES:**

- Digital Color and B/W Copying and Printing Flyers, Menus, Forms, Manuals, Church Programs, Souvenir Books, Etc.
- Church Bulletin Subscription Program; Mail or e-mail originals, receive color or b/w bulletins in less than 3 days
- High Speed Scanning Services • (email or PC)
- NCR Forms (2, 3, and 4-part) • Self Service Computer Stations

For Business Cards, Post Cards & Flyers  
**NEXT DAYS**  
 Order Ready by  
 Ordering Today by  
 11 a.m.

.35¢

COLOR COPIES

Limited Time Special

BANNERS • POSTERS  
 BOOKLETS • BROCHURES  
 BUSINESS CARDS  
 CALENDARS • COLOR COPIES  
 CUSTOM PRINTING • DOOR HANGERS  
 CHURCH TITHE/OFFERING ENVELOPES  
 LETTERHEAD STATIONERY  
 POSTCARDS • PROGRAMS  
 PROFESSIONAL GRAPHIC DESIGN  
 FUNERAL PROGRAMS & MORE

Call For Special Pricing On Church "Tithe & Offering And Special Giving Envelopes."

Merry Christmas And Happy New Year!

THE GOOD NEWS MONTHLY  
 SPECIAL SALUTE TO BLACK COWBOY LEGENDS

# MYRTIS DIGHTMAN

## THE JACKIE ROBINSON OF RODEO

Myrtis Dightman was born in 1935 in Crockett, Texas on a ranch owned by Karl Leediker, a white man, whose family immigrated from Russia. Myrtis's father Odie, worked as a hand on the four-thousand-acre ranch. The Dightman house had no electricity, so Myrtis and his four brothers and sisters ate dinner by the light of a coal oil lamp.

When Myrtis turned eighteen, he had enough of working other men cattle and moved to Houston. Myrtis moved in with his kinfolk. There, he worked odd jobs, but Myrtis remained a cowboy at heart. Myrtis attended small rodeos in Kendleton, TX, Egypt, TX, McBeth, TX, Dickenson, TX, and the Diamond L Ranch on Hwy 90 in Houston, TX. He saw The Black Rodeos did not have Rodeo Clowns, so Myrtis got a job as a rodeo clown. Myrtis was sure-footed in the arena and a very good rodeo clown. I remember one day at the Diamond L Ranch rodeo arena one cowboy said he was the fastest man on the rodeo grounds, Myrtis said he was the fastest man on the rodeo grounds. My dad said he was the fastest and four other cowboys said they were the fastest. So that day, about 8 cowboys took their boots off, they all got on one end of the arena, and had an old fashion foot race. Myrtis Dightman came in first and my dad, second. On his way to the Houston Fat Stock Show in 1957, Myrtis and a bull rider named James Francis Jr., got to talking about how not a single trail rider in the Houston Parade was black; they decided to change that. Myrtis and Francis turned to Prairie View A&M and Alfred Poindexter, a Veterinary Professor at the university. They founded the Prairie View Trail Riders Association--the first black organization of its kind in Texas and possibly the United States.

Myrtis turned 25 in 1960, middle aged for Pro-Rodeo, Myrtis decided to start riding bulls. With the help of some of his friends: Red Rooster, Willie Thomas, James Thomas and Freddie Gordon "Skeet". In the spring of 1960, Myrtis competed in his first rodeo. In 1964, Myrtis was ranked seventeenth in the world in Bull Riding.

Myrtis was the first African-American to compete at "The World Series of Rodeo." The year on the road had been tough on Myrtis and his family. His wife, Fannie Mae, was in labor with their fifth and final child when Myrtis was 1,500 miles away at a rodeo in Billings, Montana. He walked away with first prize buckle but missed the birth of his son. Myrtis decided to step away from rodeo and went back to driving trucks. In 1966, Myrtis returned to bull riding with his focused-on Bull Riding; no more Bull Fighting. In 1967 Myrtis, Bill Stanton, and Larry Mahan were in a close race to be World Champion. Larry Mahan went on to win six all-around titles. Myrtis never got any closer to the World Champion than he did in 1967. In 1968, Myrtis had a bull name B-16 in Tucson Rodeo. B-16 threw his head back and struck Myrtis in the forehead. Myrtis fell to the dirt and B-16 delivered a parting kick to the side of Myrtis Skull. He was carried out on a stretcher and rushed to the hospital. It took seventy stitches to piece him back together. Myrtis boarded on evening flight to Houston; and the next day, still bleeding, he was back on another bull trying to make eight seconds. Myrtis went on to qualify for the National Finals that year and again the following year, but he didn't come close to winning either time. Myrtis said, "When the ground ain't too soft, that's when you know it's time to quit."

Myrtis quest for a gold buckle took on another form. In 1972, he was in Los Angeles for a rodeo where he met a scrawny kid from Watts name Charles Sampson. Myrtis helped Charles Sampson to become The First Black Rodeo World Champion Bull Rider in 1982. In October 1997, Myrtis Dightman was inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame. Today, the 83-year-old rodeo legend resides in Crockett, TX. He rides his horses every day.