

PAGE 3



Dr. Roosevelt Nivens Of Lamar CISD Receives National Superintendent Of The Year Award

PAGE 6



Up Close And Personal - Evangelist Angela Mayberry's Others of The CPCM Spring Tent Revival and Concert



PAGE 7



Celebrate Women's History Month March 2026 - Spotlight On Althea Gibson, Professional Women's Tennis

PAGE 9



Up & Down The Brazos And Beyond With Sis. Sharon Harris

OFFICE #: 281-387-7875 EMAIL ADDRESS: bufordgnm@outlook.com

# the **GOOD NEWS MONTHLY**

"FREE"

Vol. 33, Issue 6

March, 2026

## Community for Christ Ministries

# SPRING TENT REVIVAL & CONCERT

— Theme —

# STILL WATERS RUN DEEP

*"He makes me lie in green pastures, He leads me beside the still waters." Psalm 23:2*

**MARCH 16 - 20, 2026**

(Gates open at 6:00 p.m.)

**CALLING ALL INTERCESSORS @ 6 PM**

**Barbara Jordan Park**

**8705 Park Street Needville, TX**



**MINISTERIAL PRAYER BREAKFAST**  
Maroh 19, 2026  
"Morning Session"  
Guest Speaker:  
Evangelist Rapael Harrison  
"Afternoon Session"  
Guest Speaker:  
Apostle Warren Brown  
**CALLING ALL MINISTERS & OLERGY**  
**PLEASE RSVP**

**SPRING OUTDOOR CONCERT & MUSICAL**  
Maroh 21, 2026  
**CALLING ALL MUSICIANS AND MINISTERS OF MUSIC, CHURCH CHOIRS, PRAISE DANGERS & DIVINELY INSPIRED EXPRESSIONS**  
Calling all vendors - food trucks; fun activities for family and ohildren  
**PLEASE RSVP**

**(BOOTHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR VENDORS - PLEASE RSVP)**



Please Contact  
*Angela Mayberry*  
Via Facebook Messenger  
or Call: 979-618-0376

## SPECIAL GUESTS & EVANGELISTS



Apostle Warren Brown



Bishop Ken Obanor And Johana Obanor



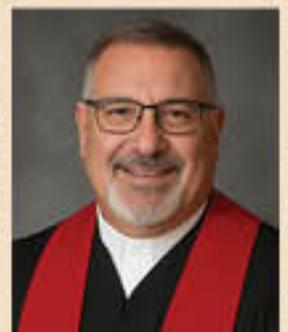
Brother Lee Fletcher



Evangelist Rafael Harrison



Revival - Prophet Richard Harper



Richard McIney

# Level Pro Home Improvement

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Pastor E. Baines. Way to go, level pro!



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# LAMAR CISD SUPERINTENDENT DR. ROOSEVELT NIVENS NAMED 2026 AASA NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Courtesy LCISD.org  
Posted Date: 02/12/26  
(6 PM)



February 12, 2026 - Rosenberg, Texas - Lamar Consolidated Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Roosevelt Nivens has been named the 2026 AASA National Superintendent of the Year. The announcement was made during the National Conference on Education, hosted by AASA, The School Superintendents Association.

The announcement marks the second time in its history the award has gone to a Texas-based superintendent, and the first Texas winner since 2001, when then-Houston ISD Superintendent—and later U.S. Secretary of Education—Rod Paige was awarded the top national honor.

"This is a truly unbelievable moment, and I'm incredibly grateful and humbled," Dr. Nivens said. "When I think of my own journey growing up and the incredible impact that dedicated, passionate educators made in my own life, it makes me thankful every single day that I'm able now to help pay that forward and lead a team in Lamar CISD that's having that same kind of impact on future generations."

Now in its 39th year, the National Superintendent of the Year program is co-sponsored by AASA, Corebridge Financial and Sourcewell, recognizing exceptional superintendents for their outstanding leadership and dedication to advancing public education in their communities.

In December, Dr. Nivens was named one of just four finalists from across the country for the prestigious award, after being named the 2025 Texas Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) in September 2025.

Lamar CISD is currently the fastest-growing district of its size in Texas and has been designated a hypergrowth district

due to the large number of new homes and families moving to the area. This school year, the district serves more than 49,000 students at 57 campuses, with enrollment forecasted to grow to nearly 70,000 within a decade.

"The landscape of public education is evolving, and Lamar CISD is evolving right along with it, leading the way with innovation, integrity, high standards of accountability, and plenty of joy and heart as well," Dr. Nivens said.

"It's an honor to represent and lead Lamar CISD," he continued, "and the reality is that our success is created by the work of so many dedicated, talented people across our district, teachers and staff, parents and community partners, together with our award-winning board of trustees, who play

career as a teacher and coach in Dallas ISD, and served as an assistant principal, principal, and later as Assistant Superintendent of Achievement and Organizational Management in Lancaster ISD.

Lamar CISD Board of Trustees President Jacqui Hotzel, along with other trustees and district leaders, traveled to Nashville this week to support the superintendent and be there for the announcement. Hotzel offered congratulations on behalf of the trustees and thanked Dr. Nivens for his dedicated leadership and bold vision for the district's future.

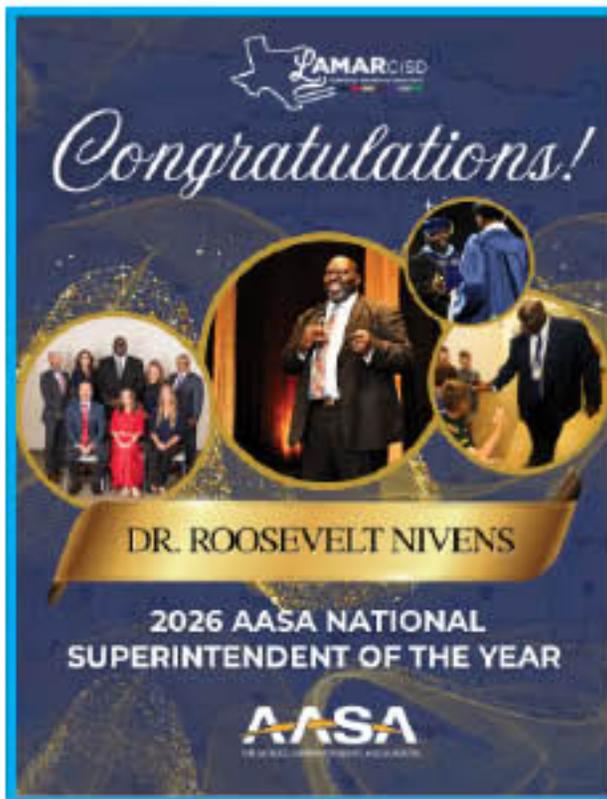
"Dr. Nivens is a superintendent who leads with a servant's heart, but also with the big-thinking mindset necessary for the continued success of our schools and students," Hotzel said.

"Lamar CISD is growing at an amazing rate," Hotzel continued. "Dr. Nivens talks often about the incredible responsibility that comes with that growth, and how important it is to build on the success we've experienced—both for the future of our community and for our students. We're blessed to have him leading our school district, and we're excited to be building Lamar CISD's future together."

For more information about the National Superintendent of the Year program, visit AASA's website.

THE GOOD NEWS MONTHLY extends congratulations to Dr. Roosevelt Nivens on his recognition as the 2026 AASA National Superintendent of the Year. This achievement highlights Dr. Nivens' commitment to fostering success among all students in LAMAR CISD through effective leadership and dedication. We commend him for his ongoing professional contributions to excellence within the school district. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless you and keep you and the district in His loving care!

Sincerely, Rev. Michael D. and Sis. Mable L. Buford, Publishers



such an important role in making our district shine."

Dr. Nivens has served as the Lamar CISD Superintendent since 2021. He also currently serves as President-Elect of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA). Previously, he served as the Superintendent of Schools for Community ISD in a rapidly growing part of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The son of two educators, his public education career is centered around advocating for and supporting the very best educational opportunities for all students. He began his



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# MOTHER ZION

## Missionary Baptist Church

PROUDLY ANNOUNCES

# THE 42<sup>ND</sup>

## *Anniversary Celebration*

For their Pastor,

### Rev. Dr. C. L. Wallace & Wife

Moderator/Pastor C. L. and  
First Lady Alma Wallace  
Annual Anniversary Banquet

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026 @ 6 PM

Pre-Anniversary Celebration

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026 @ 7 PM

Independent Missionary Baptist General Association Night

42nd Anniversary Celebration Climax

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026 @ 2 PM

Guest Speaker & Church: Rev. C. Donnell Wallace, Pastor,  
Nazareth Baptist Church, Rosenberg, TX

The Public is invited to join in the Anniversary Celebration services!

There is much talk about how people who do not want to be held accountable for neither their actions nor the good that happens to or for them as if there is no response needed on their part. Just exactly where has the sense of the simple things in life like common courtesy gone or is it that everyone believes that they are entitled to all the good that happens to them. If that is the case, then many of us are getting the short end of that stick because we were

## LONG-SUFFERING BUT NOT EVER SUFFERING

*Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them...." (Numbers 14:11-12a (NKJV))*

BY APOSTLE E. BURTON

that they will be beholding to you, you may need to check your motives for doing whatever you are doing. At the same time, neither of us are expected to continue to be mistreated or misused; and in some cases, even viewed as someone that can be while continuing to extend acts of kindness and love. There is no harm in admitting this because that is a God like character that many are not aware of. Yes, the Bible tells us that God is longsuffering; meaning that he tolerates our disrespect and continued failure to recognize any of the goodness or love He constantly shows towards every one of us. Yet do not make the mistake in thinking that He is ever suffering, meaning that He will tolerate it forever. If that were the case, there would be no need for the mentioning or existence of Hell in the Bible because everyone is going to Heaven any way, right? Wrong! I know this is not a popular message for some to hear because they believe that a loving God would never correct or better yet judge a person who has committed their life to sin. If you know of someone that thinks like that, let them know they were not ever alone in that thought process. God's chosen people, the nation of Israel, must have had the same mindset based on our text in the book of Numbers for today. Sure, they were God's chosen people because they were direct descendants of Abraham and God told Abraham that He would choose his seed to be His people. The problem is that most only knew what they were told about God and not really met God before Moses introduced Him

to them. That I say is the reason that many even today still do not know God because they also have not truly been introduced to Him. Oh, they may have gone to church, but they still have not personally met Him. The people that the Lord is addressing here in Numbers 14 have been through ten plagues in Egypt that had God's hand all over every one of them. They have already crossed over the Red Sea on dry land and watched



the entire Egyptian army drown in that same sea they just crossed. The Promised Land that they heard stories about from their forefathers God said he would give them got closer that they could taste

it. You would think that this would be enough to be sold on the teaching that God is real and all doubts is now gone forever, especially since you know God has spared you this entire time, right? Wrong! And God is not being petty by reminding them of all that He has done thus far because only He could have done it. The one time that Israel gets to show God that they really trust Him and really appreciate all that He has done by just doing what He asked them to do and that is to go and possess this land. This will be the first time that it takes a bit more effort on their part to believe God because we grow from faith to faith. God has not only been preparing the land to receive the people of Israel, but He was also preparing the people to go into the land and possess it. But amazingly, they would not do it. So, we see here what happens when God's longsuffering runs out and yet He still extends mercy. God even ask Moses the "How long question," even though He already knew what the answer was that they would continue to be like this. Question, if God were to ask you how long will you or I not forsake some sin that He has been preparing us to forsake, what would be your answer? This people of Israel had at least six or seven generations of getting to know their God before they personally met Him; and in our text, God say they still reject Him. So, they leave God no choice but to pass judgement on them because He is the judge of all the earth that is longsuffering but not ever suffering!

## STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER FOR MARCH 2026

WITH SIS. JEANETTE WASHINGTON



Sis. Jeanette Washington

*Pray alone in your prayer closet; pray daily with your husband or wife; have family altar prayer; pray with a brother or sister in Christ Jesus early in the morning/evening; pray with a small prayer group in person or via phone! But pray! Pray! Pray!*

### PSALM 1 (KJV)

- 1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; And in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That bringeth forth his fruit in his season; His leaf also shall not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
- 4 The ungodly are not so: But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.
- 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

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.

## UP CLOSE &amp; PERSONAL

# EVANGELIST ANGELA MAYBERRY

## AND GUEST EVANGELISTS FOR THE COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST MINISTRIES SPRING TENT REVIVAL & CONCERT

EVANGELIST ANGELA  
MAYBERRY

EVANGELIST ANGELA MAYBERRY'S journey of faith and ministry began at age 11, when she first experienced what she describes as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. While playing church outside with other children, she expressed a desire to her mother, "they won't let me preach", a foreshadowing of her future path. Growing up as the youngest child of Oscar and Myrtle Mayberry, who were deeply involved in ministry and in building the edifice known as Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church, left a powerful legacy.

Angela felt a strong calling to pursue her own spiritual mission. After hearing the voice of God say, "Go to a land I will show you." Gen 12:1 Throughout her adult life, Angela sought to fulfill her unique calling, inspired by Jesus' teachings in John 14:12, particularly the promise of greater works. A direct descendant of four generations of ministry roles—including bishops, pastors, ministers, evangelists, and missionaries—Angela began her own work in grassroots ministry at the age of 13. This path led her to leave Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church and to collaborate with eleven others to Reflections of Christ Kingdom (The ROCK) with Dr. Dana Canson in 1999. As her mother's health declined in 1993 and continued to decline, Angela shifted her focus to local ministries, joining Greater New Baptist Church under Senior Pastor Arthur L. Edwards. This move provided her with essential support for her personal growth and for her two children, Jarvis and Kwana. Following their graduation from high school, she partnered with Pastor Pandora Lattie at House Fellowship Church, where she contributed to defining spiritual insights and gifts, helping to lay the foundation for what would become the Burning Bush Encounter. In pursuit of a deeper understanding of spiritual warfare, Angela joined Victory Life Church International under Bishop and Pastor Ken and Johana Obanor, where she experienced the emergence of the SEERs anointing. She later collaborated with Apostle and Prophetess Carl and Janice Harris as they began their ministry in their home. The Assembly of the Saints of God Ministry now serves both local and international communities. Post-COVID, Angela continued her quest for spiritual knowledge and personal deliverance, ultimately finding her place at Alpha & Omega International Ministry of Faith under Pastor and Apostle Solomon and Esther Agiri. God graced me as a teacher and author of children's literature, a scribe's anointing, and others, which

are yet to be realized. There, she gained significant insights into spiritual warfare and received further spiritual discoveries designed to help liberate individuals from the challenges of wickedness, as referenced in Ephesians 6:12. In 1998, Angela received a divine inspiration to establish Community for Christ Ministries, a name she has cherished for over 25 years. After years of preparation and personal growth, she was ordained as an Evangelist under Pastor Pandora Lattie and began conducting tent revivals in 2016 while attending GNPBC. Embracing the belief that your pulpit is where you stand, Angela sees herself as a broken vessel, shaped by grace and mercy. Dedicated to fulfilling her ordained purpose under the authority of the Almighty God. To this day, every step of the journey has contributed to thriving ministries in which she has played significant, groundbreaking roles, serving as a driving force recognized in the Kingdom of God. Community for Christ Ministries is more than just a ministry; it is a mission to guide others toward the glory of Almighty God, one soul at a time.

PASTOR RICHARD MCILNAY has been a third-generation Methodist minister, currently serving Needville Global Methodist Church, which is renowned as the friendliest church in Needville, for the past two years. His journey to the ministry began later in life, following a stint in the military. He earned his degree from Midwestern State

University in Wichita Falls. Pastor McIlnay has been married for 17 years to his second wife, Charlotte, whom he describes as a tremendous blessing in his life, contributing positively both personally and spiritually. He views himself as an imperfect vessel, humbled by the grace of God, dedicated to teaching and administering the Word of God. His commitment extends to serving those who seek righteousness and to performing essential doctrinal services, including the Holy Sacraments, while overseeing the church's administration. He expresses gratitude for the blessings he has received from God throughout his journey.

APOSTLE WARREN E. BROWN JR. serves as an Associate Apostle at Victory Life International Church. He is dedicated to fulfilling God's mission within the kingdom and possesses governmental authority. Additionally, he provides insights and guidance through extra-biblical revelation to help strengthen faith. Once called, always called, God has shifted Warren into the role of wise counsel and teacher.

Exposing the multifaceted gifts and anointing of the Holy Spirit to enrich and impart upon the many generations to come.

RAPHAEL HARRISON: Marine veteran, kingdom warrior, evangelist, didactic teacher, and humble servant. Currently serves as Associate Pastor at Victory Life International Church. Through the many battles both won and lost, his faith has forged a path for many who, as leaders and teachers, empower others to find Jesus Christ.

BROTHER LEO FLETCHER is a dedicated servant committed to winning souls for the kingdom of God by guiding individuals from darkness into the light of Jesus Christ. He embraced his divine calling at an early age, which has led him to serve as an evangelist across the country. His ministry includes administering baptisms, conducting nuptial ceremonies, officiating funerals, and providing various other ministerial services. Over the past 20 years, Brother Leo's journey has been blessed by the grace of God, accompanied by his wife, Ingris (Dee), who has faithfully co-labored with him in this spiritual mission. BISHOP KEN OBANOR. From youth, one is called to a purpose of becoming a forerunner of Christ for his family and community. Born in Nigeria, Africa, he began his official ministry as a military chaplain and, through that experience, began to navigate a path toward a renewed walk with God. From the school grounds in Africa to Europe and America, he has become an ambassador for Christ. As the founder and senior pastor, ordained to the office of Bishop, and as an overseer of multiple churches in other countries, the founder of Victory Life Church International is a testimony to the truth that, "One Word From God Can Change Your Life." He has been assigned to the task of nurturing not only the spirit of the man but also the natural. For more than eight years, disregarding the four seasons, his ministry has faithfully served over three million families and households throughout this region. This success would not have been possible without his devoted wife and partner, co-pastor, Johana, who also braved the treacherous journey of life, leading from the soils of Europe. She stands firmly by his side, and together they have four children. Anchored in grace and mercy, their bold faith grows as they continually speak God's word to the nations.

### Mt. Olive Baptist Church Mission Workshop

Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 2026 @ 9:30 am

Place: Mt. Olive BC  
325 Olive St. El Campo Tx, 77437

You are El Roi "The God Who Sees" -Genesis 16:13  
Rejected But Not Abandoned  
We Present: Hagar's Story

### Guest Speakers :

Lady Tina Banks  
Center Union B.C.  
Wharton Tx.Min. Ester Cooper  
Prairie View Baptist church  
San Felipe Tx.Lady Sharon  
Booker  
Little Zion BC  
Kendleton, Tx.Min. Nicole Taylor  
New Faith  
Community Church  
Wharton Tx.

Registration fee of \$10 beginning at 9:00 Am.



### ST. STEPHENS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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SUNDAY, APRIL 12th | 10:00AM

Guest Pastor  
Michael Ellison  
Zion Hill MBCPastor  
Corey D. Gardner, M. Div.

1213 BAILEY STREET, WHARTON, TX 77488

CELEBRATION OF

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2026

February 25, 2026 Press Release  
Number: CB26-FF.03 Share



ALTHEA GIBSON GIBSON IN 1956

Women's History Month honors the successes and sacrifices of U.S. women. It dates to March 8, 1857, when hundreds of women from New York City garment and textile factories rallied to protest harsh working conditions. In 1909, New York City became the site of the nation's first Women's Day celebration, a year after 15,000 women there marched to demand shorter working hours, better pay, an end to child labor and the right to vote. More than seven decades later, in 1981, Congress set aside the second week of March as Women's History Week. Six years later, Congress expanded the week to a month. As we celebrate Women's History Month, we reflect upon the advances women have made, including increased earnings, educational attainment and job opportunities.

The following facts are possible thanks to the invaluable responses to U.S. Census Bureau surveys. We appreciate the public's cooperation as we measure America's people, places and economy.

172 million - The number of women in the United States as of July 1, 2024. There were about 168 million men in the United States as of the same date.

Source: 4.0 million - The number of women age 85 and over in the United States as of July 1, 2024. There were about 2.4 million men this age as of the same date.

Source: • Vintage 2024 Population Estimates 83.7 million - The number of women age 16 and older who participated in the civilian labor force in 2024. This comprises 59.5% of women in this age group.

Source: • 2024 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates 80.9%

Women's median earnings as a percentage of men's median earnings for full-time, year-round workers age 15 and older in 2024.

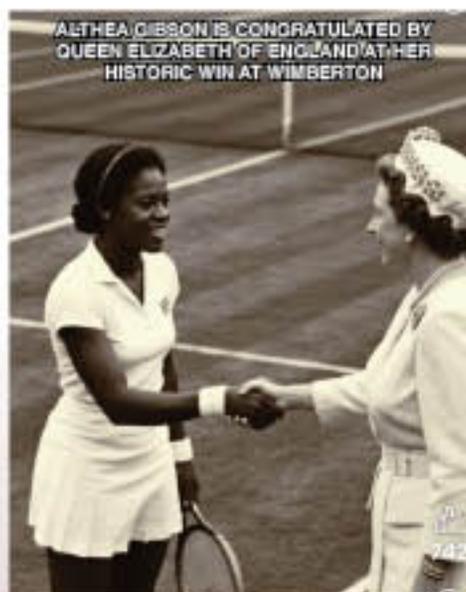
Source: 2026 THEME--"Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future" expands our understanding of sustainability beyond just environmental



concerns. It encompasses financial sustainability, community resilience, leadership succession, and intergenerational equity. Whether developing green technologies, advancing economic justice, strengthening education systems, or building civic power – women are designing blueprints for sustainable transformation. This theme affirms that shaping a sustainable future means fostering systems that support both people and the planet.

### GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Honor: Celebrate the diverse contributions of women who are leading sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational, and social justice movements.
- Educate: Raise awareness about the important historical and contemporary roles of women in shaping sustainable change.
- Inspire: Empower individuals and institutions on how to take action toward sustainability, equity, and justice in their own spheres of influence.
- Connect: Build bridges across generations, geographies, and disciplines to foster collaboration, mentorship, and shared learning.
- Envision: Encourage a long-term vision for our future where women's leadership



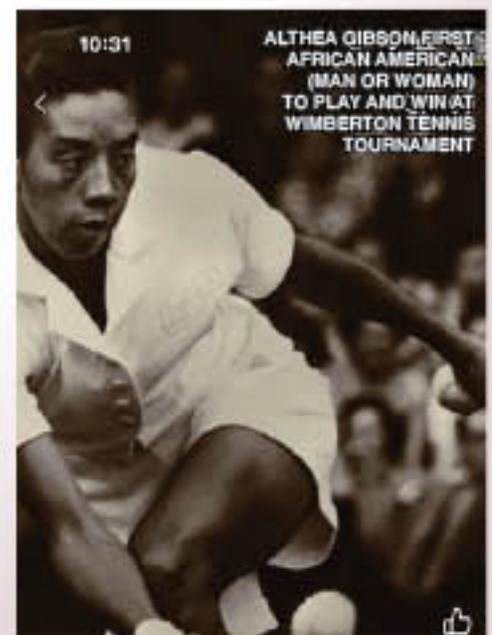
is central to thriving communities and a healthy planet.

FOCUS ON THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN OF WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL TENNIS—ALTHEA GIBSON (the Jackie Robison of Women's Professional Sports)

Althea Gibson From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Althea Neale Gibson (August 25, 1927 – September 28, 2003) was an American tennis player and professional golfer, and one of the first Black athletes to cross the color line of international tennis. In 1956, she became the first Black player to win a Grand Slam event (the French Open).[4] The following year she won both Wimbledon and the US Nationals (precursor of the US Open), then won both again in 1958 and was voted Female Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press in both years. In all, she won 11 Grand Slam titles: five singles titles, five doubles titles, and one mixed doubles title.[5] "She is one of the greatest players who ever lived," said Bob Ryland, a tennis contemporary and former coach of Venus and Serena Williams. "Martina [Navratilova] couldn't touch her. I think she'd beat the Williams sisters." [6] Gibson was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1971 [7] and the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame in 1980. [8] In the early 1960s, she also became the first Black player to compete in the Ladies Professional Golf Association.

At a time when racism and prejudice were widespread in sports and in society, Gibson was often compared to Jackie Robinson. "Her road to success was a challenging one," said Billie Jean King "but I never saw her back down." [9] "To anyone, she was an inspiration, because of what she was able to do at a time when it was enormously difficult to play tennis at all if you were Black." said former New York City Mayor David Dinkins. [10] "I am honored to have followed in such great footsteps," wrote Venus Williams. "Her accomplishments set the stage for my success, and through players like myself and Serena and many others to come, her legacy will live on." [11]



# THE INDEPENDENT MISSIONARY BAPTIST GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

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## IMBGA MARCH BOARD 2026

**PRAYER - FELLOWSHIP - TEACHING - PREACHING**

**9:30 AM DAILY WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY MORNINGS  
MARCH 25TH, 26TH, AND 27TH**

**GREATER NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
6538 N Martin Luther King, Avenue Hitchcock, TX 77563  
Rev. Thaddeus Brown, Host/Pastor Phone: 409-986-9888**

ASSOCIATION THEME: ***"Contending for the Covenant: The Battle for Biblical Truth"***  
(Deuteronomy 4:2; Ezekiel 3:17; Acts 20:27; Jude 1:3 (KJV))



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  
Forth 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

Stan Harris  
Brotherhood President

Rev. Corey Gardner  
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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  
Bibleboard President

# The Queen

*She was born to be*

By: Michael D Buford *African-American Women and their Crowns*



Many years ago, when their day was determined by the fear of the black snake, the four-letter word--"sold," and the nightly, threatening howling of the four-legged beasts; a sisterhood arose early each Sunday morning, instinctively remembering the days in a far away country where their position was that of royalty, wealth, honor, and prestige. On this day, the Lord's Day, the first day of the week; freshly washed clothes perfumed by the fragrance of country flowers were neatly ironed and adorned by these beautiful statuettes of strength, quiet dignity, and virtue. And so, with words expressed boldly in her heart but spoken in a whisper across her lips; she says, "...even though I am a servant, and even though I can't read or write, and even though my life, my man's life, or even my children's lives do not belong to me; I am still a queen! I have a proud heritage, I have royal blood flowing in my veins; I am a woman created by Almighty God and in His image; I was born to wear a crown! With these thoughts deeply ingrained in her heart by her mother, and her mother's mother, she slowly puts on her self-made crown; that beautiful, straw laden hat bursting with brilliant colors from ribbons and bows and softly, textured lace. And as she enters that old church house at the top of the hill, her head is held up high as she quietly walks down the aisle beside her husband, her earthly

lord; with the little prince and the little princess she has also adorned in their Sunday best clutching their hands. Her presence demands a stare from the pulpit to the congregation; one of admiration for her and her family and even pride for the onlookers; because all who gaze at her, see her and their mothers as, "the queen she was born to be!"

As you can see, the tradition of African-American women adorning themselves with hats on Sunday morning started back during slavery times and has continued into the 21st century. This tradition, rooted in the teaching of the Apostle Paul in First Corinthians, 11th chapter, to have their heads covered during worship, demonstrated honor and fear of the Lord, God Almighty. Also, from its beginning, the freedom, the independence, and the creative expression illustrated by wearing these hats or "crowns," have identified the timeless bond of unity of black women of all shades, physiques, intelligence, social standing, and spirituality have had throughout history. It has also served as a glue to strengthen the remembrance of a painful, yet impactful past on the building of this country insuring that the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated will always remain in that "sisterhood of black women wearing their crowns as the queens they were born to be."



This feature courtesy of

*Lily's Boutique*  
11159 Fondren Rd. Houston, TX, 77096 • 713-270-9200  
In Honor of Black History Month

*"Spring, Easter, and Mother's Day is right around the corner. Lily's Boutique is the place to find your fashionable hats and fascinators."*

# Up and Down The Brazos and Beyond

with Sis. Sharon Harris

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEATURING GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING ARTIST

**THE WILDFMS**  
*Tony Williams*

★ COWBOY CONCERT ★  
A RODEO REVIVAL

MAY 22 • 3:30PM  
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum  
Oklahoma City, OK

196-1

**COACH OF THE YEAR**  
*Coach of the Year*

**SHALESIA PIERCE**

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF OUR BELIEVED  
**Dwayne Edward Gray**

Sat. March 14, 2026

Service to be held at  
**Friendship Community Bible Church**  
420 Wood Street, Sugarland Tx 77498

Viewing 10a-12p  
Service 12p

Funeral Services by Reeds and Family Services  
2922 1st Street, Rosenberg Tx 77471

**ST. PAUL MBC**

BROOKSHIRE, TX  
REV. LEE JONES, JR., PASTOR

**ANNOUNCES**

DEACON AND DEACONESS ANNUAL DAY @ 2:30 PM  
GUEST SPEAKER: CHRIS CARTER, Pastor of The True Vine BC, Liberty, TX

MARCH 22ND, MUSICIAN ANNUAL DAY @ 11 AM  
GUEST SPEAKER: REV. LEE NELSON JONES, Pastor of Zion MBC

**2nd Corinth MBC, Hempstead, TX, Dr. Clarence Talley, Sr., Pastor**  
WILL OBSERVE

**Senior Saints Day**

Guest Speaker Will Be Rev. Charles Charleston, Pastor, 2nd Corinth Bc, Heavenly Hempstead, Tx

At "The Mount" Located 806 7th Street, Heavenly Hempstead, Tx.

Theme: "If You Get There Before I Do," (Scripture: Revelation 21, John 14: 3)

**MOTHER ZION MBC, WHARTON, TX, REV. DR. C. L. WALLACE, PASTOR**

March 15th - Mission Program @ 2:30 PM  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Roy Harris, Pastor of Mt. Calvary BC, Wharton, TX

March 28th - Pastor C. L. Wallace Anniversary Banquet,  
Guest Speaker: Rev. F. M. Williams, II, Pastor, Antioch BC, Houston, TX

**MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH**

**COUSINS, CAMO & CUPCAKES**

BEAR YOUR CAMO, BRING YOUR COUSINS, WE GOT THE CUPCAKES!!!

MARCH 22nd 9:15 AM

"WHERE MY COUSINS AT??? LET'S GO TO WORSHIP TOGETHER!!"

THEME: "WE ARE FAMILY" "Cousin Style"  
806 JONES RIVER RD. BOOTH TEXAS 77182

DR. LARRY D. BLACKBURN, III  
Lead Servant/Senior Pastor

OFFICIAL APPAREL BY "THE MOUNT DIVINE DRESS"

**Pastor Elect**  
GARY W. HIGGINS, II

JOIN US SUNDAYS STARTING MARCH 8, 2026

NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH  
17123 FM 442 | NEEDVILLE, TX  
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 AM

**ST. STEPHENS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

"The Church That Breaks Down Barriers"

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL DAY**

SUNDAY, APRIL 12th | 10:00AM

Guest Pastor  
Michael Ellison  
Zion Hill MBC

Pastor  
Corey D. Gardner, M. Div.

1213 BAILEY STREET, WHARTON, TX 77488



# Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards 2026 Award Winners

## TEXAS WINNERS

CATEGORY	CITY	WINNER
Male Soloist of the Year	Houston	Female Soloist of the Year
Group of the Year	Anderson	Jacqueline Calhoun
Male Quartet Group of the Year	Navasota	Mighty Sincere Voices
Female Quartet Group of the Year	Bryan	Twins & Bryan
Youth/Young Adult Artist of the Year	Bryan	Jah Jah Willis
Gospel Rap Artist of the Year	Houston	Greg "Puntin Cooks"
Inspirational Artist of the Year	Bryan	James Roberson Jr
New Artist of the Year	Bryan	Devon Cooks
Community Choir of the Year	Houston	Houston Mass Choir
Church Choir of the Year	Bryan	New Zion Baptist Church
Church Choir Director of the Year	Bryan	Downie Nelson Jr.
Praise Dance/Mime Artist of the Year	Bryan	Joshua Thorton
Praise Dance/Mime Director of the Year	Bryan	Bethany Jones
Gospel Musician of the Year	Bryan	Downie Nelson Jr.
Gospel Producer of the Year	Bryan	James Roberson Jr.
Gospel Announcer of the Year	Bryan	Gloria Cooks
Gospel Radio Station of the Year	Bryan	KEOS 88.1 FM
Gospel Play of the Year (Producer)	Bryan	Quinton Samuel
Video/Short Film of the Year	Bryan	Just Twynz Ft. Puntin

## NATIONAL WINNERS

CATEGORY	CITY	WINNER
Male Soloist of the Year	San Jose, CA	Zee
Female Soloist of the Year	Tampa, FL	Phyllis Wong
Mixed Group/Duo of the Year	Beaufort, SC	Trinity One Sounds
Male Group of the Year	Detroit, MI	Walter Steen & Blessed
Female Group of the Year	Jersey City, NJ	Bre Holly & Faithful
Male Quartet of the Year	Spartaburg, SC	Carolina Boys
Female Quartet of the Year	Cowpens, SC	Voices of Harmony
Youth & Young Adult of the Year	West Hempstead, NY	Janessa Smith
Rap/Hip Hop Artist of the Year	Birmingham, AL	Preacha Boi
Praise & Worship Artist of the Year	Beaufort, SC	Trinity One Sounds
Inspirational Artist of the Year	Chicago, IL	Walter Butts
Instrumental Artist of the Year	Newport News, VA	Reggie Grantham
New Artist of the Year	Birmingham, AL	Preacha Boi
Community Choir of the Year	Birmingham, AL	Bryant Woods & Voices of Victory
Church Choir of the Year	Shreveport, LA	Bright Star Baptist
Choir Director of the Year	Birmingham, AL	Jeremy Hill
Gospel Announcer of the Year	Birmingham, AL	Robert Barnes
Promoter of the Year	Huntsville, TX	Jimmy Spivey
Radio Station of the Year	Tallahassee, FL	Heaven 98.3 FM
Internet Radio Station of the Year	Los Angeles, CA	Decree Radio
Producer of the Year	Memphis, TN	Johnny Tate
Gospel Play of the Year (Producer)	Norfolk, VA	Sharon Davidson Cook
Gospel Video/Short Film of the Year	Detroit, MI	Detroit Youth Choir

## INTERNATIONAL WINNERS

Category	Country	Winner
Male Soloist of the Year	South Africa	Xolani Mdlalose
Female Soloist of the Year	New York, USA	Sista Richness
Gospel Announcer of the Year	South Africa	Sibuyisiwe Zondi

## LIVING LEGENDS

Category	City	Recipient
Living Legend	Houston, TX	Claudette Fowler
Living Legend	Greenville, TX	Carolyn Traylor
Living Legend	Dallas, TX	Tommye Young West
Living Legend	Galveston, TX	Lillie Wynne Williams
Living Legend	Smoak, SC	Doretha Brown Winbush

## TRAIL BLAZERS

Category	City	Recipient
Trail Blazer	Detroit, MI	Sherry Nunn Berry
Trail Blazer	Atlanta, GA	James Birdsong
Trail Blazer	Houston, TX	Rayshod Caldwell
Trail Blazer	Galveston, TX	John Cook
Trail Blazer	Houston, TX	Claudell Bradby

## TORCH BEARERS

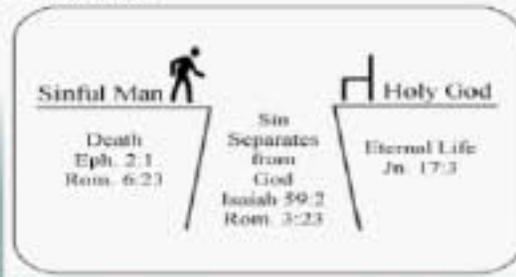
Category	City	Recipient
Torch Bearer	Dallas, TX	Fitzgerald Davis
Torch Bearer	Houston, TX	Dr. Bridgett Hill
Torch Bearer	Houston, TX	Treva Jones
Torch Bearer	Corpus Christi, TX	Kirk D Logan
Torch Bearer	Houston, TX	Quinten Simon
Torch Bearer	Huntsville, TX	Jimmy Spivey

## BRUCE LINSOMB AWARD

Category	City	Recipient
Bruce Linscomb	Houston, TX	Michael Burns

**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.

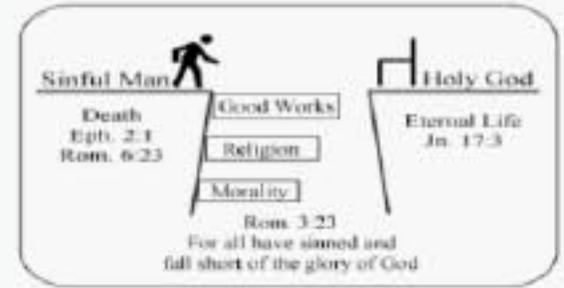


Habakkuk 1:13a You are too just to tolerate evil; you are unable to condone wrongdoing.

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.

**“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 AM  
 Sunday Worship Service ..11 AM  
 Wednesday Bible Study ... 7 PM

**LIVELY HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 33303 Ashe Rd. Simonsen, TX 77476  
 P.O. Box 96 Palshear, 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. Donnell Walker

Sunday School ..... 9:30 AM  
 Virtual Sunday School ..... 10 AM  
 join at <http://tmd.me/G9YHue5kuFv>  
 Sunday Worship Service ..... 11 AM  
 Virtual Sunday Worship Service ..11AM  
 join at <http://tmd.me/G9YHue5kuFv>  
 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 Malibu L. Buford

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**  
 Sunday School (1st/2nd Sun.) ..... 1 PM  
 Sunday Worship ..... 1:30 PM

All services held at New Hope Fellowship located at:  
 1130 Seventh St., Rosenberg, TX

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

Call the number and be connected!  
 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. J. Dewayne Sr., Pastor  
 Elise J. D. Dewayne, Assistant Pastor

**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., Pastor

**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.m-oc.com • Email: j.taylor7301@gmail.com



Rev. J. D. Taylor, Pastor

Our Mission Statement: "To equip the church (to be bold of Christ) for the work of Ministry, under the Mission of Salvation to Redeem the Creation of God."

**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 (on Sunday) 10 am  
 Brotherhood (on 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



Apostle Edmund Burton, Pastor  
 Minister Michele Burton, First Lady

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

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

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

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**  
 Sunday School ..... 9 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10 AM  
 Wednesday Bible Study ..  
 ..... 7:30 PM

**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, Pastor

**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  
 BTU 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 "Pleasant 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 @ <http://www.facebook.com/NewmanChapelUMC>  
 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. Matthew Jones

What is significant to me is not just that Peter was personally invited to stay in the fellowship of the disciples, but that Peter accepted. And invitation, after all, is no good unless it is accepted. We know that the invitation was good and that Peter did not allow his shame to keep him away from the disciples, because that very evening of the first resurrection in Luke's Gospel we are told that two of the disciples were walking from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus, which was a few miles outside of the city. Jesus started walking with them, but they did not recognize their Lord, and as he joined their conversation beginning with Moses and the prophets, he began to teach them the things about himself found in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village, Jesus walked on ahead as if he was going on, but they urged him to stay with them for the evening. When they were at the table, Jesus broke bread, blessed it, and gave it to them.

When they saw him breaking bread at the table, their eyes were opened and they recognized him. They reflected for a moment how their hearts had been burning as Jesus talked with them on the road and opened the Scriptures unto them. Then in that same hour they returned to Jerusalem, and when they found their fellow disciples gathered, they gave them the news: "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon (Peter)!" Evidently Simon Peter had moved beyond his shame because when the Lord appeared to him, he was in fellowship with the other believers.

Whoever you are and whatever your name is, you have a personal invitation from Jesus to grow beyond where you are. Whatever your background, whatever your past, no matter what mistakes you have made, hearts you have broken, hurt you have caused, or persons you have disappointed, you have a personal invitation from Jesus to grow beyond what you are. However you are

dressed, whatever your present circumstances, whatever your gender or race, you have a personal invitation from Jesus to grow beyond where you are. However well you may be doing right now, you can be doing better. Whatever accomplishments you have already achieved, I tell

## Don't Let Anything Stop Your Growth

PART 3

by Rev. Matthew Jones

Scripture References: St. Mark 16:1-7; St. Luke 24:28-35)

you that you can still accomplish more with Jesus than you can accomplish on your own.

You, like Peter, have a personal invitation from Jesus to grow beyond where you are. Whoever you are, the Lord has sent me here with a message just for you that says, "Tell the church assembled and Peter and Mary and John and Richard and William and Joan and Lisa and Helen and Robert and Rasheed and Lou and Theresa that I have risen from the dead and that I have gone ahead in glory to prepare a place for them! But if they reach out to me as their Savior and follow my Word, they will know me as their friend and Lord. When they call, I will answer. When they stumble, I will catch them. When they fall, I will pick them up. When they get dirty, I will clean them up. When their way is blocked, I will make a way for them. When they cry, I will comfort them. When they have needs, I will bless them. Tell the church assembled - Erika and Matt and Deloris and Kenny and Latifah and

James and Roscoe - that they matter to me, that I love them and that I want them to grow beyond what they see for themselves, I want them to grow in new ways for God's glory.

My heartfelt counsel to you today, whoever you are and whatever your name, is not to let anything stop your growth. Peter did not let his shame stop him from growing. Do not let your shame stand in the way of your growth. I suspect there are many people who are letting shame keep them away from the church and from the Lord's gracious invitation to grow. So, you made a mistake. Who doesn't and who has not? So, you made a fool out of yourself. Who doesn't and who has not? So, you let some people down, disappointed some people, hurt some people along the way. Who doesn't and who has not? So, you disgraced yourself at some point. Who doesn't and who has not? Everybody has a closet that says on the door, "Please, please do not open," because of what is hidden inside. Do not let your shame stand in the way of your growth.

Closely related to shame is pride and ego. Some of us are overly concerned about what other people will think or say if we show up or come to the Lord. We do not want to have to confront certain people. We are too stubborn to admit that we are wrong, and we are too proud to apologize. I shudder to think of the relationships that have ended because of pride. How many of us are drowning in trouble and addictions because we are too proud to admit that we need help?

How many of us are quenching the Spirit of the Lord because we are too proud and too concerned about what others might think or say if we openly praise the Lord? We forget that the people we are trying to impress have no hell to put us in and no heaven to take us to. We forget that many of the people we are trying to impress are far from perfect themselves and that many of them are worse off than we are. So why are we trying so hard to impress them? Why do we need their judgment to validate us? Do not let pride and concern about the opinions and judgments of others stand in the way of your growth.



# THE COMMUNITY OF Beloved Disciples

MARCH, 2026 SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

- April 7th Believe in the Resurrection 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 20-22
- April 14th Love One Another ..... 1 John 3: 11-24
- April 21st Trust in God's Love ..... 1 John 4: 13-5:5
- April 28th Watch Out for Deceivers ..... 2 John
- May 5th Work Together for the Truth ..... 3 John

**BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION**

**DEVOTIONAL READING: JOHN 11: 20 - 27**

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1 - 22**

1 Corinthians 15: 1 - 11, 20 - 22

1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve.

6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed. 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

**KEY VERSE:** "As in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." (1 Corinthians 15:22)

# The RECIPE Corner



with Sis.  
Emma Samuels

## EASTER EGG SALAD

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 3-oz. package of gelatin (any flavor)
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- Lettuce
- ½ c. chopped celery and carrots
- 12 egg shells
- Mayonnaise

Mix gelatin according to package instructions. Add lemon juice and vegetables; stir. Using raw eggs, break shells carefully, so just the tip is broken when egg is removed. Dry shells, pour fruit salad into opening. Cover hole with cellophane, sit into muffin cups. Chill until the gelatin is firm. Break egg shell, place on lettuce, and top with mayonnaise

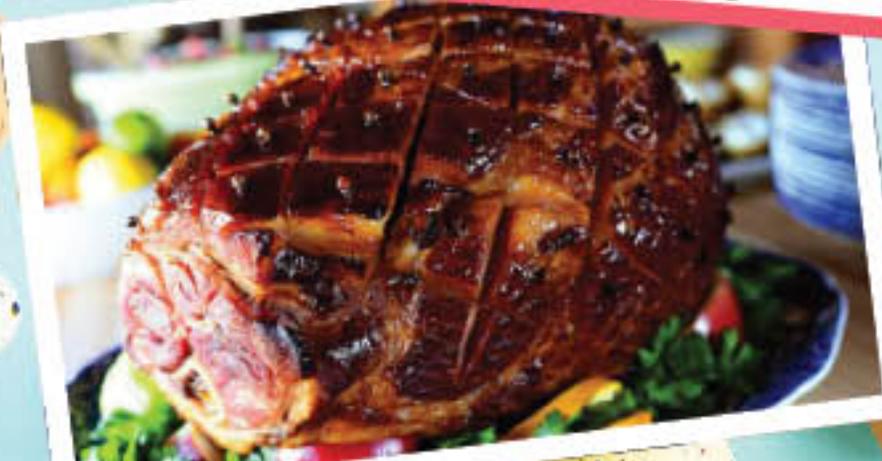


## EASTER HAM

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 fully cooked smoked ham shank
- 1 c. maple syrup
- 2 Tbsp cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp prepared mustard
- whole cloves

Combine syrup, vinegar and mustard. Place ham, fat side up, on rack in roasting pan. Pour ½ c. mixture over ham and bake, uncovered, in a preheated 325° oven for 1½ hours. Baste every 30 minutes with additional sauce. Remove ham from oven and score fat into diamond shapes. Insert a clove into each diamond. Bake ham an additional 30 minutes or until a meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of meat registers 140 degrees. Let ham rest 15 minutes before carving.



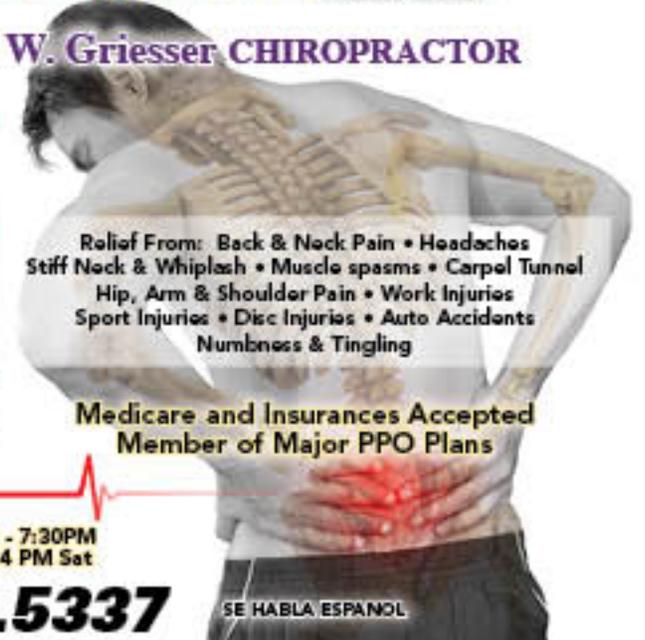
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the GOOD NEWS MONTHLY



## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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## RITA MORGAN MILLER



Rita Morgan was born on March 5, 1953, in Galveston, Texas, the daughter of Fletcher and Alice Morgan. Rita grew up in Thompsons, Texas, and attended Lamar Consolidated High School. Rita met her husband, Clyde Miller while attending Lamar. They later married, and raised three daughters in Thompsons, Texas. In her early years, Rita Miller planned special activities for the children in the neighborhood. She organized aerobics at the city fire department and Hallelujah Night at Mt. Pilgrim. For more than 30 years, Rita served as Program Director of the Butterfly Project Inc. She helped guide teenage girls toward positive life

choices. She exposed them to new experiences through community service, college tours, travel opportunities, and the organization's annual empowerment conference. Many of these young women earned college degrees, built successful careers, and later returned as mentors. Rita Miller played an important role in having Fletcher

Morgan Jr. Elementary named in her father's honor. Rita devoted countless hours volunteering on Fletcher Morgan Jr. Elementary campus, and she served as the keynote speaker for the 5th grade graduation each year after the school opened.

Rita Miller served at the Texas Agrilife Extension Service-Expanded Nutrition Program in Richmond, Texas. In 1977, Rita also served in the role of Alderman on the Thompsons City Council from 1979 to 2019. Rita Miller was instrumental in the development of the town's city hall and community center. One of her favorite quotes was, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Rita Miller joined the County Clerk's Office as the Lead Criminal Clerk. In 1993, she became a Probate Auditor for the County Court at Law No. 1 and No. 2 judges. At the time of her retirement, she had served Fort Bend County for 35 years. After her retirement, Rita was a member of the Fort Bend Optimist Club and she served as a grand juror for Fort Bend County. Rita Miller served at Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church before joining Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Sugar Land, Texas, in 2002. At Friendship, she was a devoted member of the Women's Choir, the Education Committee, the Care & Concern Committee, and the Pastor's Anniversary Committee. She enjoyed planning church events, and she was appointed a Trustee. On Sunday, February 8, 2026, Rita Morgan Miller passed away.

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**PRESS RELEASE:**

## HERE COMES LARRY CALLIES, STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

**BY LARRY CALLIES** (SECOND REVISED EDITION)

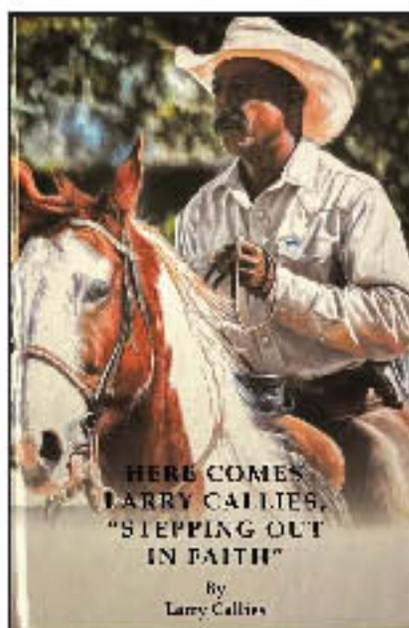
ROSENBERG, TX — HERE COMES LARRY CALLIES, STEPPING OUT IN FAITH is the biographical story of Larry Callies in his own words, he dreamt from the age of ten of becoming a Cowboy; and his spiritual journey as man of color to the founding of the First Museum honoring the long history of the Black Cowboy Heritage. (This is a second, updated edition of his book including additional chapters with stories and pictures of the life of Larry Callies.)

Born in El Campo, Texas in 1952, Larry Callies' life begins as the veil of the Segregation Era was lifted, and the unregulated racial divide offered scant opportunities with harsh limitations and constant strife with the rise of civil rights and Black empowerment.

This must-read story shares insight into Larry's unshakeable grit, unrelenting compassion, unbending stubbornness, and unmistakable kindness which Larry cultivated while growing up in a segregated Southeast Texas over three decades on ranches, singing Country Western songs at the then segregated Gilley's Nightclub with Gilley's all white band, and life-risking bull penning jobs.

Together, the reader will experience Larry's dream unfolding and take on different shapes through the influences in his life from his Cowboy Father, his Christian Mother, and Famous Cousins to Community Members, Famous Singers, to his eventual tragedy when Larry was diagnosed with Vocal Dysphonia and ultimately ending his budding singing career. In his second edition, Larry presents

additional information about his musical journey as a singing cowboy in Southeast Texas. He also shares some compelling historical information regarding,



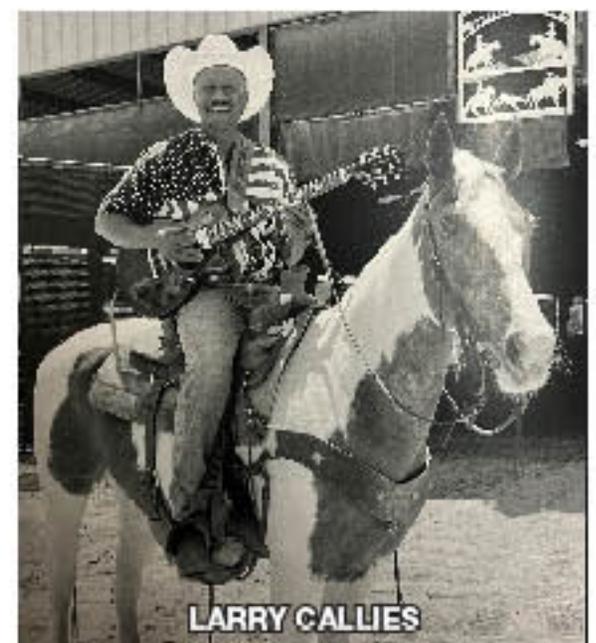
"The Origin of the Western Cowboy Began in Africa;" "The Yellow Rose of Texas, Santa Anna, The Alamo, and the Battle of San Jacinto;" and "The Beginning of the Rodeo and Horse Racing." Larry's greatest success came when he accepted, his now famous quote, "I am a Christian first,

and a Cowboy second." HERE COMES LARRY CALLIES, STEPPING OUT IN FAITH, shares how dreams can transform from a vision into reality with faith, when one door closes, God will offer another path of opportunity.

About the Black Cowboy Museum: Founded by Larry Callies, the museum preserves the legacy and offers a wider celebration to understanding

the hidden story behind Black Cowboys and their integral role in the Western Expansion in the ever-transitioning frontier through historical photos, memorabilia, books, newspapers and more. Daily tours are available. More information can be found at [www.blackcowboymuseum.com](http://www.blackcowboymuseum.com).

About Larry Callies: Larry is a professional cowboy, singer, writer, and museum curator and is available for inspirational speaking engagements. For more information call Larry at 281-787-3308 or email [lcallies@gmail.com](mailto:lcallies@gmail.com).



LARRY CALLIES