

THE Anchor News

The 2015 Pearls Edition

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Free



Mayra Vargas to co-host event, An Evening Anchored in Pearls

She is a wife, mother, minister and business owner. Mayra Vargas, a native Wacoan, is married to Gustavo Vargas. They have three boys, Adan Vargas 12, Isaac Vargas 9 and Noah Vargas 3. Vargas, along with educator and children's author, Mary Evans, will co-emcee the Anchor News event, An Evening Anchored in Pearls event planned for May 16th, 6:00 at the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum. The hosts, Anchor News owners, J.L. and Linda Crawford, will honor 20 area first ladies.

Vargas began her journey as a radio DJ in 2004 when she started making small recordings for commercials. Gradually becoming a DJ, she served at Radio La Poderosa 100.7 F.M. a Hispanic Christian radio station, now 11 years-old and still going strong. It reaches



MAYRA VARGAS

many people in the McLennan County and surrounding areas. She continues to serve as an active DJ on Radiothon events, special concert promotions, and occasionally as a general DJ.

Vargas has been a member at First Spanish Assembly of God Church with Pastors Frank and Evangeline Alvarado since 2004 as well. She served in the church administration department, choir department and Children's Sunday school department. In 2009, she became the designer and editor of the church's bilingual Christian magazine called First News, which reached the bilingual community and surrounding areas with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Articles in

See **VARGAS** pg. 13

Campbell to perform standup comedy at May 16 event

A native of Lexington, Kentucky, Tyrone Campbell, or "Ty," as he prefers to be called, will show off his talents at the Anchor News Evening Anchored in Pearls event planned for May 16th, 6:00 at the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum. Campbell will share the stage with youth pastor and entrepreneur, Mayra Vargas, and educator and children's author, Mary Evans. The hosts, Anchor News owners, J.L. and Linda Crawford, will honor 20 area first ladies.

Campbell has lived in Waco for nearly 10 years. He relocated from Detroit, Michigan to Waco with his family in 2006. Campbell is a 20-year cosmetologist by trade and is currently employed at Pura Vida Salon and



TYRONE "TY" CAMPBELL

Day Spa. He is known as one of the best in Waco at "Cut, color, curl."

One of his many hobbies is

playing basketball with the "Fellas," many of whom refer to Campbell as "Mr. Funny Man." He began performing comedy when one of his friends in Lexington dared him to go on stage during open mic night at a local club. Those who know Campbell, know that he will never back down from a dare, and the rest is comedic history.

Since that fateful night in Lexington, Campbell has continued to perform amateur comedy part time. Early in his career he opened a show in Louisville, Kentucky featuring D.C. Curry and Spike Davis and for many years, was a regular at a local

See **CAMPBELL** pg. 10

Mary Evans to co-host Anchor News event

Waco native, Mary E. Evans, will serve as Co-Emcee for the Anchor News Evening Anchored in Pearls event planned for May 16th, 6:00 at the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum. Evans will share the stage with youth pastor and entrepreneur, Mayra Vargas. The hosts, Anchor News owners, J.L. and Linda Crawford, will honor 20 area first ladies.

Evans' outlook on life is one that inspires the people she encounters. Since childhood, Evans has had a passion for writing, but at the time did not realize she could do something she loved while touching lives. Returning home to Waco in the spring of 2005 from Southern California, Evans put her goal of becoming a published author on hold. She detoured to become a middle school math teacher through an alternative education program, where she now works closely with at-risk teens.

Her no-nonsense approach speaks love and truth to teens who often have no role models. While working full-time time as a teacher, Evans never gave up on her dream of becoming a published author. In January, 2006, she began hosting Open Mic Poetry at Beatnix Coffee House for 18 months and continued to build her craft. During that time, Evans wrote a random poem one rainy morning, unaware that those 300 words would be the body of work needed to make her dream come true.



MARY EVANS

She wrote the poem, simply called "Thunder and Lightning," in one sitting. With Dr. Suess-like words, it entails a whimsical battle in the sky about the two characters full of rhyme and cadence. After receiving strong encouragement from fellow poets to turn the poem into a picture book, Evans decided to do so after finding an amazing illustrator who brought the fictional characters to life. Portuguese illustrator, Luis Peres, fell in love with the manuscript, so much that he illustrated the entire full color 32-page picture book in less than a week!

Evans has read her book to hundreds of children this past year and looks forward to sharing her gift with many more. Her goal is to have a children's aspiring author workshop with local children's authors before the end of the year.

Since Thunder and Light-

See **EVANS** pg. 19

"An Evening Anchored In Pearls" Honorees



J.L. AND LINDA CRAWFORD

A co-owner of *The Anchor News*, J.L. Crawford is the director of operations for the paper. He is also an instructor at McLennan Community College, a Bible teacher, and a LegalShield Independent Associate. Linda Crawford is co-owner and editor of *The Anchor News*. She is an instructor at McLennan Community College, a Bible teacher and a conference, workshop and motivational speaker.

From the Crawfords...

As we approach The Anchor News' 13th Anniversary in the community, we are so excited. This weekend, we began our celebrations by honoring 20 first ladies in Waco and surrounding cities. We call them the "Pearls of the Community." If you are reading this at the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum, it means you are experiencing the ambience of this occasion along with us. What an evening! Thank you Waco, Woodway, Temple, Cameron, Harker Heights, Marlin, Rosebud, and so many others for your support. You are awesome!

First Lady Lillian L. Thomas, Life Cathedral Worship Center

First Lady Lillian L. Thomas is married to Richard L. Thomas Sr., pastor of Life Cathedral Worship Center. Thomas has been faithfully married to her husband for 31 years and has served by his side in ministry for 19 years.

Thomas is a native of Waco, Texas. She has been involved in ministry for most of her life, serving faithfully in the area of music and the Word of God. She is a psalmist who loves exalting the Lord and shifting the atmosphere for His glory. She has been dedicated and sold out to the Lord as she continues to travel the cities and other states, singing, evangelizing and motivating women. The calling of the Lord is her passion and drive. She has served as an evangelist for 20 years and is yet walking in the obedience of God.

Thomas's parents were vital instruments to her spiritual development and growth through the life of her dear mother, the late District Missionary Thelma Scott and father, the late Mr. Henry Allen Dixon. Thomas received her ministry license as a missionary/evangelist under the tutelage of one of God's most profound giants, the late Bishop A. LaDell Thomas, Sr.

Thomas currently serves as the director of the Life Cathedral Women's Ministry. She continues to receive numerous testimonies from women experiencing total life change from various places in which she has served. Her women's ministry has extended to teens and girls known as "Jewels of Virtue" and "Babes in Christ," where she is teaching



LILLIAN L. THOMAS

them to know their significance in the Kingdom and motivating them to pursue their goals in life. In addition, they are taught to respect themselves, their parents, and those in authority. Thomas desires the prayers of the righteous as she writes her first book entitled *Your Womb Is NOT A Playground*.

Thomas believes that no matter what state people may find themselves in, faith in Christ and His Word are key tools for victorious living. In spite of their past and even their present, God will cause his children to grow and blossom for His glory. "Your life will never be the same as you experience the powerful word of God in your daily lives," says Thomas.

Thomas is a very proud mom to three daughters and one son. She is a joyful "Granny" of two while expecting two other grandchildren this year.

Sherri Dawn Ruland Rambeau, First Lady, High Point Church

Sherri Dawn Ruland Rambeau was born November 4, 1966 in Hereford, Texas. Rambeau moved to Waco in 1972, where she attended La Vega schools and graduated in 1985. She studied dental laboratory technology at Texas State Technical College and graduated with an associate's degree in 1987. Now retired, Rambeau worked at Summit Dental Laboratory for over 26 years, specializing in the rehabilitation of patients who suffered from TMJ disorder.

"It is such a blessing to be able to help people with my God given talents and abilities. There is nothing like living a quality of life here on this earth, compliments of our God." Rambeau is also a graduate of the 4-level advanced program at the OBI Foundation for Bioesthetic Dentistry, one of the nation's premier authorities on occlusion. She is one of less than 20 technicians world-wide who has earned the distinction of Bioesthetic Dental Technician (BDT). Traveling and presenting at many national dental conferences, Rambeau served as an assistant faculty member for OBI, teaching waxing techniques to dentists and dental technicians from around the world.

In October 2011 at High Point Church, she met the love of her life, the pastor, John Corwin Rambeau III. They were married on August 11, 2012. Rambeau loves people and loves serving beside her husband. Every day is a new day to graciously serve our mighty God who loves us so much that He gave His most precious gift, JESUS! John and I are so excited to live every moment



SHERRI RAMBEAU

of every day to the fullest, loving and serving our church family to the best of our abilities." High Point Church, a body of born-again believers, touts the slogan that it is "A perfect place for imperfect people."

Rambeau loves reaching out to women from all walks of life and experiences and enjoys opening their home to facilitate Bible studies and fellowships. "We live in a world that can sometimes put you through storms of life, and there is nothing like having a safe and comfortable place to share, to be rejuvenated and to be renewed in the power of the word, prayer, and fellowship." Rambeau believes God created us for relationship, not only with Him but with others. "It is our hope that we can provide this atmosphere for our High Point Church family and for all who enter in." Together the Rambeaus have six children.

THE Anchor News



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PURPOSE

The Anchor News, dedicated to serving the community and surrounding areas, focuses on positive news and accomplishments of minorities.

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Anchored on the principles of scripture, *Anchor News* will at

no time publish information that is potentially libelous material or intentionally malicious, derogatory or irrelevant.

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Signed opinion articles do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial staff. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the editor.

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The comments and opinions of our readers are welcomed. Letters

and articles should be e-mailed. Letters should be no longer than 200 words and must include a name and phone number. Article submissions should be no longer than 450 words and should include an original head shot (in jpeg format) along with your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, space, potentially libelous material and copyright infringement. We also reserve the right to refuse derogatory, irrelevant and malicious submissions.

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"An Evening Anchored In Pearls" Honorees

First Lady Myrtle L. Johnson, Progressive Missionary Baptist

First Lady Myrtle L. Johnson is a devoted Christian, a loving wife, a mother of three sons (Christopher, Timothy, and Phillip Thompson). She was born in Waxahachie, Texas, the sixth child of eight siblings, and the youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Clay. Myrtle graduated with honor from Waxahachie High School and she was also a political science major at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

True to never doubting herself or her God, Johnson was for two terms President of the McLennan County Branch NAACP; for five years she hosted the television talk show, Horizons, and for two years hosted a radio talk show. As only God would have it, Johnson became the first African American female District Director for the Honorable Chet Edwards, former Congressman of the 11th and 17th Congressional District. Her Congressional Office employment with Congressman Edwards lasted for over 18 years.

Never will Johnson forget her God using her to work with Camp Fire Incorporated for over 10 years. This God-given enriching assignment gave her an opportunity to help many youth discern their worth, their strengths and talents as they learned to pursue their dreams. Johnson continues to encourage youth, as well as to honor the legacy of her parents' marriage of 70 years, in her present role as the publisher and editor of Quest Magazine.

All these achievements, employments, and opportu-



MYRTLE L. JOHNSON

nities were instrumental in preparing her for her greatest assignments: Speaker of God's Word and wife for 14 years of God's servant, Reverend Robert Taylor Johnson, Sr., pastor of Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, in Cameron. While Pastor and the First Lady reside in Temple, Texas, they humbly and gladly minister wherever and whenever God allows.

Among her favorite songs are I Won't Complain, Amazing Grace and May the Works I've Done Speak For Me. One of her favorite scriptures is 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things yea, the deep things of God."

Together the Johnsons have seven children, 24 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren.

Cynthia Renae Thurmond-Courtney, First Lady of Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church

Cynthia Renae Thurmond-Courtney is the First Lady at Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Downsville, Texas, where her husband Rev. Larry D. Courtney, is the pastor. Courtney was born April 4, 1953 in Atlanta, Georgia. She and her parents, Linwood and Marjorie Dennard, moved to LA in 1963. Courtney is a 1971 graduate of George Washington High School. She came to Waco in 1972 to attend Paul Quinn College and graduated in 1976 with a degree in education. She also received certification in special education from Baylor University. She is a retired teacher from the Waco Independent School District and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department in Mart, Texas, where she taught English.

While living in Waco, Court-



CYNTHIA RENAE THURMOND-COURTNEY

ney has been an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for over 40 years. From over 21 years, she was a member of the Waco Chapter

of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. She is also an active participant of the Inter-City Choir of Waco, Texas. As a member of her church, she has served in many capacities: choir president, mission president, deaconess, coordinator of the Clothes Closet, Vacation Bible School teacher, and she has been a member of the prison ministry known as CHRIST (Christians Helping to Reach Incarcerated Souls Today).

The Courtneys married on February 14, 1975 and have two children and two grandchildren. Courtney enjoys fishing with her husband, going on cruises, and family gatherings. Her favorite saying is, "Having someone to love is family, having some place to go is home, and having both is a blessing."

First Lady Sandra Allen, Tree of Life Church

"She is faithful, completely sold out to the Lord," said Reverend Richard Allen. "My wife not only talks it, but she lives what she talks about. She is very loyal to God, to me, and to the Tree of Life family." First Lady Sandra Allen is the co-founder, with her husband, of the Tree of Life church, located in Waco.

She walks in a number of roles at TOL—youth pastor, choir director for the youth and adult choir, Sunday school teacher for youth and adults, and Bible teacher for youth and adults as well. For Allen, no job is too big and no job is too small. "They are all for the Kingdom," she said.

She is an integral part of the



SANDRA ALLEN

church's community outreach program. The church goes out into the streets to witness,

and they do so on a weekly basis. Allen is an ordained, licensed minister and was ordained as a co-pastor of Tree of Life almost 4 years ago.

The Allens' marriage is almost a fairy tale. Pastor's friend set them up to meet at a revival. They did, and the rest is history. They were married on March 9, 2001.

For tax preparation in Waco, Texas, people can count on Sandra Allen at Guardian Angel. Allen assists taxpayers and small businesses with taxes in Waco, Texas and the surrounding communities. Allen has years of valuable experience as an IRS registered tax preparer. She and her husband have 15 god-children.

"An Evening Anchored In Pearls" Honorees

First Lady Barbara Louise Rauls, New Mount Olive MB Church

First Lady Barbara Louise Rauls has been married 39 years to the love of her life, Reverend Ara L. Rauls Sr., Pastor of the New Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Waco. She has worked in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, at Baylor University for 26 years. She currently serves as Development Coordinator, under Department Chair, Dr. Patrick Farmer. Rauls also serves as campus advisor for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, has served on the Greek Advisory Board and works with NPHC leadership as needed.

An active community volunteer, she heads food drives for Caritas and through her church and campus sorority groups, collects and distributes food to make Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for needy families in McLennan County; Rauls serves at the Salvation Army Kitchen and during the holiday, she helps set-up clothes and coat give-a-ways. She works with the Junior Women's Ministry to give away blankets to the Church Under the Bridge in the Winter and provides bottled water, hand towels and soap during the summer. She also facilitates a women's group that distributes blow fans during the summer to senior citizens. Rauls also volunteers at the Elegant Ladies Haven (a community ministry that gives away personal care items, diapers, wipes and paper goods)

In her church, she serves as director of the Youth and College Ministry, supports Usher Board #1, teaches the Young Adult Women's Sunday School class, serves as a teacher of the Women's Ministry Auxiliary, is musician for the Male Chorus, and is secretary for the Bible Study Class. Rauls' church is part of the Union Baptist District Association (a conglomerate of some 30 churches in the Waco Area). Rauls serves with the Minister's Wives and Women's Ministry. She is a member, and serves as Vice-President of the Interdenominational Association



BARBARA LOUISE RAULS

tion of Ministers Wives and Ministers Widows in Waco. She is a member of the Texas Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows and is a group member of the International Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows. Rauls is also a member of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas Minister's Wives and Minister's Widows Conference. Rauls graduated from the Academy for Lay Ministry Certification Program at the Greater Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. Rauls hopes to continue studies in the Certificate of Ministry program at Truett Seminary at Baylor University in the near future.

Rauls is an active supporter of her family, especially her children, Minister Yvonne Rose who is married to Pastor Larry L. Rose Jr., pastor of the First Baptist Church North, in Teague Texas, and they have 2 children: Barvion (a senior at Southern Arkansas University) and Larry III (freshman at New Mexico State). Reverend Ara Rauls Jr. who is married to Mrs. Kylie Rauls. He serves as an associate minister at the New Mt. Olive M.B.C. and as a teacher/Coach & Asst. Offensive Coordinator at La Vega High School. They have a son, Ara Rauls III. Coach Joseph Rauls is married to Mrs. Heather Rauls and he teaches and serves as Assistant Head Coach at Travis High School in Austin. They have 2 children, Jayden and Haley Rauls,

and are expecting baby #3 in the spring. Coach Ira Rauls is single and works as Teen Leadership Instructor and Head Cheer/Yell Coach at La Vega George Dixon Jr. High School. Rauls has always had three goals in mind for her children—that they have a relationship with the Lord, graduate college, and become financially sound. Rauls is humbled, but proud to report that all her children are living Christian lives, are Baylor Graduates, and can care for her in her mature age.

Rauls loves and adores her grandchildren and if you spend a moment around them, the affection is mutual. In her spare time she loves to shop for jewelry and shoes, watch good movies, drink lemon-berry slushes from Sonic, and eat tea cakes. Her restful time is spent riding horses, loving on her two dogs (Lucky and Oreo) and taking long walks with her husband.

First Lady Mary Carbajal, Mighty Windy Worship Center

First Lady Mary Carbajal accepted Jesus Christ as her personal savior over 26 years ago when God delivered her from an addicted lifestyle and a life destined for destruction. Her love for God and her desire to see people set free by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit are her motivation for ministry. God has gifted this wonderful lady with many spiritual gifts such as counselor, teacher, intercessor, and the gift of operating in the prophetic.

She and her husband, Joe, started with Wind Worship Center as founding members. In their early years of ministry, they put their talents to work as janitors, teachers, counselors, board/trustee members and associate pastors, and eventually accepted the call as senior pastors.

Carbajal is recognized in the ministry and community as a visionary leader with a heart for people. People who know the Carbajals describe them as real, passionate, loving, kind and committed. Not only does their leadership style create a



MARY CARBAJAL

challenging environment that is conducive to growth; it also allows people to recognize their full potential as they use their talents for God's kingdom work.

The Carbajals have been married over 40 years, have three beautiful children, seven wonderful grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. As a result of over 25 years of ministry, Carbajal recognizes and loves her numerous "spiritual children" as well!

First Lady Ouida Gail Johnson Garrett, Bible Way Church Family Worship Center

First Lady Ouida Gail Johnson Garrett is a bright shining star to most who know her. She is the daughter of Rev. & Mrs. William Johnson, Jr. of Marlin, TX. She was born in Marlin, where she attended Commerce Street School, Booker T. Washington School and graduated from Marlin High School. Garrett has always been an outgoing, friendly, pleasant person to everyone. She began as a church musician when she was only 8 years old. She loves to minister in music to congregations, nursing homes, community activities, prisons/jails, outdoors events, as well as performing solo and choir concerts.

After accepting her call into preaching ministry in 1998, Garrett became the Co-Pastor at Bible Way Church Family Worship Center, where her husband, Bishop Lonnie D. Garrett, is the pastor. Garrett is also the Minister of Music at Bible Way Church and is the church administrator. Garrett graduated from Durham



OUIDA GAIL GARRETT

and Four-C Business College with an Executive Secretarial Diploma and two-year Bible training at the Kairos Seminary in Waco, Texas; she is a licensed public notary. Garrett wears many hats on a personal level as well as community person and church/religion and Gospel Worlds.

The Garrett Trio Singers and

musicians were very popular in the 1980's and 90's; however with so many different roles to play, Garrett has focused on "Solo" performances. She retired from the State of Texas in August, 2005 and has enjoyed her free time tremendously.

She is seeking to make full use of her ministry in various ways. She and her husband have added an independent wellness consulting ministry to their spiritual ministry work. Their aim is to help people feel better with natural scientific healing technology along with their spiritual calling to feed the soul. "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain," says Garrett.

Together the Garretts have three children: Tanunya Adamson (William) of Houston; Lana Alexander (Marvin) of Waco and Gaylon Garrett (Crystal) of Denton. They have eight grandchildren and many loving nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, in-laws, cousins, and friends.

"An Evening Anchored In Pearls" Honorees

First Lady Pamela Hunter, Toliver Chapel

Pamelia Renee Hytche Hunter is the First Lady of Toliver Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, where her husband, Dr. Jimmy D. Hunter, is pastor.

Hunter holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Lincoln University, Oxford, Pennsylvania, and a master's degree from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri in psychology with a specialty in Minority Mental Health. She has done other study at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, and is currently in the research phase for her PH.D from the University of Maryland (Eastern Shore) in organizational leadership with an expected graduation date of May, 2015.

Professionally, Hunter is the director of the Center for Assessment at Texas State Technical College in Waco, Texas. Some of her past experiences include director of Counseling at Huston-Tillotson College (Austin); director of Out-patient Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services at Rosewood Zaragosa Clinic and director of Substance Abuse Services (Methadone, Alcohol Services) for Austin Travis County MHMR (Austin, Texas); She was the coordinator of Student Support Services at Rappahannock Community College (Glenns, Va.) and program director at The Turning Point (Dual diagnosis: alcohol and mental health) Treatment Center, in Petersburg, Virginia,

Hunter has presented at national and regional conferences which include the National Association of Higher Education and Disabilities Conference, National Women to Work Conference, and The National Association of Developmental Education (NADE).

She has authored and been successful in grant funding from such entities which include but not limited to the US Department of Education, Title III, US Department of Education Title IV, and The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.

Current Professional Organizational Affiliations include:



PAMELIA HUNTER

Texas Counseling Association, Heart of Texas Counseling Association, National Society in Leadership and the National Collegiate Testing Association.

She is a Charter Member of the Port Arthur Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, a member of the Waco Chapter of Links, Inc., and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Her community service projects include Adopt a School (through Toliver Chapel), Toliver Chapel Dinner a Month at the Salvation Army, Central Texas Literacy Coalition, the McLennan County Community College Adult Basic Education Advisory Committee and she serves on the board of the Heart of Texas Region Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center.

In September, 2014, she was nominated by her church and commissioned by Governor Rick Perry as the "2014 Yellow Rose of Texas." This award is given only through the Office of the Governor to recognize Texas women who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer and community service.

Hunter is committed, trained, and experienced to help develop a healthy, balanced life.

She and her husband have two children; J'Naudia (Jason) Phillips and Jamison (Patrice) Hunter, and three granddaughters, Kaitlyn Hunter Phillips, Jamie DeAnn Hunter, and Janae DiAnn Hunter.

Lisa Linton is the First Lady of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Waco, where Dr. Frank Linton, Jr. is the pastor. Linton has an extensive history of using her drive, talent and passion to make an impact and create change in the lives of youth as well as to give back to her community.

"Mrs. L" (as her students so proudly call her) believes having high expectations for all is one key to closing the achievement gap between advantaged and less advantaged students. Out of genuine concern for the quality of education of her students, Linton's goal is to ensure that each of her students demonstrates a deep understanding of content and be able to apply this knowledge to problems in and out of the classroom.

She further believes that Premier High School students are doing outstanding things, and their achievements are a testament to that fact that the school district and community value education so highly, understanding the worth of providing the best opportunities possible for young people. Linton considers it an honor and privilege to serve as principal at Premier High School, and she looks forward to all of the challenges and successes to come.

Linton began her teaching journey at Brazos Middle School in 2000, teaching 6th grade reading. In addition, she taught 6th grade English for gifted students; she also taught English at Waco High in the Opportunity Program.

Linton was hired at Premier High School of Waco in 2003 as an English Specialist. She was promoted to Premier High School Principal in 2010 and has served in that role for almost 5 years. As administrator, Linton holds the philosophy that education is the key to success. "As leaders," she says, "it's our responsibility to leave a legacy of empowerment through education, so that our children and generations to come will be empowered." Overall, she has completed 16 years in education and has thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

First Lady Lisa Yvette Linton, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church



LISA YVETTE LINTON

Linton is the recipient of a number of awards:

- Purpose Driven Woman of God Award for Christian Dedication and Commitment, 2010
- Nominee for Outstanding Teacher, 2002
- Premier Principal Announcement feature story in a 2010 issue of The Anchor News, and she was a keynote speaker at Austin College.

At Mt. Zion, she is the youth director, president of the president of Missions and a Sunday School teacher. Her hobbies include gardening, interior design, and mentoring young people. The Lintons have two children: Frank D. Linton, III and Fanecia D. Linton. They have one grandchild, Kaison L. Linton-Hopkins.

Ernestine Henley, First Lady of Word of Life

How many people actually receive an award for helping others? While she may never bring it to anyone's attention, Ernestine Henley, wife of Nelson R. Henley, pastor and founder of the Word of Life Christian Church, did just that. She received the Civic Recognition Award, an award that seeks to encourage people to reach out to others in a number of ways, specifically in building their communities. She is among awardees from 49 other states in America.

Henley, also known as Tina, has a heart to help her husband, always working as one to fulfill the vision that God has given to him. In her position as an ordained elder and teacher, she assists her husband with oversight of the women's ministry, music ministry, Sonship School of the Firstborn, discipleship class and New Members Orientation.

Henley is a graduate of Speak The Word School of Ministry, Minnesota Graduate School of Theology, and Sonship School of The First Born. She is a powerful instructor and a gifted administrator. Such are her roles for the Sonship School of the Firstborn, an outreach ministry of The Word of Life Christian Church. It is a "school in the church." Hen-



ERNESTINE HENLEY

ley explains that the "two-year course of study is concentrated solely in the discipline of ministry studies. Hence, our focus is the certification of able ministers, who have been equipped with sound doctrine and are able to teach others what they have been taught." Her heart is to see men and women fulfilled and satisfied in Christ, and the will of Christ fulfilled in them.

In her spare time she likes to read, draw and write poems. She is celebrating twenty years as the First Lady of The Word of Life Christian Church. The Henleys have five children and six grandchildren.

"An Evening Anchored In Pearls" Honorees

First Lady Melisa Cooper, Lifegate Christian Fellowship Waco

Melisa Cooper is the First Lady of Lifegate Christian Fellowship Waco, where her husband Donnie Cooper, is the pastor. The Coopers married on December 18, 1982. After language school in the early 90's, God called them to Mexico as missionaries. They spent several years there, and God began giving them visions of His work in the Amazon basin of South America. Through much prayer and counsel, they moved to Peru in 1995 with their four children. This move marked the beginning of miraculous connections with many people all throughout the country. They started churches all along the jungle rivers in Madre de Dios and worked with many different Indian tribes, some of which had never heard the Gospel before. They raised up Christians to lead the ministries, including Octavio and Luz Taracaya, and they had their youngest child while living in the jungle.

Spending three years in Puerto Maldonado, they felt called to Cusco where they pastored a large church for three years. During their time there, the Holy Spirit moved in mighty and miraculous ways. Through that church, God raised up many Peruvian Christians to be leaders all over the country. After some time, they felt called to start a mission's organization to send out other missionaries; thus, they moved to Texas to begin Global Consulting Group. Con-



MELISA COOPER

tinuing their influence and activity with the leaders in Cusco and Puerto Maldonado, they started a local church, Lifegate Christian Fellowship Waco. Partnering with the churches in Peru, India, Mexico, and the Philippines, this body of believers has helped finance and encourage missions all over the world while growing in their own walk with the Lord. Through the ministry of Lifegate, the Coopers have also been privileged to adopt two beautiful girls.

Cooper and her husband are part of the Federation of Ministers and Churches International that unites leaders to advance the Kingdom of God in the regions in which they are working. Pastor Don leads the mission's tract for FMCI. They have seven children from the ages 2 to 31, and three grandchildren.

Loretta E. Oliver, First Lady of Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church

"I am excited about what God is doing in the lives of those who are the born again, baptized, believers of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord! I love Him with all my heart!" said First Lady Loretta E. Oliver.

Oliver was born to the late Rev. Lorenzo Hartfield and the late Mrs. Evelyn Etta (Etta Mae) Hartfield. She has the distinct honor of being the middle girl of three to live, move, and have her being in Christ. Oliver's mother was led by the Spirit of God to name us with biblical names, thus Ruth, Elizabeth and Eunice. She is that Elizabeth born to her parents.

Even before the foundations of the earth, God so ordained that she would be the blessed and highly favored wife of Rev. C.J. Oliver, Senior Pastor of Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church. She considers it an esteemed honor to have born four daughters: Nikitha, Chloe, Loren, and Kone'e. The couple, being the adopted children of Christ, are blessed to have adopted (engrafted) four sons into the family: Waymone, Jeffrey, Daylon and Matthew. She is also a proud grandmother to Doron Jamil, Aziyah, Kennedy, Ty'lah, and Bryson.

Oliver calls it an honor to be the First Lady serving alongside her husband and senior pastor at Greater New Light, working hand in hand with him by serving as the church secretary, and Women's Ministry leader.

In March of 1996, she had the blessed opportunity to travel to Haiti with Mission Waco and World Hunger Relief Farm. The team's responsibilities included witnessing and doing manual labor in Ferrier and Port au Prince. "This was one of my dreams to come true, and I have tucked deep in my heart a chance to work in the mission fields abroad. For now, however, there are great mission opportunities here in the U.S.A."

Oliver feels privileged to speak life into the lives of women at Greater New Light and at women's conference speaker at other churches. "I have a passion to see girls, ladies, women healed from the



LORETTA E. OLIVER

hurts of our past. I truly believe that I have gone through

the battlefield of life in order to minister effectively to others. I am a willing vessel to be used by God."

Oliver has served in many other capacities as well. She is a past board member for Waco Habitat for Humanity and Mission Waco. She currently serves on the Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Medical Center Board of Trustees.

"Without God nothing in my life could have been possible. Above all else, I love the Lord with all my heart, mind, and soul. I love Deuteronomy 28:1-14. It speaks blessings into our lives, because we, as a family, have chosen to bless and serve God!"

First Lady D. Yvette Foreman, Carver Park Baptist Church

D. Yvette Foreman is a proud native of Jackson, Mississippi. She moved to the city of Waco, Texas to attend Paul Quinn College.

Truly, she was in God's plan when she made the decision to leave her Mississippi homeland to move to Texas. Wonderful things happened for Foreman during her time at Paul Quinn College: It was at Paul Quinn College, in 1982, where she became a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. It was at Paul Quinn College, in 1984, where she met and later married Gaylon Paul Foreman. It was at Paul Quinn College, in 1985, where she received a BS degree in biology education.

Foreman graciously embraces the God given gifting within her to Empower, Encourage, and Enlighten the lives of women in all walks of life, through her biblical teachings and her Godly living. She works purposefully in exercising these gifts, as coordinator and Bible teacher of Daughters of Destiny Women's Ministry at Carver Park Baptist Church. In addition, she serves as District Director of Daughters of the Promise for the Central Texas District of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International, with Dr. Gaylon P. Fore-



D. YVETTE FOREMAN

man as the Overseer.

She declares boldly from the fruit of her lips: "I want to help somebody see the light today; I want to lend a helping hand to show someone the way; I want my life to be an example as I go, for I'll never pass this way again."

Foreman's greatest joy yet, comes in fulfillment of her roles as wife for over 30 years, to Dr. Gaylon P. Foreman, as mother of two wonderful young adults, Shelby Janae, and Gaylon Jermon, and as the First Lady for 24 years, of Carver Park Baptist Church. Of these blessings, she says, "To God be the glory for the things He has done."

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"An Evening Anchored In Pearls" Honorees

First Lady Brenda Joy Atchison, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

First Lady Brenda Joy Atchison is an excellent role model. At Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, she is the president of the Ministers' Wives group, and she is the founder and teacher of Deeper Faith Ministry, a Sunday School class designed for anyone who wants to grow in faith. She uses a variety of sources, such as Purpose Driven Life and the gifts assessment test.

"We find out what each person's gift is and then assist him or her in growing in that area." She and her husband,



BRENDA JOY ATCHISON

Pastor Delvin Atchison, also facilitate marriage counseling at the church. Atchison focuses on relationship building. Part of the Women's and Girls Conference, she facilitates breakout sessions for the young adults, ages 25 to 35. Presently, she is teaching a 21-day financial fast class, where participants fast from buying anything other than the necessities.

A godly woman, she serves in many capacities throughout the city. She is a past vice-president of the YMCA. She is on the Board of Directors of the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce and the African American Museum. The First Lady is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Leadership Plenty, Women of Waco, and works closely with the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce. Atchison owns B Joy Bijoux Boutique, a vintage clothing store located at 710 Austin Avenue and is CEO of the Platinum Career Coaching Group. A retired professor of small business management and entrepreneurship at McLennan Community College, Atchison is actively involved in civic and social pursuits and provides passionate visionary leadership to her organizations.

She holds a doctorate in Organizational Management/Leadership from The University of Phoenix, Phoenix Arizona, a Masters of Education/Counseling from Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.

Accolades include, Woman Business Owner of the Year, Teacher of the Year, Instructional Television Instructor, and founding member of ABRO, an African American Buyer's group with members from Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Brenda has always been a part of the various African American Chambers of Commerce as an active business owner. The Atchisons have five children and one grandchild.

First Lady Marva Harrison, First Baptist Church, NBC

Minister Marva Harrison is a promoter of the desire for excellence within the souls of humanity. Married to Dr. George R. Harrison, Sr., pastor of First Baptist Church, NBC in Waco. First Lady Harrison is the proud mother of six children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great-granddaughter and 24 god-children, and she is devoted to them all.

She exhibits her musical talents by the results of her work as a licensed and ordained Minister of Music for The Willow Grove Baptist District Association and First Baptist Church, NBC and she is choir directress for four choirs at her church. She is founder, director and promoter of several gospel groups including recording artists Dejuan Adamson & the Anointed Worshipers, Serenity, Men of Zion, Phyllis Kennedy, Unity, Samuel II and Debra Wilson. She has ministered with renowned gospel groups such as Nero Foster and the Light Ministry Choir, Cross Power and Light Gospel Ministries, and True Vision. Harrison is founder and CEO of Marvelous Joy Ministries and Productions. "I had no idea that Marvelous Joy would be where it is today. I am so proud of my artists. I give God the glory."

Extremely active within the Willow Grove Baptist District Association, Harrison serves as the associate dean, public relations officer and minister of music. As a member of the Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, she serves as vice president of the Ministers' Wives Division, program editor, publications/designer and serves on the planning committee and the executive committee for the TMBC Woman's Conference.

Harrison has been the keynote speaker for The Complete Christian Woman's Conference, Central Texas God's Woman Conference, Gospel Music Workshop of America, 7-Up Women's Ministry and many other Christian women's conferences both locally



MARVA HARRISON

and throughout the state.

Harrison holds associate degrees in accounting and laser and electro optics from Texas State Technical College, Bachelor of General Studies from University Mary Hardin Baylor and Master of Biblical Studies degree from North Carolina College of Theology. She received a certification as a software developer from IBM's Educational Center. In addition, she holds a Ministry of Worship – Planning and Leading Christian Worship certification.

For over 19 years, she held a variety of positions at Creative Education Institute (CEI): public relations officer, educational lobbyist and educational consultant. Harrison served as an independent reading consultant for MindPrime Inc. and is presently an educator for the Midway Independent School District – Alternative Education Program.

Harrison is credited with many professional accolades, including training U.S. Military personnel in laser safety. She is affiliated with the National Association of Black School Administrators, Presidential Reading Advisory Panel, Board of Directors of the Texas State Gospel Announcers Guild, Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention Executive Board, National Association of Female Executives (NAFE), and Gospel Music Workshop of America.

First Lady Sherri Whitfield, Restoration Covenant Church

Possessing a desire to see people live with God-given purpose, First Lady Sherri Whitfield, was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She has a bachelor's in business administration from the University of Oklahoma and a master's degree in professional development from Amberton University in Dallas. She and her husband Judge Whitfield, IV are founding pastors of Restoration Covenant Church in Rosebud, Texas.

Whitfield worked as an assistant director of McLennan County Abstinence Program (McCAP) in Waco before becoming an educator in WISD. She has been a volunteer at the McLennan County Challenge Academy where she and her husband taught parenting classes to parents of children at the Challenge Academy.

Whitfield's heart is given to "at-risk" children to encourage, challenge and love. She believes that every child has the capacity to learn and that every child has gifts and talents to use for the Kingdom of God. The Whitfields have been married 17 years. They have one daughter, Holly, a freshman at Midway High School.

One of their passions is to minister wholeness and restoration to singles as well as married couples. The Whitfields are owners of Happy Kids' Acad-



SHERRI WHITFIELD

emy, a Texas Rising Four Star and Texas School Readiness Early Childhood Development Center in Waco, which opened its doors in 2008 in Woodway. Whitfield is a board member of Waco's Center for Learning and Development whose mission is to support children through the challenges of learning.

She is the director of the State of Mind Beauty Pageant designed to give women a glimpse into the state(s) of mind many women embrace before Christ sets them free. Whitfield is also the founder of the "iShine Conference" for Teen Girls and their Moms which empowers teens to be "SocialLights" for Christ in a social media driven society.

"An Evening Anchored In Pearls" Honorees

Sheila A. Hicks Blanton, First Lady, New Hope Baptist

Sheila A. (Hicks) Blanton, a native Wacoan, is the daughter of the late Mr. Vernon and Mildred Hicks. She is a 1973 graduate of Jefferson-Moore High School, where she graduated third in her class with high honors. She is an alumnus of Bishop College, Dallas, Texas, graduating Magna-Cum-Laude, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology with a minor in Social Work.

She was selected to complete an intensive field placement in social work through the Children's Medical Center, Dallas, Texas and was employed by this hospital following graduation. In addition to her experiences at Children's Medical Center, she has worked at Hope Cottage Children's Bureau, Dallas, Texas; Parent Involvement Coordinator, Valdosta, Georgia Independent School District; Child Protection Specialist for the State of Mississippi and Youth Services Counselor assigned to Youth Court for the State of Mississippi.

Blanton has always felt a calling to serve her fellowman in the social work profession. With her husband's call to



SHEILA (HICKS) BLANTON

military chaplaincy, she has had opportunities to share in church and chapel services wherever necessary to enhance the vision God gives to him.

Blanton returned to Waco, Texas in 2008 to provide care for her mother and mother-in-law; both have gone home to be with the Lord. She has also volunteered with the Cornerstone Assistance Network of Waco which serves to restore ex-offenders and their families. She currently volunteers four days a week at West Avenue Elementary School as a classroom mentor.

Blanton's formative church experience centered around the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of the late Rev. R. L. Bailey. At Antioch, she participated in Sunday School (Secretary), BTU, and was a member of the choir. Currently, Blanton is the First Lady at New Hope Baptist Church, where her husband, Rev. Dr. Richard L. Blanton, is the pastor. At New Hope, Blanton serves in many capacities including but not limited to Black History coordinator, Bible teacher for the women's ministry, youth Sunday School teacher, choir member in the adult choir.

Blanton believes strongly in training children in the way they should go. She sees this as an awesome task, and her pride and joy is having raised her two children, Rodrick and Jerelen, to not only know who they are, but also whose they are. They both work faithfully in their respective churches.

Margaret Ivory, First Lady of Hood Street Church of Christ

Margaret Ivory was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and lives in Waco, Texas, where her husband of thirty six years, Dr. Leon Ivory, has served as pulpit minister for the past 19 years. She is First Lady at Hood Street Church of Christ in Waco. Ivory is a graduate of Southwestern Christian College and the Business and Finance Institute.

For forty years, Ivory has taught Sunday School, Wednesday night Bible classes, and private home



MARGARET IVORY

Bible studies. She has been the keynote speaker at ladies' retreats, ladies' day programs, marriage workshops, state lectureships and fundraising banquets.

She was awarded the 2004 Image Award for Leadership at Southwestern Christian College for her community service. The service that she is most proud of is Ruth's Promise, a ministry in Kenya named after her mother. Ruth's Promise ministers to elderly Christians by cleaning their homes, doing their laundry, and preparing their meals. Ivory serves as the fundraiser for this ministry while Kenyan Christians offer the hands of care for these wonderful individuals.

For thirty years, she has taught and marketed health insurance products that have helped to enhance the lives of her many clients. Her practice (Ivory and Associates) currently specializes in Medicare Advantage, prescription drug plans and Medicare supplement products.

Her eBook, *What is Medicare?*, has been placed on the Kindle Best Sellers List in the Medicare and Medicaid category. In 2014, she turned this book into an online eCourse entitled "Medicare Made Easy Tutorial."

In 2011, she was awarded the Agent Elite status with Humana Insurance Company for the quality of care that she gives to her clients.

Her main occupational goal is to educate baby boomers and seniors so that they are knowledgeable about their insurance coverage — what they have and why they have what they have. Her main spiritual goal is to educate children and adults about God's will for them on Earth and in heaven.

First Lady Darlene Cashaw Head Branch Baptist Church

Celebrating 23 years of marriage, Darlene Simmons Cashaw is married to Rev. Earnest B. Cashaw, pastor of Head Branch Baptist Church in Groesbeck. Daughter of Gladys Simmons and the late Travis Simmons Sr., Cashaw was born on November 23, 1958 in Waco, Texas. She has one brother, Travis Simmons Jr. and two sisters, Sandra Cashaw and Cheryl Henderson. She has one son, two daughters and one granddaughter: Jehrome White, Natasha White Pearson, Celvah White, and ZaRiyah Corujo.

Beginning her education at Woodway Elementary, Cashaw continued on at Midway Jr. High and Midway High School, graduating May 25, 1978. She continued her education in August 1978 at McLennan Community College for business. She moved to Denver, Colorado in 1981 and furthered her education at Biosystems Inst. and T.H. Pickens for medical assistant. When she returned to Texas in 1987, she went back to McLennan Community College for nursing. After working in the medical field for many years, Cashaw decided to do something different and went back to McLennan Community College for cosmetology. She completed her training in October 2010 and graduated on December 11, 2010. While at MCC, Cashaw made the Fall 2009 Distinguished Honors Stu-



DARLENE CASHAW

dents list.

Starting out as a young child at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Hewitt, Texas under the leadership of the late Rev. E.H. Hooker, Cashaw has spent most of her life in church. As a young teenager, she attended Ebenezer Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. G.B. Booker. She spent adulthood at Zion Hill Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. C.L. Buhl. While at Zion Hill Baptist Church, she served as assistant church secretary, youth director, assistant drill team coordinator, praise team coordinator. Currently at Head Branch Baptist Church, Cashaw serves as youth directress and as a member of New Praise Corporate Choir.

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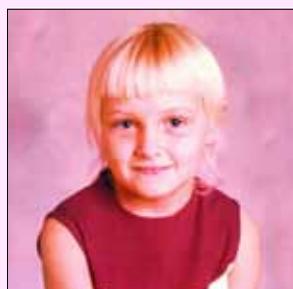
Continued from page one

comedy club in Lexington. A few of Campbell's comedic favorites are Mike Epps and Eddie Griffin, whom he had the chance to meet during his 50th birthday celebration in Las Vegas.

Since moving to Waco Campbell has done comedy mostly for fun or favor. His wife, Terri, has to remind him daily to "be serious" as he has the tendency to share his silliness from sunrise to sunset! Unfortunately for Terri, it's just his nature and a better part of his personality. In Campbell's opinion, "We need laughter because life is too complicated without an outlet."

Despite his long career in cosmetology, Campbell is currently a college student aspiring to receive his bachelor's degree in psychology at MCC and Tarleton State University. He plans to continue on to Baylor's Truett Seminary to pursue a master's degree in sports ministry. Campbell believes all comedians have a "third eye," which gives them the ability to see a comedic twist in every situation. WATCH out! Campbell will insert just about ANYTHING into a comedy skit!

*Pastor John and High Point Church
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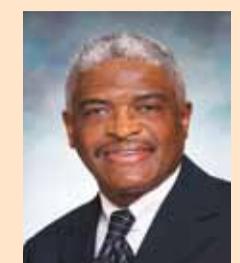
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We Salute Our First Lady
Sis. Sheila Hicks Blanton
New Hope Baptist Church * Waco, Texas



She's a Godly woman, she has such grace
Always a warm greeting, a smile on her face
She's always encouraging, she knows her place
She is - The Pastor's Wife

She has to always look just right
Always on time, though the schedule's tight
From early morning, till late at night
Always - The Pastor's Wife

She's such a Lady, everyone's friend
She serves with love from deep within
All of the rifts she tries to mend
Oh she's - The Pastor's Wife

Her husband she shares with a whole congregation
She humbly accepts his intense dedication
In loneliness she kneels to seek consolation
God Bless - The Pastor's Wife

Love, The New Hope Women's Ministry

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Seven auto accident legal tips to help understand your rights

J. L. CRAWFORD,
LEGALSHIELD INDEPENDENT
ASSOCIATE

From the website https://sites.legalshield.com/cp/newsletter/issue6_v4.html#Story1.

Auto accidents come in many forms, from minor fender benders to catastrophic multi-car pileups. No matter what type of accident you are in, regardless of who is at fault, it is

important to understand your legal rights and responsibilities. After an accident you may be forced to deal with medical issues, insurance claims, lawsuits and even potential criminal charges. Your LegalShield provider law firm can help you understand your rights and legal options. **If you are in an accident call your provider firm right away.**

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the side of the road and out of the traffic lanes, if possible. If you cannot do so or you feel it is dangerous to move your vehicle, carefully exit your vehicle and move yourself to a safe location away from traffic until help arrives.

- **Police** - Even if your accident seems minor, call the police and file an accident report. Do not admit guilt or responsibility for the accident to the police or other persons. Some individuals who are shaken up after an accident become overly apologetic while others may become angry and combative. It is important to remain calm and let the police do their job.

- **Hit and Run** - Never chase a hit and run driver. A chase could put you and other drivers in harms way. If you can only remember one piece of information make it the other driver's license plate number. Knowing the make, model and color of the car will also be helpful. Call the police. Even if you have very little information about the other driver, a police report will be necessary for any insurance claim or legal action.

- **Information** - Exchange information with the driver of the other car or cars. Gather names, phone numbers, addresses and insurance information. If there are witnesses on the scene take down their contact information as well. Witnesses may be particularly helpful in identifying hit and run drivers or understanding the full picture of a major accident. Use your smart phone to take pictures of the accident scene and any property damage.

- **Documents** - Organize all documents regarding your accident and keep them together. Important documents include the police report, the other driver's information, insurance documents, medical papers, repair estimates or bills associated with the accident. Keeping your documentation organized will help you and your attorney accurately review your matter and calculate expenses.

- **Injury** - If you or a loved one is injured in an accident it is extremely important to contact an attorney as soon as possible. Those who are seriously injured are often unable to gather evidence at the scene. An attorney can help explain the process and help make sure vital information is gathered and preserved as evidence.

- **Settlement Agreements** - It may be tempting to take a



J.L. CRAWFORD

settlement to pay for repairs, a replacement vehicle or medical bills, but it is important to make sure the settlement is fair and that it truly compensates you for the long-term consequences of the accident. An attorney

can help you consider all of the potential costs and negotiate a fair settlement on your behalf. **Do not sign any documents or agree to any type of settlement without calling your LegalShield provider law firm to speak with an attorney.** Your LegalShield provider law firm can help review your contractor agreement. Call your provider law firm before you sign a contract or if you have any questions. *If you need assistance, call your LegalShield provider law firm and speak with an attorney. LegalShield can help you with your legal issues. Pre-existing problems are covered, so give me a call at 254-717-4927. Hurry. With LegalShield, "...we can help you worry less and live more." Please see the ad in this issue of The Anchor News. J.L. Crawford, Independent Associate.*

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Jesus, the sweetest name I know

BY PAM TURNER

There's a song we used to sing in church that went like this, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, oh there's something about that name. Kings and kingdoms shall all pass away, but there's something about that name." The name of Jesus makes me want to bow down and praise Him, or raise my hands in complete surrender. Phil 2:11 reads "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

I don't think God could have chosen a more powerful name for His son than the name of Jesus. You see, there's no other name under heaven that man can call on and be saved. He is our Lord, and Romans 10:13 tells us, "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Paul writes to the Corinthians in 2 Cor. 4:5 "For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."

Just the mention of His name and all demons flee. They know there's POWER in the name of Jesus. I think we all have mo-



PAM TURNER

ments when Satan tries to cloud us with doubt and discouragement. When this happens all we need to do is say the name of Jesus a few times and that cloud will disappear. This simply reminds the devil who we serve, and there's peace in that name. JESUS IS THE SWEETEST NAME I KNOW. If you haven't called on the name of the Lord Jesus as your savior, it only takes a willing heart and a few moments. Then, Jesus will be the sweetest name you know. As a blessing and reward for obedience, your name will be added to The Book Of Life. May God Bless you with obedience and eternal salvation.

VARGAS | Continued from page one

the magazine served as resources to help marriages, teenagers, single parents and business owners since it was also a place where many small businesses could advertise and grow their businesses.

The youth pastor at First Spanish Assembly of God Church since 2011, Vargas believes she has stepped into her calling. In the beginning of her journey, she hesitated to accept the challenge since youth have a bad rep and frankly many adults would rather not deal with them. However, guided by God's Spirit and the wisdom of her pastor, Vargas bravely took on the challenge. As a woman, this leadership brought with it many difficulties, many because she is a woman. However, she is now confident that she is where she was destined to be. "My role as a youth pastor is to teach young people to love the gospel of Jesus Christ,

not only through words but by actions." She has a team of seven people who help her with the department's growth. Vargas' vision for the youth department is to encourage them to get an education and to become young men and young women filled with God's spirit and conviction. She believes they can help others come to Jesus through their lives and choice of profession. "Our country needs doctors, lawyers, teachers, preachers, law enforcements, judges, etc. filled with the Spirit of God to make a change in a dying world," Vargas said.

A licensed realtor since 2010, Vargas is also pursuing her degree in child psychology. Vargas is an humble, devoted, Christian woman with a love and passion to help others. Her long term goal is to help troubled children cope with traumas and to show them the love of God through her profession. She

will continue with her education at McLennan Community College online in the fall of 2015 and then transfer to South Central Assemblies of God University in 2016.

Currently, Vargas is focused on the roofing and construction industry and has teamed up with her husband to grow their roofing and home improvement business. Vargas and Gus began Central Texas Xtreme Roofing in 2012, and three years later, the company is thriving. With Gus' extensive experience in the field, the business continues to grow through the couple's solid relationships with people in Waco and surrounding areas. They currently specialize in a variety of work—roofing, siding, fencing, painting, concrete, carpentry and any home improvement jobs. For more information, please call (254) 776-1100 or (254) 717-7473 or visit the business at 1421 Lawrence Drive.

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Remembering Mother

BY MONA DUNKIN

Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yes, they may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have indelibly imprinted (tattooed a picture of) you on the palm of each of My hands; your walls are continually before Me. Isaiah 49:15-16 Amplified

This scripture sounds like a Divine Facebook following; keeping tabs on parent and child.

Mother's Day is a time to remember our mothers, whether we are blessed to still have them with us or not. Mothers, like all mortals, are a comic blend of blessings and frustrations. To remember is more than to not forget. To remember is to re – as in again – member one's self to mom.

My mother and I had a difficult relationship. Our problems stemmed from us being more alike than we were different. Only I didn't know it at the time.



MONA DUNKIN

Mother died before we became friends. She left a diary. In reading its pages I get to know her better and find a kindred spirit that I did not appreciate as a child or teen. To remember is to call to mind something that may have been forgotten. In remembering mom, make it pleasant, for you are also re-

membering you to you.

Although she was a remarkable wonderful woman with many gifts and talents, she was not nurturing. She was creative and had a mind of her own. She belonged to a new fangled thing called a book-club. Every month – stuck in the back hills of West Virginia – she received a book in the mail. A book on travel! She wrote a poem and had it published. She clipped Dear Abby columns and pasted them into a picture album.

This year's Lenten emphasis was Nothing New. Go back to the basics. Simplify. Eliminate. Fall in love with the Holy Scriptures again and again. Each focus on the milk of the Word is a childlike attempt to learn Jesus. And the spiritual child – all of us – is nourished. And corrected. And forgiven. And restored.

Restored to the family. In actuality or in memory. Through face-to-face or on the illusive wings of prayer. The breach is expanded or removed dependent on loving and being loved. Giving and receiving. Grace given and grace received. Giving forgiveness and forgiveness received. To and from God. To and from you. To and from the offender.

Today's society is far removed from the innocent rhythmic cadence of love-marriage-baby-carriage. The principle remains as founding truth. Whether formal or casual, planned or impulsive, loving or unloving, the union has holiness to it. The office of parenting is untarnished.

The child, regardless of the circumstances surrounding conception, is innocent and came from the original source of divine love. Whether the home produces benevolent leaders or malevolent dictators, all of us share in the propagation of light and darkness. The human condition is a complicated mix of good and evil. Correcting the slippery slope or climbing to a higher plane is all 'Thanks Be To God'.

Need a speaker? Mona Dunkin, Motivational Speaker, Trainer and Personal Success Coach may be contacted at mona@solutionprinciples.com Click on Motivational Messages and Sign up for weekly blog posts.

Mothering through incarceration, Part 1

BY W.B. GUNTER

Most mothers will agree, mothering is as rewarding as it is challenging. With sons and daughters locked in correctional facilities nationwide, holidays, birthdays, and other milestones can be bittersweet. One mother shared her experiences as her son offers insight to mothers who may be missing a child due to incarceration. Together Renor Noriega and her son remain close, encouraging others to hold on and rebuild family ties..

Son: "In spite of what you see on television, that image is far from the reality of what happens."

Son has written books ranging from fantasy, drama, poetry and romance to speeches. His information is research based. He speaks several languages, is well educated and certified as a paralegal. Son's ability to interpret the law has benefitted other young men, who, like him, are incarcerated. By continuing to educate himself, Son will be eligible to apply for work and create his own business. He is driven to succeed through education, and by maintaining the focus needed to fulfill his goals.

Son has written several books using pen and paper. However, where he is, technology isn't state of the art, accessible, or available. Not even the pens and paper are free. Phone calls are costly, and time is limited once a call is made.

Renor, Son's mother, speaks to him often. She appreciates those moments. Conversations are the same as any parent's. They talk about daily routines, projects she's working on, and his activities. He's a good son who offers suggestions, advises, and when possible participates through his writings. His writing and poetry have gained him national attention and people willing accept his submissions to read at local events.

To maintain family structure, Renor explains, "I am his voice to the outside." She explains the importance of making time to listen and speak to him as often as possible. "Above anything else, we are family and I refuse to allow anything or anyone to make him feel otherwise. He has a family, and we intend to stay

that way. He can call me anytime. When I have events, he knows what they are, and he can always talk to me. Prisons can tear families apart, but it's up to the family to stay connected. Prisons will never replace his family unless we allow it to happen. I make sure he knows he has a family."

Son equates incarceration to death. "Prisoners aren't always valued as people. We are humans, but when visitors come in here, those visits can leave you feeling as if you were dead. Families visit these walls as if they were visiting a gravesite. They stay a moment, and when they leave, we are left watching as they leave in tears and grief again. The system labels us as less than a human. With limited rights, prisoners are considered less than 1/3 man."

Though inmates are incarcerated, sometimes the ones in control who are the most out of control. Son's mother has established a rapport with the facility in regard to her son. She makes every effort to ensure he's receiving the standard level of care he deserves. Because she has established a line of communication, the officials listen.

Son speaks about the important role of family and society. "In society, a person knows their family is available; even when they ask for something, they may or may not receive it, but family will always be there. Families have changed. In a family, your parents were the strength; they stuck together. Now, with families, they are surrounded by water that has seeped in and thinned the blood, so blood is no longer thicker than water. When a person is locked up, they get visits from immediate family, but once home, that same individual finds himself surrounded by an estranged family of strangers. He no longer remembers them, and they only think about the person who they knew before incarceration. Over the years, all of our lives change dramatically. I am no longer the same person they knew years ago, and the lines of communications between family members and the inmate, likewise have been severed."

To be continued in the June issue of The Anchor News.

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And these signs shall follow them that believe, Part 5

Continued from the April issue of The Anchor.

BY RUBY MCCRAY

Allow me to suggest that you get your smart phone or Bible and read these Scriptures whenever you have the time. Please do that for each of these teachings. These passages are taken from the New Living Translation unless otherwise stated.

"And then he [Jesus] told them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.

"These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed."

"...And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord working through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs" (Mark 16:15-20).

Last month, we saw an Old Testament account where one's sin brought devastation to his entire household. This month, we are giving a New Testament account.

In the city of Jerusalem, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda. All kinds of sick people: the blind, lame, paralyzed, lay there on the five covered porches waiting for the angel to come and cause the water to bubble up. This was done once a year, and the first to enter the pool would be healed. Jesus came into the city and saw a man lying there who had been sick for thirty-eight years, and asked if he wanted to be healed. The man began his dialogue about not having anyone to help him into the pool. Jesus told him to pick up his mat and walk. He believed Jesus and did just that because he was healed instantly (John 5:1-13).

They were separated for a while; but afterwards Jesus found him in the temple and said, "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you" (John 5:14b). The King James Version says, "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." According to that statement, the man's sins caused his condition.

All sicknesses are under the curse of the law (Deuteronomy 28:20-22, 58-62). "But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on the tree.' Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessings he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:13, 14).

You must know, "Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse will not land on its intended victim" (Proverbs 26:2). The devil is powerless to put a sickness on you if you have nothing in common with him, if there is nothing in you that belongs to him so that he has no claim on you (John 14:30, The Amplified



**EVANGELIST
RUBY MCCRAY**

Version). If there is, just be sure that your sins will find you out (Numbers 32:23).

Many people are not taught that before they make a decision to become a disciple of The Lord Jesus Christ, they need to count up the cost to see if they really want to follow Him (Luke 14:25-33). They need to know that the bottom line to follow Jesus is death. Once they are born again (2 Corinthians 5:17-21), they died the death of sin and will be raised anew in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:1-9). The Lord Jesus lives in their crucified body (Galatians 2:20). They should live holy (1 Peter 1:15, 16), and not sin. It can be done or this Scripture wouldn't have been written. "My dear chil-

dren, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous" (1 John 2:1).

I believe that there's so much sickness among the Church because many try to live in both worlds, not being taught that it's a grave sin (Revelation 3:15, 16). We, the Church, is supposed to know what the Lord has required, and will be punished severely when we don't obey. Others who don't know will be punished, but not quite as severely (Luke 12:47, 48).

How many times were the disciples in the prayer line as

long as they were following Jesus? He gave them power to heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons (Matthew 10:5-8). He also gave that same power to seventy-two others who returned and reported that demons obeyed them (Luke 10:1-20). Yes, WE have that same power! You may not believe me; but...just what if I'm right?

Evangelist Ruby McCray is the founder of A City of Refuge Ministries. For questions or comments e-mail rubbyacorm@yahoo.com or write to A City of Refuge Ministries, P. O. Box 2025, Waco, Texas 76703.

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Wanda B. Gunter

*Author, Artist,
Contributing Writer for
The Anchor News*

Negate extremist recruiting efforts with God's word

BY MATTHEW REED

God has said in his word my people perish for the lack of knowledge. Jesus says you err not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God. Extremist of all kind are able to articulate and make their message (information) public. While we the church don't seem to have that ability.

We've allowed the message and its intent to be derailed by politician and others for their personal gains. The message of the gospel is not political; it is spiritual. Because we are failing to communicate the message of the Gospel of Jesus The Christ, we allow these different groups to paint us with a broad brush.

Because our view is biblical, they paint us as haters, killers and ignorant. That's what happens when we put forth as Holy men those that have lost sight of why Jesus came and what God's intent

is concerning the gospel message. These people leaving God's purpose fail to articulate the message. As a result, the enemies of the doctrine of God are winning the battle of words. This never happened with Jesus. Here are some examples you may use to fact check my statement. In Matthew 21:23-27, he won the battle of words.

Fact check me; read it. In Matthew 12:10-13, he won that battle of words. Fact check me; read it. In John 8:3-9, he won that battle of words fact check me read it. There is more to being the church and representing God than what I see today. Jesus is a great advocate. We are going to have to sharpen our advocating skills. The first thing is to live for the anointing of God. It doesn't hurt anyone to have some knowledge and understanding of what he/she is advocating for.

Now to counter the Taliban, ISIS and other extrem-



PASTOR AND MRS. REED

ist groups, this is the church's message. In John 3, God sent his son into the world that the world might be saved. He was not sent to condemn. Instead of teaching repentance, these extremists condemn without opportunity to repent.

We have the better message, but we are failing to publish it. One example of

this is found in Luke 9. v51: And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, 52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. 53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? 55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. 56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them village.

You can see through this passage of scripture the love of God his mercy, his compassion and his long suffering.

The God or Gods that these extremists serve do not possess these traits. Why aren't we publishing this message? We have the better message.

Maybe it's because the church being hijacked by politicians is too busy trying to legislate laws instead of saving souls. It seems to me we ought to be about our fathers business. One more point our God died for us and not we for him. Given this choice and armed with this truth, who you think most people would prefer to serve. We have the better message; we the Christians just need to stay on point.

If we influence society as Jesus and the disciples did in their time, by power and Holy sanctified living, we would be sowing good voters, legislators, policemen, supervisors, citizens etc. with good moral compasses. We can deter the extremist with the Gospel message; let's get back on point. Amen!

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The Core

BY SELO LOZANO

An important part of growing a youth ministry is having direction, focus.

You need direction as you lead students. And not just from the Lord. You must know the "big picture" of your local church, which means that you need input from your senior pastor.

You cannot reach young people effectively without the input and support of your senior pastor. You must know what your senior pastor is looking for in the church's youth group. What does your senior pastor say that youth ministry should look like? Then you form and develop the direction of the youth group from that.

Another important key to growing a youth ministry is your core group of students, the ones who regularly attend your services.

You cannot reach students by staying in place and thinking and doing the same things. If you have thirty students in your group or if you have ten students in your group or if you have one student, what are you doing that's making you keep that one, or thirty, or ten? Why are you maintaining that thirty, or twenty, or six or seven? Once you know what you are doing to maintain that number, you want to develop and grow from there. You can't do the same things over and over and over again and expect to grow.

You keep some things, but you must change other things in order to grow and to develop. You have to keep moving and growing constantly. You must do those things that will grow and develop



your core group of students. You can't reach students by doing the same thing, staying the same way, and thinking the same way. Focus on your core

group of students, and they will add as you grow.

As your core group begins to grow and develop spiritually, that will encourage other students to grow and develop spiritually. Keep in mind two things: who are you reaching and what is your fishing hole? Who is it that you're going after?

Focus on your core. I cannot say that enough. Focus on your core. If your core group doesn't feel important, then their friends are definitely not going to feel important. If you're giving more attention to the visitors and the ones who occasionally attend, then your core will start leaving because they will be feeling neglected and underappreciated. Why should they stay plugged in where they do not feel appreciated and valued?

Value your core group of kids, and let them know it. When they know that you value them, that the pastor values them, and that the church values them, then they are going to bring their friends because that's what these young people are looking for – value.

Marselo "Selo" Lozano has been around the block a few times. His experience gives him a trusted voice in helping youth leaders understand how to reach and raise the future generations. Don't hesitate to contact Marselo and Mia Lozano. They are quality people, and they'll help you reach the young people of your community. You can contact them at: The Rise, PO Box 423, Waco, TX 76703, or at (254) 756-1240.

EVANS

Continued from page one

ning debuted last May, Evans has been busy promoting the book through speaking engagements, school visits, and social media. A member of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, she was selected as the 2014 Waco WordFest featured author! Next month, she will have the privilege of speaking to 600 Pre-K to 3rd grade students on Ft. Hood at Clarke Elementary Career Day. Currently, Evans' main focus is getting her picture

book in circulation in local, state and nationwide public and school libraries. Schools or organizations that are interested in Evans coming to speak or give a reading can contact her at thunderandlightningpicturebook@gmail.com or at 714-366-8270. Buyers can purchase Thunder and Lightning online via Amazon or at Barnes & Noble. The official website address is thunderandlightningpicturebook.com.

Evans is a past member of the McLennan County Friends of the Library Board and is currently a Board of Director for the Central Texas Genealogical Society. In her spare time, she enjoys writing, blogging, photography, technology, and public speaking. Evans is a member of Antioch Community Church, where Jimmy Seibert is the pastor. She serves with the children and greeters ministries.

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